

# The Star of Zion

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

NUMBER THIRTY-SIX

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1923.

VOLUME FORTY-SEVEN

## Dyer Says He Will Introduce Anti-Lynch Bill on First Day of New Congress Session.

**Calls "States' Rights" Opposition Silly. Reads Lynching Figures For First Half of 1923 Showing Absence of "Usual Crime."**

Kansas City, Kans.—

Speaking before the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, now holding a race relations conference here, Representative Leonidas C. Dyer, of the 8th Missouri district, said he would introduce his federal anti-lynching bill on the first day of the new session of Congress. The Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill was passed by a vote of 230 to 119 in the last House of Representatives, but was held up in the Senate by a filibuster conducted by Southern Democrats. Mr. Dyer praised the work of the Advancement Association in creating a sentiment against mob violence in this country, and then said:

"Without relaxation and with confidence we will continue the fight for legislation by the 68th Congress that will make lynchings a national crime in the United States. It is now a national disgrace. We are in a better position now for cooperation and assistance by all law-abiding people to accomplish our purpose than we have been before. This is due to the knowledge gained by the people generally with respect to this crime, its causes, and the fact that it is purely, with little exception, simply a matter of race persecution and mistreatment.

"Those who have in the past countenanced this crime of lynching have made, as an excuse, that lynchings were the result of certain crimes committed by Negroes. We have been able, very generally, to show that this is not a fact. The lynchings that have occurred in the United States during the first six months of this year compare favorably, as to the causes, with lynchings that have occurred during the past thirty-five years. I include a statement touching those of this year. They are as follows:

January.

2—Rosewood, Florida. Samuel Carter, colored; charge, assisting a Negro to escape. Shot to death.

3—Lawrence County, Miss.—Benjamin Webster, colored; charge, killing a road contractor. Taken from a deputy sheriff who was bringing the prisoner from Jackson where he had been held for safekeeping. Hanged.

4—Shreveport, Caddo Parish, La. Leslie Legget, Spaniard; charge, that he was a Negro trying to associate with white women. His employer, a white grocer, with whom he roomed, said he was a Spaniard. He was shot to death.

5—Rosewood, Florida.—Lesty Gordon, a colored woman. No charge. In the general burning of dwellings of Negroes in connection with the attack on the colored settlement by whites, she was shot to death as she was leaving her burning dwelling.

5—Florida, Mingo Williams, colored. No charge reported. Killed in a general hunt for Jesse Hunter, charger with rape. Shot to death.

6—Rosewood, Florida.—James Carrier, colored; charge, resisting posse searching for Hunter. Shot to death.

16—Harrison, Boone County, Ark.—E. C. Gregor, white, charge being a railroad striker and resisting a committee investigating the burning of railroad bridges.

17—Newberry, A'achua Co., Fla.—Abraham Wilson, colored; charge, cattle stealing. Had been convicted and sentenced to a fine of \$300 or a jail sentence of six months. Taken from jail during the absence of the deputy sheriff on guard and hanged.

February.

—Bishop, Nueces Co., Texas.—J. G. Smith, colored physician; charge, "Trying to act like a white man and not knowing his place." Was taken

from jail and killed and body partly burned.

3—Hancock Co., Ga.—George Butts, colored; charge, wounding an officer of the law. Shot to death.

3—Hancock Co., Ga.—Unnamed man, colored; charge, wounding an officer of the law. Shot to death.

April.

29—Columbia, Boone Co., Mo.—James Scott, colored; charge, attempted rape. Mob burned iron door of jail with acetylene torch, took prisoner and hanged him from a bridge.

June.

7—Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co., Fla.—Henry Simmons, colored; charge, suspected of having shot and killed policeman. Appears that no attempt was made to arrest him. Hanged and body riddled with bullets.

11—Ashland, Benton Co., Miss.—Unnamed man, colored; charge, that in February, 1923, he had stabbed a white man named Byrd to death who had charged the colored man with having stolen some property from Byrd. The two men worked for the same construction gang. The white man is reported to have attempted to search the Negro and was stabbed so severely that he later died. The colored man was later arrested and placed in jail. Mob took prisoner out of town, hanged him and riddled body with bullets.

15—Homestead, Dade Co., Fla.—Simmons, colored; charge, shooting and killing marshal of town in a liquor raid. Did not come into the hands of the law. Bound to tree and shot to death.

"The only thing that will put a stop to lynchings is the enactment into law of legislation that will punish members of mobs, county and state officials, and committees that cause lynchings, and communities that cause and permit this crime.

