

Methodist Conference Will be Held In New Bern Wednesday

First General Session of North Carolina Organization Begins Then Historical Meeting Tuesday Night—Many Changes of the Preachers Likely—Bishop Rounding Out Four Years.

By T. A. SIKES.

The city of New Bern will be the Mecca for the Methodist of eastern North Carolina this week, and more than 400 preachers and lay delegates and visitors from all over that section of the state will sweep down on the city the metropolis of the central eastern section of the state. The first general session of the conference will be held November 14. The occasion for the invasion of the hosts of the followers of Wesley will be the assembling there of the North Carolina conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, south, in its 55th annual gathering.

For the past month the Rev. H. A. Humble, who is to be the pastor-host, and his fine array of committees have been busily engaged in preparing for the coming of their guests, and they now send out word, "Come one, come all." The members of this religious body are always eager for the time to come when they are to be entertained in the city at the conference of the Neuse and Trent. The eight previous entertainments in that city have been with such open-hearted hospitality that all are champing on their bits for the signal to go and by next Wednesday morning at 5 o'clock the largest number of Methodists to ever assemble in that city in a body will be there to be present at the opening session, which will be presided over by Bishop U. V. W. Darlington, of Huntington, W. Va., this being his fourth consecutive session of the conference over which he has presided.

Bishop Rounds Out Four Years.

No other bishop has ever presided over the conference that often in as many years. Bishop Darlington came to this conference at Goldsboro in the fall of 1917 for the first time and he

has been with it at each annual session since, but this will likely be his last time for at least four years, as it is tacitly understood that the bishop will not preside over the same episcopal district for more than one quadrennium at a time. Bishop Darlington is a favorite with the North Carolina conference. He has greatly endeared himself to them by his brotherly spirit and kindly treatment of all the people. His appointments have met with approval, his preaching has been of a high order and his visitations have been inspiring to both preachers and laymen alike. He will receive a royal welcome at New Bern this week.

The first session of the North Carolina conference was held in the city of Greensboro in January, 1834, and Bishop T. A. Morris was the presiding officer, with Rev. Ezekiah G. Leigh, who was at that time one of the leading ministers of the country, as secretary. The statistical report at that time showed that there were 15,962 white members, including officers and teachers. From this small beginning 33 years ago Methodism has grown till today there are more than 225,000 bona fide church members with a Sunday school enrollment of over 200,000 owning some of the finest church and parsonage property in the state. The church is also owner of 10 colleges and high schools where the young men and women are trained for the duties and responsibilities of life.

Other Meetings at New Bern.

The North Carolina conference has held several sessions of its annual gatherings in New Bern. The first meeting in that city was in 1840, then 1846, 1853, 1859, 1865, and in 1900. At these sessions Bishops Morris, Kavanaugh, Doggett, Granbery, Morrison and Galloway presided respectively.

Plan For Group Insurance.

Matters of more than ordinary interest will be up for consideration by the conference next week. One item of interest that will likely receive considerable attention is the matter of group insurance. This has been agitated considerably during the year, and many believe that the time has come when the church should take a forward step toward taking care of the old ministers and the widows and orphans of the fallen soldiers of the cross. Many of the leading business concerns have insured their employees in a group, and it is argued by those who are leading in this movement that the church should provide for those who have toiled at its altar as well as large business enterprises. The proposition that will be presented to the conference for its consideration is to insure every preacher in the sum of \$1,000 and that the premiums are to be paid through the regular budget of the church.

At this session delegates to the general conference which meets in Hot Springs, Ark., next May will be elected. The conference is entitled to six clerical and six lay delegates, and is a place that is coveted by ministers and laymen alike, and the election at New Bern will create a great deal of interest. The general conference is the law-making body of the Southern Methodist church, and it is the custom of each annual conference to send its strongest men to that conference.

A committee on memorials to the general conference will be appointed at the opening of conference and they will consider suggestions as to new laws and changes in the old, and will report their judgment to the opening conference. One matter that will in all probability come up for approval and recommendation is that of changing the name of the Methodist Episcopal church, south, to "The Methodist church." This will possibly provoke some lively discussion on the conference floor.

The North Carolina conference is considered one of the most conservative in the connection and anything that would make very much change in the established rules or laws will not have as smooth a sailing as some of the other conferences. This conference is usually satisfied to transact the business of the conference, get the appointments and go home.

Many Changes Probable.

The indications are that there will be an unusually large number of changes in the pastorates. In looking over the journal for last conference it is found that 19 pastors and one presiding elder have served their full four years in the charges they are now serving and that one preacher, Rev. W. R. Royal, is serving his fifth year at Sanford. In all probability these will be sent to a new field of labor for the incoming year. It is not probable that these 20 men can be so located as not to necessitate other moves in order to get the proper adjustments in the various works.

