

The Star of Zion

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BISHOP L. W. KYLES APPLAUDED WHILE DELIVERING SENTIMENT OF BISHOPS TO DELEGATES.

By W. H. Davenport.

When Bishop J. S. Caldwell, the senior Bishop of the A. M. E. Zion denomination called the General Conference to order Thursday morning it was crowded from pit to dome to hear the Quadrennial Address of Bishop L. W. Kyles of North Carolina. Next to the election of Bishops and General Officers this is said to be the most important event of the sessions. The rapturous singing by the chorus of trained voices had filled the delegates with the spirit of praise and prayer and during the delivery of the address vigorously applauded.

Of America and the Negro the bishop said, "The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is co-existent with the great American Republic. George Washington, the founder of our country became president of a free American Republic in 1796 which had revolted from the rule of England. And in the same year James Varick, the founder of our Church became the leader of a great spiritual denominational democracy which had wrested itself from the bands of racial caste and spiritual dependence. . . . Our nation has been over-shadowed with gloom recently by the passing of two of its great men, the late President Warren G. Harding and ex-President Woodrow Wilson. President Harding made a profound impression on the nation and the world by the infusion of Christian ideals in his policies for the conduct of the government. The

work of race development and character building. Lincoln uttered a maxim when he said 'This nation can not exist one-half free and the other half slave.' It is true today that the nation can not enjoy the largest prosperity with one-half free and exercising all the rights of the Constitution and the other half oppressed and denied the fundamental rights of citizenship." The Bishop disavowed any purposes of race amalgamation. He said, "The position we take on this subject is not based upon any desire on our part for the amalgamation of the races. We are content to follow the divergent trend of the races in things purely racial. We are the descendants of a great and noble race. We are willing to develop our distinct racial characteristics and to shape our character after the standards of Christianity. We believe that in the maintenance of our racial identity and the development of our character after the true, the beautiful and the good in our Christian system we lay the foundation for a great and prosperous future. Our contention is based upon the desire for the full enjoyment of all the rights of citizenship guaranteed by the Constitution."

The Volstead Act and Prohibition

"We are pleased with the progress prohibition is making in this country. We take great pride in the contribution which the Methodist Church has

peoples of earth have a staunch friend who believes in their rights, and also, that in no way should the work of the Church be hindered in its missionary endeavor or its extension of the kingdom of Jesus Christ by legislative enactments that are discriminating and unjust.

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Missionaries Address Meeting.

QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Mrs. Rosa L. Weller, Reporter.

The Fifth Quadrennial Convention of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church convened Sunday afternoon, May 4th, 1924, at three o'clock in the New Jones Tabernacle, A. M. E. Zion church, Michigan and Blackford streets. Rev. S. D. Davis, pastor, Rt. Rev. P. A. Wallace, presiding bishop, with Mrs. Daisy V. Johnson, general president, presiding.

Delegates who registered from all sections of the United States from South America, the West Indies and Africa assembled to be present at the opening of the convention. Prior to this service Bishop Geo. C. Clement had preached a profound sermon in the morning from the subject, "The Great Woman."

The sermon was a masterpiece and served well to put the delegates in tune with the ideal Missionary.

A very spirited and inspiring song service was conducted by Mesdames Lizzie Evans Pierce, Emma Clement and Anna Weaver. The Scriptures were read by Mrs. Ellen Oliver. Rev. Mrs. Mary . . .

OPENING DAY OF THE A. M. E. ZION GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Tuesday night was known as African night and the program was solely in charge of Dr. W. W. Matthews, general missionary secretary. Thus closed the 5th Quadrennial Convention of the W. H. and F. Missionary Society of the A. M. E. Zion Church.

A Broader "Y" Policy

The election of Mrs. George E. Haynes as a member of the national board of the Young Women's Christian Association is indicative of the broader policy that has obtained among the members of this ultra conservative welfare organization. Another phase of this policy was the relaxing of the qualification for membership by vote of the convention, which no longer requires the applicants to be affiliated with one of the evangelical churches. The fact that Mrs. Haynes is a member of the New York branch of the organization and of the council on colored work, with many years experience in such work, amply qualifies her for the honor of being the first woman of the race to become a member of the national governing body.

