

Africo-American Presbyterian

AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE.—John VIII, 32.

VOL. LII.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY, 16, 1930.

NO. 3.

THE ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE AND PROHIBITION

The 24th National Convention of the Anti-Saloon League of America will be held in Detroit, Jan. 14-19. In view of the perennial interest in Prohibition, we are giving here two articles—one an editorial from The American Issue, leading Prohibition organ, and the other a statement by Dr. Fosdick. These articles present the case of Prohibition from different angles but each is convincing in its way.

THE CHURCH FACES FRONT

Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, of New York, says:

"If you wish my personal judgment as to the sort of program that the Christian Church as a whole will stand behind and should stand behind in dealing with this prohibition question, I can put it in a few sentences.

"First: We will fight to the last ditch any step that looks like going back to the saloon. We know well that we have an unsatisfactory situation on our hands. We are not for a moment content with it, but we know it is better than the thing we got rid of.

"Second: So long as the present laws are on the books, we will stand for their observance and enforcement. We will no more supinely surrender to the lawlessness of bootlegging than we supinely surrendered to the even more extensive and financially more powerful lawlessness of the old saloon regime.

"Third: There are some types of solution to which we will never consent, and one is putting the government, state or national, into the liquor business. We have refused so far to entrust the ownership and management of railroads to the government, although theoretical arguments make government ownership and management of railroads altogether reasonable. We have seen clearly that the government is not yet fit to handle that immense accession of economic power. Far less safe is it to make our national and State capitals the headquarters of the most corrupting business this country has ever seen.

"Fourth: As to any alterations in the law, we will trust them to those whom we know to be friendly to the law's major intent. There may well come a time when the law should be changed. No law is infallible. But whoever proposes to construct and carry through such alterations would better first of all persuade the people of the Church that he is sympathetic with the major aim for which the law originally was framed.

"At the heart of the Christian conscience of this country there is a conviction—make up your mind to it—that the liquor traffic and the Christian Gospel stand for two diverse and contradictory conceptions of personal and social life."—Ohio Christian News, October 13, 1929.

WHY AN ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE?

Until prohibition has ceased to be an issue, the Anti-Saloon League has a task to perform. Notably in its educational work, the provision of up-to-date, accurate information on the varying phases of prohibition, its wide distribution of literature upon this subject, its cooperation with churches, organizations, speakers, publishers, writers and newspapers, its use of the radio and the moving picture, the Anti-Saloon League today is rendering vital service to those who realize the

importance of an alcohol-free civilization in this country.

The Anti-Saloon League is not a super-government. It is not responsible for the enforcement of the law. It does not dictate to public officials concerning their actions. It does not control legislation nor elections. It does, however, continually furnish its constituency and the public with authentic information on the status of enforcement activities, on the character of legislation proposed or passed, upon the attitude and record of legislators and other officials. If it were not for the service thus rendered it is questionable whether many citizens would know exactly what is being done by those who are called their public servants.

The intensity with which prohibition is opposed by a small well-financed and carefully organized group who are today the spokesmen for the outlawed brewers and vintners, is a measure of the urgent need for an organization such as the Anti-Saloon League.

The foes of prohibition are fighting the Anti-Saloon League desperately because they recognize in it an intelligently directed, virile organization with but one single purpose—the abolition of the liquor traffic. The assaults are tributes to its success.

If the foes of the Anti-Saloon League should succeed in disrupting this organization or in seriously reducing its efficiency, the nullification, then the repeal of the prohibitory laws in States and the nation would be only a matter of a short time.

