

CONFERENCE'S FIRST SESSION; NEARLY ALL DELEGATES PRESENT

Practically Entire Clerical Representation at Roll Call, and There Is Also a Good Lay Representation—Impressive Scene at Auditorium as Bishop Wilson Opens Sixteenth Quadrennial Meeting.

SOME CHANGES MADE IN REGULAR COMMITTEES

A. F. Watkins of the Mississippi Conference Is Secretary—Matter of Rules Goes to Rules Committee.

The formal welcoming of the delegates will take place tonight at 8 o'clock at the Auditorium. Bishop James Atkins will preside. The address of welcome on behalf of the Methodists of the state will be made by Dr. T. N. Ivey, D. D., of Raleigh, and for the city of Asheville by Capt. W. T. Weaver. Bishop Candler of Atlanta will respond. There will be music by an orchestra and singing of "Carolina" by a chorus of girls. The public are cordially invited.

The sixteenth quadrennial general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South—the first session of the supreme body of this church representing an aggregate of nearly 2,000,000 souls, that has ever convened in North Carolina soil—was auspiciously opened this morning in the Auditorium and for the next three weeks this splendid body of men, clergymen and laymen, interested not only in the advancement of Methodism, but also in the spreading of the religion of Jesus Christ to all the parts of the earth will be the guests of the city. It was shortly after 9 o'clock when Bishop Alpheus W. Wilson of Baltimore let fall the gavel, and immediately the crowd of more than 1,000 people were silenced. It was an impressive opening, practically every one of the clerical delegates was present, and almost all of the lay delegates; the few absent members will arrive before Saturday night. Upon the stage were gathered Bishops Wilson, E. R. Hendrix of Kansas City, J. S. Key of Sherman, Tex.; W. A. Candler of Atlanta, E. C. Morrison of Leesburg, Fla.; E. E. Hoss of Nashville, James Atkins of Waynesville and Rev. Frank Richardson of Fountain City, Tenn. In addition to more than a score of newspaper men and women.

The delegates were all seated in the parquet of the great building, while a large number of the people of the city filled the remaining space on the first floor and the balcony. Bishop E. E. Hoss read hymn No. 244, and the vast body of men and women, rising, sang with true Methodist harmony.

"And are we yet alive,
And see each other's face?
Glory and praise to Jesus give
For His redeeming grace."

This was followed by the recital of the Apostles' creed, led by Bishop Wilson.

Bishop Morrison's Prayer.
The opening prayer was by Bishop Morrison who expressed thanks for the manifold blessings and unnumbered mercies of the past and for the prosperity of the church since the last quadrennial meeting.

"We magnify Thy name for what Thou hast wrought in the homeland where thousands have been brought unto the Lord. We have seen His hand in the movement driving back the whiskey curse, and in the fight against the divorce evil; that Thou art with the church in the fight against evil of every form."

He prayed for special blessing on the work of the women, and especially the Epworth League. He prayed for the Lord to hear them, while thinking of the widening of the church; there is no longer any thought of localities; the church has come to world thought and world fields and he prayed that the thought would continue in this direction.

Finally he prayed for the grace and the will of the Lord to direct them in the affairs of the conference and to be able to legislate for the beloved Zion so as to give a new impulse and new life to the work for the Kingdom of Christ. In the conference, in the home life, in the committee meetings and in the hotels he prayed that all would remember Christ and to do the best thing in the best way for the advancement of His Kingdom.

He was followed by Bishop Key who read the first lesson, Psalms 2; and Bishop Atkins, who read the second lesson from Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians 2.

Bishop Candler announced Hymn 188:
"O Spirit of the Living God,
In all Thy plenteous grace," etc.

This was followed by a prayer by Rev. Frank Richardson, D. D., in which he invoked the grace of the most High in all the things, actions and thoughts of the Holy Spirit in all the legislation of the conference so that the Kingdom of Christ could be advanced.

