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METHODIST ASSEMBLY.

By Gen. J. S. Carr.

THIS great religious and educational enterprise of the Great Southern Methodist Church is being developed by nine commissioners scattered throughout Southern Methodism, chosen by the Laymen's Conference of the Southern Methodist Church. Bishop Atkins is President and Mr. John R. Pepper, of Memphis, Tenn., is Vice-President.

The Assembly Grounds consist of some 1,500 acres situated two and one-half miles from Waynesville, and persons who have traveled in foreign lands enthusiastically declare that the Assembly Grounds are unequalled anywhere on the globe for fine mountain scenery and health-giving atmosphere.

The movement was begun and the lands purchased in 1910, and the development has been going steadily forward since. The site cost the rise of \$150,000. Already \$85,000 has been paid into the treasury of the company by the 2,500 stockholders and only 40 per cent of the pledges has been called for.

A large number of choice lots are to be sold to persons who may be invited to join the summer colony. Only persons of high moral character, well vouched for, will be permitted to purchase a lot, and 2,000 or more shares at \$100 a share will be sold in addition to what have been disposed of already. The commissioners have no fears but that all the shares and lots will find ready sale to desirable parties. No improvement will be undertaken unless the commissioners see their way clear to pay for it without embarrassment. A beautiful hotel with 116 rooms, with all modern conveniences and appointments, forty-five private baths besides public baths, steam heated, electric lighted, elevators, is to be erected at once, and later on it is expected that three other hotels will be erected, sites for which have been selected and reserved.

Already \$15,000 have been expended in the construction of boulevards, drives, etc. It will be a veritable paradise for the automobilist. Beautiful parks are to be erected through the grounds, reservations for which have already been provided. The entire acreage was first placed in the hands of one of the most celebrated landscape artists, and a force of engineers have been for months engaged in laying off the grounds, and these plans will be strictly observed and carried out.

A steel auditorium, umbrella style, seating four thousand people and costing \$12,500, has been contracted for, and will be erected at once. The auditorium will be 150 feet in diameter, with a platform capable of seating 500 persons, the whole auditorium to be enclosed, or capable of being enclosed, in unfavorable weather with large glass and wooden shutters.

A beautiful bold mountain stream of limpid water runs through the grounds, and a dam is being constructed across this beautiful mountain stream at a cost of \$35,000, which will create a lake extending through the center of the grounds five miles around, upon which is to be placed motor launches, gondolas, etc.

The dam will constitute a beautiful thoroughfare, while higher up the lake at the narrows a concrete bridge 950 feet long will give foot passengers additional opportunity for crossing the lake.

A steam laundry capable of supplying every need is to be installed at once. An administration building, post-office, and such other public buildings and conveniences will be undertaken so as to be ready for the opening.

The Assembly Grounds will be opened June 27, 28, and 29, 1913, by the triennial session of the Laymen's Missionary Convention of the Southern Methodist Church, with an attendance of not less than 4,000, representing every Southern State, several Western and Pacific Coast States and sev-

eral foreign countries, to be followed perhaps by the International Epworth League with not less than 7,500 in attendance from all countries. Distinguished speakers from home and abroad will most likely address both assemblages.

It is the purpose of the Assembly to have celebrities, home and foreign, to lecture, preach or sing as the case may be for the entertainment of the cottagers, and other high class moral entertainment will be constantly furnished during the season, the one prime object of the Assembly being Christian fellowship and companionship for persons who prefer spending their vacation and raising their children away from the ball-room and the bridge whist clubs. Already some of the finest families in the Southland have bought lots and are proceeding to erect cottages and bungalows.

Lots are on sale from \$250 to \$750 each, varying in frontage from 40 to 60 feet and 100, 110, and 120 feet deep, payable one-fourth cash, balance one, two, and three years, with interest at 6 per cent on the deferred payments.

The Southern Railway will erect a station immediately adjoining the grounds, and transportation, including Pullman accommodations, will be sold at any station in the United States, where such accommodations are usually sold.

Rev. James D. Cannon, D.D., of the Virginia Conference, is the Superintendent and General Manager in charge of the Assembly affairs. Anyone knowing Dr. Cannon is prepared to believe that his wise, discreet management spells success.