The Anti-Saloon League is, in a peculiar way, not merely an agency of the Church, but by the official action of many denominations, it is the actual representative of those churches in the fight against the liquor interests of the nation. The liquor problem is not parochial. It is not denominational. It is not political in any partisan sense. It is a great social and moral question, affecting all churches, all communities, all classes. A question of this character can be solved not by individual action, nor by local, denominational, or other group action, but only by concerted action. Eternal vigilance is the price of prohibition. So long as the anti-social foes of prohibition persist in their assaults upon this public policy the Anti-Saloon League must fulfill its task. Only final victory can justify its forces in demobilizing or its friends in ceasing to support it.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEAGUE OF CATAWBA PRESBYTERY

By Frank C. Shitley

The next quarterly meeting of the Young People's League will convene at Westminster church, Concord, N. C., Saturday, February 1st, 1930. One of the features of this meeting will be the discussion of the topic: "The Three Most Urgent Needs of the Churches in Catawba Presbytery as Seen by the Young People." The officers of the League are very anxious that this topic shall be thoroughly discussed. To that end, first, they are asking that each Society in the Presbytery discuss this topic in their local meeting on either the third or fourth Sunday in January. Having discussed the subject in the local societies there will be a better background for the general discussion at the meeting of the League.

(Continued on page 4)

THE TENNESSEE INTER-RACIAL COMMISSION

(From The Nashville Tennessean, Jan. 9.)

The interracial Commission of Tennessee will recommend that local units of the organization carry on three investigations to be state-wide in their final scope, as the result of a resolution adopted unanimously Wednesday afternoon by the commission before adjourning its eleventh annual all-day meeting, held at the Y. M. C. A. The investigations will cover:

(1) Treatment of colored passengers on bus lines and in the waiting rooms of bus stations.

(2) Alleged unequal accommodations by railroads, both as to coaches and at the depots, especially of the Tennessee Central Railway.

(3) Questionable shows given by Negro performers at midnight for the entertainment of white people only.

Recommendations that the investigations be made were included in a report of the finding committee, unanimously adopted. Members of the committee, which presented the report, are: James E. Clarke, Mrs. Arch Tradwick, Mrs. Frankie Pierce and J. D. Burton.

Before adjournment of the morning session, Dr. James E. Clarke, of Nashville, Editor of the "Presbyterian Advance," chairman of the white executive committee, was elected general chairman of the interracial group to serve until its next meeting, to be held in January, 1931, at Nashville.

Improved relationship between the two races was indicated in the report of the finding committee by Bishop I. B. Scott of the African Methodist church. The report included development of the interracial interest during the past year and since the tenth annual meeting. It also was suggested that the Nashville Community Chest be asked to lend financial assistance to the work and include the commission in its 1930 budget.

Seven recommendations were made by J. D. Burton, Oakdale, Tenn., State Secretary, in his report. These recommendations are:

(1) That more definite responsibility be assumed by individual members of the movement in Tennessee.

(2) That the secretary be aided in securing more adequate financial support for the work in the State.

(3) That a directory of local and State Committees be compiled, printed and made available for individual members and the public.

(4) That members who are able to make addresses on the plan of co-operation, co-operate with individuals and committees in arranging meetings to present the program.

(5) That in the appointment of special committees, one or more women, white or colored, or both, be included in the assignments.

(6) That contact members of the State committee be selected to work with the denominational groups.

(7) That district meetings be continued for the year as a part of the program for the State committee.

Belief that the danger of lynchings, now, is practically passed was expressed by Dr. W. J. Hale, President of A. and I. State College, who credited the newspapers with playing an important part in helping to dissipate prejudices. He declared that the facts of the cases are presented impartially by the newspaper and this tends to

end snap judgments during the heat of prejudice.

The Negro educator said that the confusion or members of one race is getting better in the State and that the Negro's work is now being taken on a par with that of the white man in the courts. He saw need of legal aid to show the Negro how to present his case intelligently when in court.

Greater facilities for the education of Negro boys and girls, and more institutions are needed. J. M. Robinson, State welfare director, declared. He said that the idea "a delinquent child is a sick or underprivileged child rather than an incorrigible child" should be furthered throughout the State.

"One of the greatest things in the world is the fostering of interracial friendship, kindness and co-operation," Rabbi Julius Mark, Vine Street Temple, declared in the address made at the opening of the meeting. Rabbi Mark spoke on "The Spirit of Race Co-operation."

Misunderstanding between races invariably leads to war. Fear of other races, the result of misunderstanding, has wrecked civilization since the dawn of man. The world cannot endure another universal war. It will destroy our western civilization if another such conflict in the World War is precipitated.