Those Who Had Fallen from the Ranks.
Bishop Wilson, after the preliminary exercises were over, spoke in great tenderness of the loss that the church and the conference had sustained since the last quadrennial in the deaths of some of the beloved bishops and workers. He thanked God that the sense of His presence would be shown in every act and that His hand would guide and direct the work of the conference so that the scope of the work could be enlarged beyond its present scope. He thanked God for what had already been done and he looked forward with faith to the future.

Nearly All Present.
The roll call of the delegates was made, showing practically every one of the clerical delegates present and nearly all of the lay delegates present. Some of the delegations were completed by the substitution of Judge Langley in the place of H. C. Stewart of the Holston delegation; John B. Simpson in the place of T. G. Slaughter, deceased, of the Northern Alabama delegation; W. K. Macaulay, vice W. T. Saunders, absent; W. F. Duncan vice O. E. Goldard of the Oklahoma delegation; A. W. Patton vice D. G. Northey, absent, of the Mississippi delegation; Mr. Hensley in the Missouri delegation. Mr. Talbert will be here later.

Election of Secretary.
For the place of the secretary of the conference three names were placed in nomination: A. F. Watkins of the Mississippi conference, who received 145 votes; John M. Barcus of the Northwest Texas delegation, who received 41 votes, and Dr. Gross Alexander of the Louisville conference, who received 69 votes. Mr. Watkins was then declared elected secretary. He named the following assistant secretaries, and their appointment was ratified by the conference: Dr. Gross Alexander, J. A. Burrows, C. H. Griggs, E. O. Watson, J. M. Barcus, J. E. Harrison, R. A. Meek, J. H. McCoy and F. M. Parker.

A motion was made by John O. Wilson that the rules of the committee of five of the last general conference be adopted and that all amendments be referred to that committee of five. There was some discussion, and the matter went to the rules committee to report, and in the meantime the old rules were adopted until the committee's report.

Discussion Over Committees.
The greatest discussion and confusion of the morning came when James Cannon, president of Blackstone Female college, and Dr. Griggs offered a resolution that the standing committees of the conference be composed of 14 and that each committee have at least one representative from each annual conference; the committees to be of episcopacy, itinerancy, revisals, publishing interests, education, church extension, missions, boundaries, moral and social issues, Sunday schools, Epworth League, appeals, finance and church relations. This made a change in two committees, that of temperance being changed to morals and colportage dropped and in its place substituted a committee on church relations, to include also any committee of federation, and all questions of federation. There were several amendments adopted, one by Dr. Mann, that the committee on revisals be dropped; this was withdrawn later; there was also a substitute offered to the effect that the present 14 committees be continued and that also each committee elect its chairman and secretary by ballot and that seven other standing committees be appointed to consist of five members each, among which were to be committees on Bible case, colportage, fraternal relations, rules, Sabbath observance, etc.

Another amendment was offered to the effect that each committee be composed of one lay and one clerical delegate to be chosen from each annual conference, the object of which was to give the laity representation on some of the important committees. It was stated that on the committee on episcopacy there was not a single lay delegate, only about five on itinerancy, and about four on revisals. That was voted down by a good sized majority, those opposed taking the ground that there would not be enough laymen to go around, as some of the conferences only had one lay delegate, and that such action as contemplated would hamper the work of the committees as one man could not attend several committee meetings at once.

Cannon Resolution Passes.
The matter was finally settled by the adoption of Rev. Mr. Cannon's resolution, with the exception that the order of the present committees be not changed. This means that the temperance committee becomes the committee on moral and social issues; and the committee on colportage is dropped and that on church relations substituted. It also provides for one committee member from each annual conference, members to be chosen by the delegates of that particular conference.

After a few more petitions of minor importance were offered, the conference heard the episcopal address, read by Bishop Hendrix.

Women's Demands Opposed.
The episcopal address fully opposed the demand of the women for women's rights and representation in the conference. It says the demands are not "in harmony with the church's idea of what woman's place in church, home and society."

CANCER'S CAUSE IS NOT FISH DIET

So Contends Dr. Curtin—He Thinks Over-Nutrition May Cause of the Dread Malady.

Washington, May 4.—The congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, in eighth triennial session, began today discussion of medical, surgical, therapeutic questions. More than 1,000 delegates are attending.