While neither money nor pains are being spared to make the Southern Assembly the superior place of its kind in the United States, no money is being wasted. Persons who are familiar with Chautauqua in New York State and Winona Lake, Indiana, the two foremost places of their kind in the United States, say that the Southern Assembly plans are far and away superior to either. The Southern Methodists are to be congratulated that such an elegant Christian summer home is so soon to be provided for them, and surely the laymen behind this movement can feel that they have accomplished a great work that is not only a blessing to the Church, but will stand a lasting monument to the Southern Laymen's Missionary Movement.

RAMBLING OBSERVATIONS.

By the Traveling Auditor.

SOME time ago the Auditor was in a certain small town on business over Sunday. At the Sunday-school hour, as was his custom, he went to the Methodist Church. He had reason to expect a treat. He had friends who knew the young man who was teacher of the men's Bible class, and they had told him that he was the most brilliant man of his day at his alma mater. The lesson that day was a section in the life of Jesus Christ. Who would not be eager to hear a brilliant and cultured young man of the twentieth century interpret the divine young man of all centuries?

I had gone early. I always try to go early. I like to be on time and I like to see the people as they gather. The pastor was on time. He had a smile and a word for each comer. The children seemed to love him. It was a goodly sight. Then the superintendent was on time, that is ahead of time. He also had a word and a smile for each as he moved about seeing that everything was well arranged. The organist did not have much time to spare. She was a mother, but by rushing things at home, I shrewdly suspect leaving some things until after church, she also was on time. I began to say, "I have found the model school." The scholars gathered. The Bible class seats filled. Lawyers, merchants, manufacturers, clerks, artisans, college boys, such good ground in which to sow the seed! As they one by one spoke to me, I forgot that I had been a stranger.

But there was no teacher for our class. The opening song ended and yet no teacher. The bright, well conducted, opening exercises ended, and yet no teacher. The superintendent and the pastor had a hasty consultation. The superintendent went to the door and looked down street, and yet no teacher. The pastor was about to take charge when with a rush the teacher arrived. He was out of breath. Hastily pulling an unused magazine out of his pocket, he began, "You will just have to excuse me, but the fact is that I have not seen the lesson. I have been so busy this week that I have not had time to study it." Then I remembered the face. I had seen him with a crowd in the drug store Saturday afternoon laughing and gassing for a full half hour. I had also seen him at the baseball game that afternoon, one of the most enthusiastic rooters for the home team. The fact is that he had lied when he said that he had been so busy during the week that he had not had time to study that lesson. He had, to my knowledge, wasted enough time in the one day in which he had been under by observation to have made a good preparation of the lesson.

The Auditor calls no names. But if any one of his readers knows the young man, please ask him to read this article. Of course you will find him or his twin brother in many small towns in forty States, but ask them all to read this. The officer may fill out the warrant John Doe or Richard Roe, but the guilty one knows it means him.

My heart grew sad for the teacher, and for that class, for the preacher and for the superintendent, for the Church and for the community. What an opportunity had been lost! Think of the blessings which would have entered that young man's life had he been a faithful student and teacher of the Word! What an uplift would have come to that class had he taught as he could have taught! How that superintendent would have been helped and that school have been built up! How the pastor's heart would have been cheered and his work promoted! How the church would have been prospered and the community blessed! And best of all, how the Master would have rejoiced to have seen the young man, so like the one He had loved in other days, understanding Him and sympathizing with Him, and teaching others to understand and to sympathize with Him.

The young teacher was not too busy. He could have made ample preparation. In this case I found out that he could have done so without the loss or abridgement of a single pleasure. All he needed was to be enough interested in the work to take the trouble to begin early and to use a little system in his work of preparation. But even if he had had to cut out that gassing with the boys or even the afternoon at the game, was it not worth while? Ought not any man who had a decent sense of the situation to have been willing to make the sacrifice? Moreover—carefully read and ponder—even if the time to have made preparation had been gained at the expense of business, if it had meant a few less dollars in his till, was it not well worth it? Would the young man have suffered loss thereby? Or his wife? Or his children? Or his friends? Or the community? Or Christ?

O brother, put first things first. If you have such an opportunity, use it. Make every needed sacrifice in order to use it. Such sacrifices make earth happier and heaven sure. And such sacrifices bring joy to the wounded heart of the Master.

FATHER POISONS HIS SON.

WISE doctors say that many children are born with weak bodies because their fathers used tobacco.

The young man who struts around with a cigar in his mouth may live to see his children creep around with feeble frames.

A. D. BETTS.

Greensboro, N. C.