"People entertain a misconception of the true meaning of social equality. This does not imply interracial marriage. God did not intend that races should intermingle in marital bonds. As I see it, the equality of all races and the equality of all men have gone to prison in Louisiana for the murder of two colored women. In Tennessee a young colored man, Turley Wright, convicted on perjured testimony of white women, has been released. In South Carolina, Ben Bess, colored farmer, was released by the State Supreme Court after serving fourteen years of a thirty-year sentence, conviction having been secured originally by perjured testimony.

"These few instances from among many results of the year's work show that not alone are the courts ready to sustain the Negro's just contentions, but that public opinion as well is swinging to the point where it will insist upon fair play being done irrespective of race or color.

"This progress was made with severely limited means, contributed in the main by a relatively small number of colored people. If the Negro really wants freedom he can more nearly achieve it by contributing during 1930 more generously and more generally to supply the fund for extending this fight in his behalf."

R. E. Clay, Bristol, Tenn., secretary of the colored division, declared that white organizations throughout the State are contributing largely toward the erection of Negro schools in rural sections. "White and Colored Women in Church Work" was the subject of discussion by Mrs. C. L. Kinkead.

The other talks were made by Dr. R. T. Hurt, Clarksville; Mrs. Neal Spahr, Knoxville; Mrs. Frankie Pierce and Dr. Mattie Coleman. "Adjustments in Student Groups" was discussed by Dr. C. V. Roman.

Besides Dr. Clarke, named general chairman, other officers elected to serve in 1930, are: Rabbi Julius Mark, Vice-President White Executive Committee; Dr. J. A. Lester, Negro Professor at Meharry Medical College, Recording Secretary; J. D. Burton, Oakdale, White State Secretary; R. E. Clay, Negro State Secretary; T. C. Napier, Treasurer; W. J. Hale, Chairman Interracial League; Mrs. Neal Spahr, Knoxville, and Mrs. F. Pierce, Nashville, Supervisors of Women's Work.

NEGRO GAINING AGAINST COLOR BAR, SAYS NEGRO AID ANNUAL REPORT

New York, Jan. 3.—Enlightened public opinion in the United States and throughout the world is increasingly supporting the Negro in his efforts to achieve opportunity and to surmount the color barrier, according to a summary of the Annual Report of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, made public today.

"In five separate instances during the year 1929," says the summary, "public opinion North and South rallied to the Negro's plea for fair play. Two of these instances concerned the church, when not only high churchmen but editors, clergymen and numerous private citizens, repudiated color bar utterances of a Protestant Episcopal and a Catholic clergyman. Another instance occurred early in the year, when it was sought to make scapegoats of the colored crew members of the ill-fated steamship, 'Vestris.' Here again the United States District Attorney, the Mayor of New York, and hosts of other citizens joined in doing honor to the colored hero of the disaster and cleared the colored sailors and firemen of any imputation of neglect. Twice on the sport field, public sentiment was rallied to the appeal for fair play. North and South there was sharp criticism of the proposal to withdraw New York University's star quarterback from the football game with Georgia. And criticism has been pointed at the United States Lawn Tennis Association for barring colored players from its 'national' tournaments.

"In the field of law, the Negro's appeals to the courts have been unusually fruitful. In Virginia Negroes have won a sweeping decision against the race bar in primary elections. In the same State a residential segregation ordinance was held unconstitutional. In Huntington, W. Va., residential segregation by covenant among white property owners was held a restraint upon alienation. Two

white men have gone to prison in Louisiana for the murder of two colored women. In Tennessee a young colored man, Turley Wright, convicted on perjured testimony of white women, has been released. In South Carolina, Ben Bess, colored farmer, was released by the State Supreme Court after serving fourteen years of a thirty-year sentence, conviction having been secured originally by perjured testimony.

"These few instances from among many results of the year's work show that not alone are the courts ready to sustain the Negro's just contentions, but that public opinion as well is swinging to the point where it will insist upon fair play being done irrespective of race or color.

"This progress was made with severely limited means, contributed in the main by a relatively small number of colored people. If the Negro really wants freedom he can more nearly achieve it by contributing during 1930 more generously and more generally to supply the fund for extending this fight in his behalf."