Dr. R. G. Curtin of Philadelphia took issue with those who contend that cancer is caused by eating fish, particularly trout. He argued that statistics show that cancer is more common in centers of population where not one person in 50 eats trout. A country lad who lived on trout, he asserted, is seldom afflicted with this disease. His position was that cancer probably was caused by over-nutrition.

ROOSEVELT AND PARTY NOW IN CHRISTIANIA

Colonel Roosevelt Will Deliver the Nobel Peace Prize Lecture There Tomorrow.

Christiania, Norway, May 4.—The Roosevelt party arrived here this afternoon. The Roosevelts came by train from Copenhagen, which they left last night. At every stopping place they were greeted by large crowds.

According to present plans the Roosevelts will remain here until 7:30 Friday evening, when they will proceed to Stockholm. Col. Roosevelt tomorrow delivers the Nobel peace lecture at the National theater, and in the evening will be entertained at a banquet. Friday he will receive the doctor's degree from King Frederic's University.

Mr. Roosevelt was formally received at the railway station by King Haakon and Queen Maud. With the Royal party were Premier Konow and other high officials. Great crowds cheered Roosevelt as he drove to the palace, decorations abounded, while American flags were entwined with those of the Norwegian colors.

LESS THAN 15 MINUTES IS GIVEN PENSION BILL

And It Passes, With \$155,000,000 Appropriation—Consideration of Naval Affairs.

Washington, May 4.—Secretary of the Navy Meyer appeared before the senate naval affairs committee today, explaining the details of the naval appropriation bill. Appropriation for the construction of two battleships was considered. No decision was reached.

Several republican senators probably will make a strong fight against the construction of more than one battleship a year.

In less than 15 minutes time the senate considered and passed the pension appropriation bill, carrying about \$155,000,000.

MR. TAFT WILL NOT SAY WHETHER HE'LL VETO IT

Action Will Depend on Shape in Which Railway Bill Is Finally Passed by Congress.

St. Louis, May 4.—The possibility of a veto of the railroad bill, as it will come from congress in an amended form, was suggested to President Taft today. The president would not discuss the matter.

The president added that he would go over the bill carefully and his future action would depend entirely on the shape in which the measure finally passes.

THE WEATHER.
For Asheville and vicinity: Fair weather tonight and Thursday; cooler tonight.

For North Carolina: Partly cloudy and cooler tonight; Thursday fair. Light to moderate north to northeast winds.

Shipper's forecast: Temperatures near 32 degrees are indicated to the northeastward, but will return to more normal conditions north and northwest.

Anti-Oral Betting Bill Passed.
Albany, N. Y., May 4.—The Agnew anti-oral bookmaking bill is passed by the senate in a form which prohibits bookmaking. "With or without writing."

HE THINKS HALF PURCHASED SEATS

Ex Senator Mason Says 50 per Cent. of the Senate Practically Bought Senatorial Toga.

Chicago, May 4.—"I believe 50 per cent. of the seats in the United States senate can be said to have been practically purchased."

This statement is made by former United States Senator William E. Mason in an interview urging the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people.

Morning papers quote Senator Mason as saying he heard at Springfield before the election of Senator Lorimer that the honor was for sale, and that the senatorial toga would go to the highest bidder. Mr. Mason, however, today denied he made such allegation.

HAS IMPORTANT EVIDENCE AS TO LORIMER CHARGES

State's Attorney Says Two Persons Will Tell Things About the Alleged Bribery in Senator's Election.

Chicago, May 4.—State's Attorney Wayman declares he has two democratic state representatives who will give important evidence before the special grand jury, regarding the alleged bribery in the election of William Lorimer as United States senator.

CONVENTION OF FARMERS ADDRESSED BY MR. TAFT

Sees Baseball Game This Afternoon and Is to Start on His Return Tomorrow Morning.

St. Louis, May 4.—President Taft upon his arrival today was met by Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, Governor Hadley and a reception committee of the Business Men's League. The president delivered an address before the farmer's convention at 11 o'clock. He was the guest of the business men at luncheon.