This national body comprises some twenty New York women as resident board members, besides a number of non-resident members from other sections of the country divided into the Eastern, Southern, Central, Southwestern, Pacific Coast and Rocky Mountain regions. Women from Alabama and Texas are gathered in con-

When the Twenty-seventh Quadrennial Session of the A. M. E. Zion General Conference was called to order by Bishop Paris A. Wallace of Brooklyn, N. Y., in Tomlinson Hall Wednesday morning, May 7, it was beautifully festooned with military decorations. A choir of three hundred voices sang "And Are We Yet Alive," announced by Bishop J. S. Caldwell of Philadelphia. Scripture lesson was read by Bishop L. W. Kyles of North Carolina, followed by the reading in concert of the twenty-seventh Psalm, led by Bishop George L. Blackwell of Chicago, Ill. Prayer was offered by Bishop George C. Clement of Louisville, Ky. Bishop J. W. Wood led in reading the Beatitudes, and the choir, assisted by a thousand voices in the congregation, sang "Zion Stands With Hills Surrounded."

The Quadrennial sermon was delivered by Bishop W. L. Lee of Brooklyn, N. Y., who selected for his text: "Walk about Zion; go about her; mark well her bulwarks; tell the towers thereof." Psalm 48:13. Among other things the Bishop said: "We all believe in some sort of resurrection, but we are not all agreed on the resurrection of the body. We must either preach Christ as a God of limited power, something like ourselves, or a God of the resurrection. I have not much sympathy with a long white robe and golden slippers preaching. I don't see what we are going to do with long white robes and golden slippers. The problem of human salvation is not a problem of science and philosophy, but a prob-

B. G. Shaw, E. D. W. Jones, W. J. Walls, J. W. Martin, C. C. Alleyne Elected Bishops at General Conference.

nation was shocked at his passing. The death of ex-President Woodrow Wilson saddened the nation also. We are too near the stirring events of his career to give a correct appraisal of his value to the world as a man and statesman. But that history will record his as one of the greatest characters of all times we have no hesitancy in affirming. The patriotic soul of Zion shares the nation's sorrow and grief.

Bishop Kyles declared that the recent revelations in Washington, separate and distinct from their political aspect, have shocked the sensibilities of mankind and is a moral consequence of that general disregard for law as affecting smaller racial groups of greed and injustice. Having devoured the weak they turn now upon each other for blood and satisfaction. It is the result of an unchangeable law written in nature, in history and in the Holy Scriptures, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Referring to the relations between the races Bishop Kyles remarked: "Among the great evils which threaten the peace of America and endanger its future is the growing antipathy between the races and the indifference of the national government toward the perplexing problems incident to race relations in America. The danger consists not so much in the possibility of any harm the oppressed may do, for we are law-abiding citizens, but in fact that the hand of God is against the oppressor. The questions affecting race relations in America and the rights of Negroes as citizens, is no longer a question to be dealt with by the south alone. It is rapidly becoming a national issue. A question involving great interests and affecting so vitally the morale of a whole nation cannot be left to the whims of the people of any section for adjudication, but must be finally regulated by the government itself so that the fifteen millions of black people in America may go on unhindered with

made to the success of this movement. It has stood courageously and consistently for temperance and prohibition. The rum shop for a century was the bane of our material life. It came near wrecking the nation. Homes disrupted, reason dethroned, crimes committed, treason and arson followed the trail of the rum fiend. The victory is not yet complete. We feel that the contest for sobriety and decency should be continued until ever bootlegger is run to earth and every distillery demolished. The A. M. E. Zion Church sets itself flint-like and immovable on the side of law enforcement. We believe in the regnancy of the law and especially are we both loyal and obedient to the Constitution. We call on our communion particularly to uphold at whatever cost the Constitution of the government of these United States, not only however one amendment, but all amendments. We here today warn our nation that if the 18th amendment is ever to be enforced it will only so be done because equal force and emphasis is placed upon the enforcement of the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments. The guarantee of human rights and justice are as necessary to the life and perpetuity of a great nation as the moral corrections we seek to make by acts of legislation.

Denounces the Japanese Exclusion.

As churchmen we regret the action of our representatives in Congress in the passage of the Japanese exclusion act. Our position is that this country of ours with its large undeveloped territory, with its enormous wealth, and with its loud exclamations of making our shores the land of the free and the home of the brave, that no nationality seeking better economic advantages should be refused admission at our ports. It is the belief of the Church that even national sovereignty should not suppress the spirit and tendency toward world brotherhood. In the A. M. E. Zion Church, not only Japan but all

fervent, soul-stirring prayer. The local choir under the direction of Mr. H. B. Hall as chorister and Mrs. Mildred King as organist was at its best in the rendition of music for the occasion. The Buds of Promise of St. Mark's church favored the audience with a selection. A piano solo was rendered by a representative of Campbell's chapel after which Mrs. R. N. Davis, of Evansville, Ind., waded the convention away as it were with the rendition of a vocal solo.