R. E. Clay, Bristol, Tenn., secretary of the colored division, declared that white organizations throughout the State are contributing largely toward the erection of Negro schools in rural sections. "White and Colored Women in Church Work" was the subject of discussion by Mrs. C. L. Kinkead.

The other talks were made by Dr. R. T. Hurt, Clarksville; Mrs. Neal Spahr, Knoxville; Mrs. Frankie Pierce and Dr. Mattie Coleman. "Adjustments in Student Groups" was discussed by Dr. C. V. Roman.

Besides Dr. Clarke, named general chairman, other officers elected to serve in 1930, are: Rabbi Julius Mark, Vice-President White Executive Committee; Dr. J. A. Lester, Negro Professor at Meharry Medical College, Recording Secretary; J. D. Burton, Oakdale, White State Secretary; R. E. Clay, Negro State Secretary; T. C. Napier, Treasurer; W. J. Hale, Chairman Interracial League; Mrs. Neal Spahr, Knoxville, and Mrs. F. Pierce, Nashville, Supervisors of Women's Work.

NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

During the celebration of Negro History Week, beginning February 9, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History will hold in Washington, D. C., a mammoth meeting to do honor to the living ex-members of Congress of our own group and to the present representative who is now a member of that national body—H. P. Cheatam, of North Carolina; Thomas E. Miller, of South Carolina; John R. Lynch, of Mississippi, and Oscar De Priest, of Illinois.

The celebration will take the form of a banquet on the 10th for 400 persons of distinction invited from various parts of the country and a large mass meeting following immediately thereupon at the Auditorium, the largest and most popular assembly hall in this part of the country with a seating capacity of 6,000. At this meeting all other Negroes of distinction elected to office in various parts of the country will be presented to the public.

Each ex-member of Congress and the present incumbent will deliver addresses and an outstanding statesman of the other race will also be presented for a discourse in keeping with the occasion. The Association is hoping to have the President or the Vice-President of the United States present. If neither one will be available, a distinguished Senator will be asked to function in this capacity.

The purpose of the celebration, like that of the whole effort of Negro History Week, is to dramatize as an important achievement the fact that we have had Negroes elected to high office and as members of Congress and that we are unusually fortunate in having another to re-appear in that body after a long period of social repression and political intrigue. This is the inspiring note to stimulate our despondent youth to greater deeds.

The effort is national. It is not restricted to Washington. The committee in charge is composed of men and women from all parts of the country. Persons from afar have expressed their intention to participate and a nation-wide interest is increasing from day to day. The affair, too, is democratic. Every one intelligently interested in the Negro may freely participate. The co-operation of all persons is earnestly solicited.

The co-operation of all persons is earnestly solicited.

COLLEGE INTELLIGENCE

By William Pickens

(The Associated Negro Press)

This morning I picked up some curtain hooks and other pieces of Pullman car furnishings lying on the floor near my berth, and said: "Porter, these things seem to belong to something somewhere."

"Yes," replied the porter, in confidential undertones, "that's the result of some of that college intelligence that was in here last night!"

It is certainly a keen situation when a Pullman porter has actual, sincere and sober contempt for American white college youth,—and a contempt as justifiable as it is genuine. There was no make-believe or affectation in this porter's contempt; it was unfeigned and complete.

When I read in some magazine of Europe or America an exposure of the faulty education of American college youth, I am less moved than I was by the sincere disgust of this porter. European educators are telling us all along that our luxury universities, with a maximum of easy chairs, cushions, "drinks and things," are instilling into our students chiefly jazz society, boxing-ring manners, and parked automobile morals. Real education—literature, science and philosophy—cut the smallest figure in some of these schools now. This is no exaggeration; about half the army of American students would go on strike and leave our universities tomorrow if everything was taken out of the "college life" except the really educating and elevating activities.

But let us take a look at the crowd that impressed this Pullman porter; some of them got on at South Bend, Ind., representing Notre Dame. About half of them were actually trying to "beat their way" east in

(Continued on page 4)