After luncheon he was driven to the baseball park, witnessing the game between the Cincinnati and St. Louis National League teams.

The president starts for Washington at 1:30 Thursday morning.

President Taft wound up a day of renewing old acquaintances by appearing before a brilliant and enthusiastic throng at the opening of Cincinnati's annual May musical festival last night as the dedicatory of an heroic statue of Theodore Thomas, first conductor of the festival, and formerly head of the Chicago orchestra.

Having respected the president's wishes that he be treated as a "citizen of Cincinnati," all day the public took full advantage of his appearance at night to proclaim him as the chief executive of the nation. A fanfare of trumpets ushered the president on the stage, but the notes of the instruments were drowned by the shouting applause of the thousands who had listened to the strains of Handel's "Judas Maccabeus" with its story of "love, liberty and justice."

Good to Be at Home.
At the Royal Legion meeting President Taft, after declaring that he had been too young to fight in the Civil war and too fat to take part in the Spanish war, said:

"It is a pleasure to come to one's home, especially when you have been in Washington and have been greatly chided for your shortcomings, and to snuggle up close to those who are fond of you, who have respect for you, whatever happens, and who believe that however great the obstacles are and however severe the criticism may be in other parts of the country, you are doing the best you can."

President Taft read with the keenest interest the despatches from Washington dealing with the critical situation in which "the administration bill" has been placed. The president would make no comment for publication regarding the attitude of the insurgents in the senate and the house toward the measure. That he holds the insurgents responsible for the legislative delay is now fully recognized. It is known that the president has grown tired of the professions of loyalty of members in both branches of congress that they are for his measures when they visit the white house but work against these same measures, according to his view, as soon as they get back to capitol hill. In public speeches some of these senators and representatives have also expressed their loyalty to the administration only to report to tactics which the president regards as being inimicable to the active measures he has recommended.

WORK 84 HOURS A WEEK AT BETHLEHEM FACTORY

Seven Days, of 12 Hours, for 2322 Men, the Most of Whom Get 12½ Cents an Hour.

Washington, April 4.—The bureau of labor's report upon conditions at the Bethlehem Steel company's works, South Bethlehem, Pa., submitted to the senate says 2322 men work twelve hours a day, seven days a week. A large percentage of these laborers earn only twelve and a half cents an hour.

CHURCH'S LEGISLATORS HEAR BISHOPS' MESSAGE

NEWLAND IS IN FIELD AGAINST LOCKE CRAIG

His Candidacy for Governor Practically Announced—Notes from the State Capital.

Gazette-News Bureau, Chamber of Commerce Rooms, Holleman Building, Raleigh, May 4.

Hon. W. C. Newland of Lenoir is here attending the Supreme Court, and when asked about the report that he would be a candidate for the democratic nomination for governor two years from now said that in all probability he would. This was an announcement of his candidacy, practically, and lends considerable interest to the political situation, particularly in the western part of the state. The impression had gone abroad that Locke Craig would have the field all to himself, but it now looks as though he will have to fight even in the west where he was supposed to be the unanimous choice.

There are between 15 and 20 candidates for the position on the corporate commission made vacant by the death of B. F. Aycock. Some of these are only receptive or passive candidates, while others are very active. There is no intimation as to who will be the successful man.

The appeals from the thirteenth district are being heard in the Supreme court this week.

CENSUS ENUMERATION REPORTS ARE COMING IN

No Announcement of Population of Entire Country May Be Expected by August.

Washington, May 4.—Returns from the census enumeration, begun throughout the United States a couple of weeks ago, are beginning to arrive.

There is no prospect of the announcement of the population of the entire United States before August or September.

AMERICAN TOBACCO CO. INCREASES DIVIDENDS

Extra Dividend of 7 1-2 per Cent.—Regular Dividends on Common and Preferred Stock.

New York, May 4.—The American Tobacco company today declared a quarterly dividend of two and a half per cent. A quarterly dividend of one and a half per cent. was declared on preferred stock. All these dividends were the same as those last quarter.

The extra dividend declared a year ago for the corresponding quarter was five per cent.