In addition to these, Rocky Mount, one of the leading charges of the conference, is open because of the fact that early in the year Rev. J. F. E. Bates, the pastor, returned to the west. Rev. J. M. Ormond, who has had a wonderfully successful pastorate at Elizabeth City during the past four years, has been called to a professorship in Southern university, Dallas, Texas, a charge that will have to have a new man. Rev. R. C. Craven, who was serving his third year at Oxford, died during the year and that fine congregation is to be supplied with a new preacher. It is reported that Rev. G. Stanley Frazier, who has successfully led the Fifth Avenue Methodist of Wilmington during the past year, has heard the call back to Greensboro, so another new man may have to be sent to serve that growing and attractive congregation.

Rev. E. Meese, who served Wallace-Rose Hill for his first love, Korea, and that charge must be supplied. All of these things seem to work toward the moving of many preachers at this session of conference, and so many of the leading charges having to be served without the help of a man to exchange from one to another, it is believed will make the placing of the men for another year a great deal more difficult. In connection with the appointments, Chapel Hill, which has been very efficiently served during the past four years by Rev. E. H. McWhorter, will receive a new preacher for next year. This is one of the most important changes in the whole conference and will be more difficult to serve during the next quadrennium than ever before, as a new church building has been entered and it is hoped to be able during the next few months to begin work on the new edifice. Both the conferences in the state are behind the Chapel Hill movement and the new preacher over there will be expected to visit in both conferences and lay the new enterprise before the Methodist of the state, and also the alumni of the university.

Trinity Alumni Banquet.

One interesting and enjoyable feature of each conference session for the past several years is the annual banquet of the old students and friends of Trinity college. This has become an event looked forward to from year to year when the boys can get together and relish old experiences and plan for a bigger and better Trinity. A new feature for this year will be introduced by Rev. C. B. Culbreth, president of the North Carolina Conference, and the association of the association of the Western North Carolina Conference to send a fraternal messenger to the meeting at New Bern, and that association named Rev. A. W. Fyler, editor of the Advocate, an old student and a former football star, as its messenger to the sister association of the east, and he will tell the past several years is the annual banquet is done up in the west. This meeting will likely be held on Friday afternoon of conference. A number of speeches will be made by prominent men of the state.

It has been the custom for the past two or three years for the conference to be entertained on the Harvard

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NOTED SURGEON DECLARES THAT RADIUM IS FAILURE

(Correspondence Associated Press.)

London, Oct. 18.—That radium is a failure and that many leading surgeons

have discarded it in favor of x-rays is the opinion expressed by Sir Thomas Parkinson, a distinguished surgeon who was consulting physician to the American hospital for English soldiers and who is also physician to the prime minister, Lloyd George.

He states that radium is not only

not effective as a remedy, it was positively dangerous, as its burning effect aggravated instead of curing malignant.

The Deadly Night-shade.

According to the Ku Klux price list, only \$10 is required to obtain the night hood in this country.

plan—the hosts to furnish rooms and breakfast and the conference itself to provide for the other meals. Heretofore the ladies of the church have been serving dinner and supper at some central place, and it is likely that the good New Bern women will follow that custom. New Bern has thrown wide the doors to the city and invites to come and partake of the old-fashioned eastern North Carolina hospitality, and it is fully expected that the approaching session will be entertained in great shape down on the banks of the Neuse-Trent.

The North Carolina Conference Historical society will hold its annual session in Centenary church on Tuesday evening, November 15, at 8 o'clock. This will really be the first session of the conference, this is an organization for the purpose of preserving the history of Methodism in the North Carolina conference. Rev. W. A. Stanbury, pastor of Grace church, Wilmington, is the president of the society and he has secured the services of Rev. T. N. Ivey, D. D., editor of the Christian Advocate, Nashville, Tenn., as the speaker on this occasion. Dr. Ivey's subject will be "Green Hill: Preacher, Patriot, Pioneer." Those familiar with the history of the church know that the first annual conference held in America was held at Green Hill's home near Louisa, and the address of Dr. Ivey will be of unusual interest to Methodists throughout the country. He has expended a great deal of time in the preparation of his paper and every member of conference should be present on Tuesday night to hear this historical paper read.

HORRORS INCREASE AS SHIP TRAVELS UP VOLGA RIVER

(Correspondence Associated Press.)

Saratov, Russia, Oct. 12.—As one proceeds up the Volga river, the faces of the inhabitants grow thinner, their death lists increase from hunger, malaria and cholera, and make the traveler involuntarily recall the "black death" which originated here in the middle ages.

Thus far there has been no emigration from the city of Saratov but there are 50,000 refugees living in squalor about its riverfront streets.

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