"There is scarcely an intelligent person today who makes the claim that such a law is unconstitutional. Practically everyone recognizes now that the Congress has the power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce that part of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States which says that no state shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of its laws. Our right to do this so far as the 14th Amendment is concerned, is the same upon which we acted in providing a law for the enforcement of the 18th Amendment.

"Practically the only opposition we hear now against a Federal Anti-Lynching Law is the cry that Congress is invading 'States rights.' How silly this claim is, is made known to every person when it is made that in the last 35 years, there have been more than 4,000 known lynchings in the United States and that in scarcely an instance have there been any convictions of members of mobs and those responsible for this crime. If we should recognize 'States rights' in this matter, we will be simply conceding the fact that mobs shall be permitted to lynch people without thought of possibility of punishment by the states. This opposition to this legislation is nothing more than the desire that this crime of lynching shall continue to go unpunished, that mob law shall continue to prevail and take the place of the courts.

"It is surprising that newspapers will continue to argue against this legislation for this reason. Some splendid newspapers are now supporting this legislation, but many others are not and are trying to excuse their opposition by crying out that the Congress is invading State

(Continued to Page Eight)

## Inter-racial Conference Opened in Kansas City.

**Mayor and County Counselor Give Welcome—President Coolidge Sends Greetings.**

Kansas City, Kansas:—

With delegates in attendance from nearly every State in the Union, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People opened its fourteenth annual session in Kansas City, Kansas, with a mass meeting on the night of Wednesday, August 29. Mayor W. W. Gordon and the Hon. J. L. Brady, County Counselor of Wyandotte County, delivered warm addresses of welcome and a message of greeting was read from President Calvin Coolidge in which the President termed the N. A. A. C. P. as "representative of one of the most useful and effective efforts in behalf of the colored people of the country." Others who spoke at the meeting were Bishop W. T. Vernon, of the A. M. E. Church of South Africa, and Lester A. Walton, Negro staff correspondent of the New York World.

On the day before the meeting special cars rolled into the Kansas City Terminal, bringing delegates and visitors from all parts of the country and it was estimated fully 500 people had come to the conference from other parts of the country, states as distant as Texas, and California, and New Jersey being represented.

In his address of welcome Mayor Gordon asserted that colored people were entitled to the cooperation of whites and should have it. He said there had never been racial strife in Kansas City, Kansas, and said that relations were so cordial he had to tell the police department "to go fishing" during the conference. Mayor Gordon said:

"The destiny of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People lies within the cooperation of its membership because no organization of any kind, no State or Nation, can survive a wave of opposition unless those who compose the organization stand nobly by it and advocate its cause. In doing this, you must have the cooperation of the white race as well as of the colored race. This you are entitled to receive and I have no doubt that this cooperation will be gladly given you."

Bishop Vernon spoke of the injustices that were driving colored people northward from the southern States and Mr. Walton, of the New York World, urged that the migrants be helped in every possible way to adjust themselves to their new environment. He urged the establishing of housing commissions, composed jointly of white and colored citizens.

**White Southern Woman Speaks.**

At the second evening mass meeting, a white woman from the South Mrs. Thomas W. Bickett, widow of the former governor of North Carolina and chairman of the woman's section of the Inter-racial Committee, delivered an address of greeting from that body and told of the southern women's efforts to stamp out lynching and mob violence. She said committees were at work in every southern state, and in 800 counties, working for race betterment. She said:

"We are a long, long way from solving the race problem in the South, but we have made a hopeful beginning. As interested, thoughtful white men and women we are seeking through our civic and religious organizations to meet in a spirit of cooperation the leading men and women of the Negro race in the community in which we live. We are becoming increasingly conscious of the fact that as those in authority, our responsibility towards the Negro cannot be evaded and many of our people are going forward with a determination that no unfair advantage shall be taken of the Negro, but that he shall

(Continued to Page Eight)

## Pres. Coolidge Sends Greetings To Negro Advancement Body.

**Calls its Work "One of Most Useful and Effective Efforts" for Colored People.**

Kansas City, Kans.—President Calvin Coolidge has sent the following message of greeting to the fourteenth annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, now holding a race relations conference in Kansas City:

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON.

My dear Mr. White:

Thank you for drawing my attention to the approaching Annual Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. I have long regarded this gathering as representative of one of the most useful and effective efforts in behalf of the colored people of the country, and sincerely trust that its sessions this year may be as productive of beneficial results as they have been in the past.