BILL TO RAISE MAINE PASSED BY CONGRESS

Bones of the Sailors Within Her to Be Interred in National Cemetery at Arlington.

Washington, May 4.—After twelve years, the ill-fated battleship Maine is to be removed from Havana harbor and the bodies of the men who went down with the vessel will be interred in Arlington national cemetery.

The bill providing for such removal and burial, which had passed the house, was today passed by the senate.

EN ROUTE TO JAMAICA.

Lieut. Owen and His Bride, Who Was Mrs. Leavitt, Spent Night in Kansas City.

Kansas City, Mo., May 4.—Lieut. Reginald A. Owens of the British army and his bride, who was Mrs. Ruth Bryan Leavitt, the democratic leader's daughter, spent last night here enroute to Jamaica, where Lieut. Owens is stationed.

Great Damage Done by Hurricane.
Victoria, B. C., May 4.—News brought by the steamer Makura states that a hurricane has devastated Fiji. It did great damage at Nounet, Caledonia. A number of boats were swept away. In the Fiji group the hurricane did a million dollars damage. Plantations suffered.

Episcopal Address Counsels: "Ours a Government of Law Rather Than of Men."

EVANGELIZATION OF WORLD IS NOW THE IMMINENT TASK

The Various Memorials, Looking to Change in Organization, Policy, etc., Are Commented Upon—An Eloquent Review and Summary of the Quadrennium, and of the Church Militant.

AFTER the Methodist General conference had been organized today by the election of the secretaries and assistants, and a number of resolutions introduced, Bishop E. H. Hendrix of Kansas City, read the episcopal address. This is the address which is concurred in by the college of bishops, and corresponds to the president's address to congress. It is an important document and just two hours were required in the reading. Many things of importance were discussed and in the matter of Vanderbilt University it was recommended that this subject be taken up and finally disposed of at this conference.

After referring to the death of Bishop John J. Tigert, Alexander Coke Smith, John Cowper Granberry, William Wallace Duncan, Charles Betts Galloway and Seth Ward, the College of Bishops recommended that five bishops be elected at this session.

Following are excerpts from the episcopal address:
Beloved brethren of the ministry and laity, elect of the church for your sacred responsibilities as counselors and legislators, grace and peace be unto you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we know the Father. We give unto you our Christian salutations, and rejoice with you in our common inheritance that God has given unto the Gentiles repentance unto faith, and has taken us also into his covenant of life and peace. "For this is the record that God hath given unto us eternal life, and this life is in His Son." We worship the Eternal Father of the Eternal Son, for without sonship there is no fatherhood. It is the Eternal Son in the bosom of the Father by whom is made known unto us the Godhead of both Father and Son through the Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father and the Son. Called to be saints, our daily prayer for the whole church is that she may manifest the power of sons of God and so realize her high calling of God in Christ Jesus. We are yet the potential church; but we devoutly thank our Lord, who condescends to behead over all things to his church, for the causeless honor which he puts upon the church which is his body and which is complete only in him. We are grateful to him for that great religious movement called Methodism, which has leavened and quickened the life of Christendom during the eighteenth, nineteenth, and part of the twentieth centuries, and has become the leading force of Protestant Christianity throughout the world. As we meet for the third time in this eventful century, when our Divine Lord is seen leading his hosts to their greatest victories, we dare utter our doxology: "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be the glory in the church of Christ Jesus unto all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Lutheranism is the least part of the work of the reformation led by Martin Luther in the sixteenth century, although numerically the largest Protestant force. So Methodism is the least part of the great religious movement of the eighteenth century under the Wesley's and Whitfield. Both movements are inseparably joined in the moral and religious freedom which became the inheritance of all Protestant churches. Yet Methodism must stand as the peculiar expression of that last great religious movement, and so the object of deepest interest to all students of Christianity. Harnack, the eminent German writer, whose theological position excludes all possibility of a bias against the Wesleyan movement, declares: "No type of believers has interested me more than the Methodists. If I read church history correctly, that denomination is richest in experimental religion, most active in Christian work, most fertile in results of all since the time of the Reformation." We are familiar with what the best English historians, such as Lecky and Green, have said as to the influence of Methodism in saving England in the eighteenth century, but we are concerned to know what may be expected of Methodism in the twentieth century. In one of the great quarterlys, in a notable article on our "Representative Religion," occurs this tribute: "On the whole, the Methodist church will be seen to be a great organization moving on the world for definite and powerful results, striking where there is most to be done. It converts for all the churches; but it still keeps itself larger than any of the rest, and increases at a faster rate." A Unitarian organ frankly says: "Methodism has had a grand mission to fulfill in modern Christendom—a mission of mediation between different sects on the one hand and between an exclusive church and a neglected world on the other. And there is a moral majesty in the firm and sure tread with which it has marched to the accomplishment of its work."