The president then fittingly introduced to the convention Rev. Mrs. Florence Randolph, of Jersey City, an ex-general president and returned missionary from Africa, who electrified the convention with vivid descriptions and made a wonderful appeal for the needs of Africa.

Mrs. M. M. Davis, a returned missionary from Monrovia, Liberia, and Mr. A. A. Adjahoe, a native African, now studying at the Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, N. C., also brought to the convention wonderful information of the missionary work and the need of an enlarged program for the Fatherland. The finance committee called for and received a collection of \$100.00. The convention then adjourned.

Monday morning the consecration service led by the Rev. Mrs. Mary J. Small and Mrs. Ada Stone was beneficial. Registration of delegates ensued after which committees were appointed by the president and the reports of the various Episcopal Districts were made by the delegates.

The reception was held on Monday night. It was a beautiful sight to see the choir lead the processional followed by the general officers and all delegates present. After addresses of welcome on behalf of the various missionary societies of the church and city which were fittingly responded to by Mrs. Anna Smith, of Pittsburgh, Pa., the convention was given a splendid coalition.

The Tuesday morning session opened at 10:30 o'clock. After the regular song service the convention was opened for business by the president, Mrs. Daisy Johnson. The reports which were completed showed progress for the past four years.

The afternoon session was given over to the reports of the various committees.

ference those from Massachusetts and Connecticut in working for the uplift of womanhood all over the country. It is eminently fit and proper that the women of the race should be represented in all phases of this work.

With this broadening policy growing in the field of "Y" work among women, the need for a similar growth in the direction of the work among men is naturally suggested. While some of the Negro organizations formed for work among men and boys have prospered under intelligent and careful leadership on the part of the local management, others have been hampered by the lack of such qualities. In the absence of racial representation on the central boards, which override the decisions of the local boards, there has been a failure to establish a sympathetic understanding of the needs and relations of these branches. Proper representation on the central board might

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More Than \$373,000 Raised For Education.

Livingstone College, Salisbury, N. C., is the chief school of the denomination. This school has 27 teachers, and more than two thousand students have attended it during the quadrennium. Dr. D. C. Suggs, the President, reported that these students cultivated a farm of 315 acres to assist in the maintenance of the institution. The school has raised for its support \$182,658.78. It is maintained very largely by the support of hard working people of color. Dr. J. W. Martin, Secretary of Education, said that the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church stands for education is proved beyond a shadow of a doubt by the fact that she has established her schools and colleges at strategic points in the south and southwest for the training of boys and girls and these schools are operated and supported by colored men and women. The value of school property is placed at \$732,100.00. There are 110 teachers in these schools, 2,740 students, 624 graduates.

lem of love. More and more the Church is taking God at His word, increasing its financial interest and enlarging its vision. Let us hope that the little men will rise up and be larger men or lie down and die."

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is in the one hundred twenty-eighth year of its existence. Communion was administered after the sermon to the 500 delegates present. There are ten Episcopal Districts, four bishops having died during the quadrennium.

The death of Dr. Marion Lawrence, International Sunday School Superintendent, was announced and the Conference stood for five minutes in silent prayer. Upon motion of J. W. Eichelberger, General Superintendent of the Sunday Schools, the secretary was instructed to send a telegram to members of the family, expressing the sympathy of the General Conference.

The Conference decided to issue a daily paper, to be known as the Daily Star of Zion. The Press Committee was announced as follows: W. H. Davenport, chairman; W. J. Walls, F. S. Cooper, H. C. Weeden, W. J. J. Byers, E. U. A. Brooks. Assistant secretaries to Dr. F. M. Jacobs, General Secretary, are: R. E. Ball, G. M. Oliver, W. E. Woodyard, J. W. Younge, R. J. Crockett, W. A. Stewart, R. E. Clement. Last night's sessions were devoted to welcome exercises. The following persons delivered addresses: On behalf of the Conference, Rev. S. D. Davis; on behalf of the church, Lawyer R. L. Brokenburr; on behalf of the Ministerial Alliance, Rev. B. F. Farrell; on behalf of the city, His Honor Mayor Shank; on behalf of the business and professions, F. B. Ransom. Responses were made by Rev. W. J. J. Byers and Mrs. S. W. Weller.