Most sincerely yours,

(Signed) Calvin Coolidge.

Mr. Walter White,  
Assistant Secretary,  
National Association for the  
Advancement of Colored People,  
69 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

## Livingstone College Opens Sept. 19th.

The forty-third session of Livingstone College opens September 19th, 1923.

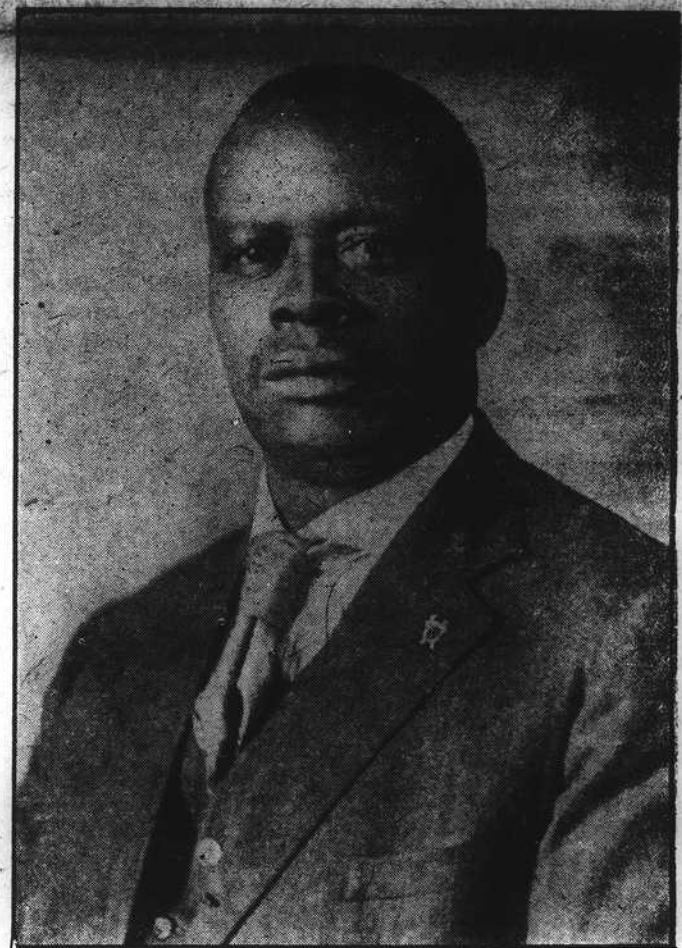
The opening exercises will be held in the college auditorium at 3:00 o'clock.

Registration and classification of students will take place Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, September 17th, 18th and 19th, beginning each day at 9 o'clock. Starting Thursday, September 20th, at late registration fee of one dollar will be charged. After the first week the fee for late registration will be two dollars.

From the number of applicants now enrolled the attendance promises to be very large. A number of new features and improved conditions will greet the opening. Ballard Hall that was recently burned has been rebuilt and will be ready for service. A new matron and assistant will be in charge of the girls.

A proctor, who will have charge of the buildings and grounds and general oversight of the boys will be a necessary and welcome addition. A number of new teachers, experienced and well prepared along their special lines of duty will join the effort for a larger Livingstone.

Students planning to attend or desiring further information about the school should communicate at once with President D. C. Suggs, Livingstone College, Salisbury, N. C.



MR. J. S. STANBACK.

President Eighth Regional District Sunday School Convention which convened at Chester, S. C., August 30-September 2. It embraces the three conferences of that State.

## Watching The Breakers.

TAKEN OVER BY STATE.—  
COMMENTS ON PERSONS AND THINGS.

By W. H. Davenport.

"Applause  
Waits on success; the fickle multitude  
Like the light straw that floats along  
the stream,  
Glide with the current still, and follow  
fortune."

Thus mused Franklin in one of his musing moments. And the taking over the National Training School of Durham by the State, as a State Normal School, is the tribute which appreciation pays to merit. Dr. J. R.

Shepard, the President of the N. R. T., has been retained as the principal of the State Normal School. The National Religious Training School has won an enviable record for thorough scholastic work within the bounds set for itself, and the maintenance of strict discipline and moral and religious culture. Card-playing nor dancing is permitted members of the faculty, nor to the students; nor has socializing nor indiscriminate contact with young men and women of the city been remarked. Dr. Shepard has set an example in the administration of his school which other school heads within the state would do well to emulate. The N. R. T. has the confidence and respect of all the people.

It would be interesting to know what the average layman thinks of  
(Continued on page 5)