It is such tributes to modern Methodism that make us serious as we contemplate the responsibilities of leadership. Not only do leading Protestant thinkers declare, "Methodism holds the future; but a foremost prelate of the Roman Catholic church, the late Archbishop Spaulding, said: "The only sect that Roman Catholicism fears is organized Methodism, and this fear is based upon its aggressive zeal to the common people without any preposterous claim to apostolic succession or offensive assertion of being 'the' church. I greatly fear the influence of Methodism upon the second and third generation of imported Romanists." If we have such influence with other churches, it is largely because our converts are from the world and not from other churches, and our fidelity to the faith of the fathers has won for us the title given by the most influential of preachers of the Congregational church as "the mightiest Protestant force in the modern world." Speaking of the scanty supply of preachers in other churches, the foremost minister in another church recently remarked in public: "What would the rest of the churches do but for the preachers that Methodism furnishes?" Is this to be one of the ways God will use in giving a preachable theology to some other churches? Our rapid growth has not been due to immigration, as in both the Roman and Lutheran churches, but, as in all lands, from the preaching of a gospel of spiritual power. We are now laboring on all the continents, and in not less than one hundred and fifty of the babbling tongues of earth ecumenical Methodism is at once the John the Baptist and the apostle Paul of modern Christendom, seeking the way of the way of the Lord and to build up in the faith as we spread scriptural holiness over all these lands. Our threatened pietism has become world-wide evangelism. Nor has there ever appeared a more signal proof of the vitality of our American Methodism in all her history than when the combined Methodist laymen of the United States and Canada during the past year pledged themselves to become responsible for the evangelizing of more than 200,000,000 souls, or more than one-fifth of the remaining uncivilized billion of the pagan and Mohammedan world.

The Church as a Force of Nearly Two Millions.
Now, as the second largest Methodist church in the world and the third largest Protestant church in America, we assemble in our sixteenth General Conference at the close of the most peaceful and prosperous quadrennium in the history of the Methodist Episcopal church, South. Every year of the quadrennium has been marked by a net increase in the whole quadrennium when we met in Dallas eight years ago. Our net increase during the past four years in members alone is 267,754, an increase larger than the whole membership of all save a very few churches in the United States. This net increase is more than half of our entire gain during the last decade. Our present membership, not including our 11,570 traveling and local preachers, is 1,822,402, which is nearly 500,000 more than all the Methodists on the continents of Europe and Australia. To increase our census to more than 2,650,000, we need only add, and justly, the 232,911 members of the colored Methodist church in whose behalf we legislate and give, as in the forty years of their separate history since we set them apart. Their steadfast friends and counselors, charged in no small measure with the responsibility for their success, we rejoice no less in their prosperity than in our own; and our constant prayer and hope is to see them increasingly effective as a great missionary force both in this country and in Africa.

Increase in Our Ministry.
It is gratifying to report that during the past year we admitted the largest number of ministers on trial in our history. These 331 new preachers will greatly reduce the number of charges left to be supplied, while the noteworthy revival of lay activity promises yet larger accessions to our itinerant ranks in the near future.

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Norfolk & Western Surgeons Meet.

Norfolk, May 4.—The third annual convention of the association of surgeons of the Norfolk and Western Railroad company composed of 200 delegates from Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, and North Carolina, began today.