

Africo-American Presbyterian

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

VOL. LIV.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1933

NO. 32.

EDUCATORS OF SOUTH SUGGEST STARTLING STEP

Nashville, Tenn., Aug.—That "a textbook giving a faithful account of the contribution of the American Negro to the life of our country" should be prepared and studied in all public schools, white and colored, was the unanimous recommendation of a conference representing the State Departments of Education of all the Southern States, meeting last week at George Peabody College, this city. This recommendation was made by the Committee on Findings and was adopted by the entire group without a dissenting word.

Further setting forth its viewpoint, the conference said: "There should be taught in both white and colored schools those things that will build up in the lives of the people of both races such a knowledge of the factors involved in a bi-racial civilization and such mutual understanding as will promote good will, fair play, and a spirit of co-operation that will enable us all to work together as one for a safer, a saner and a more fruitful civilization."

It was further recommended that each State Department of education make a careful study of the treatment of the Negro and of interracial questions in its public school textbooks, with a view to such eliminations and additions as may be needed for the building of intelligent, fair-minded attitudes on the part of teachers and pupils. In conclusion the conference urged that each State department of education take immediate steps to put these suggestions into effect.

Sponsored by Interracial Commission

The meeting was called by a number of well-known educators at the suggestion of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, and was for the purpose of considering the duty of public schools to better prepare the future citizens of the South for the personal and civic obligations involved in a bi-racial civilization. Five State superintendents of education were present in person and eight by proxy, representing all the States from Virginia to Missouri and Texas. The committee formulating the recommendations quoted above was headed by Superintendent W. F. Bond, of Mississippi, and included in its membership the State Superintendents of Florida, Louisiana and Texas.

This move is regarded as one of the most important and hopeful ever undertaken for the improvement of interracial attitudes and conditions, and everything possible will be done to realize its goal as rapidly as possible. The follow-up was left by the conference in the hands of its executive committee, which is composed of W. C. Jackson, of the University of North Carolina; J. L. Clark, of State Teachers' College, Huntsville, Texas; N. C. Newbold, of the North Carolina State Department of Education; Dennis H. Cooke and U. W. Leavell, of Peabody College; State Superintendent W. F. Bond, of Mississippi; State Superintendent T. H. Harris, of Louisiana; W. W. Alexander, Jesse Daniel Ames, and R. B. Eleazer, of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation.

Colored Colleges Represented

Attending the conference as invited guests were President W. J. Hale, Professor Epps and Robert E. Clay, of State A. and I. College, and Dr. Thomas E. Jones and Prof. Horace M. Bond, of Fisk University. Dr. Ambrose Caliver, of the Federal Department of Education, was one of the speakers.

Findings and Recommendations of the Conference on Education and Race Relations, George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee, Aug. 3-4, 1933

Your committee on Findings submits the following statement as representing the combined judgment of those attending this Conference, in reference to the question of "Education for Citizenship in a Bi-racial Civilization."

1. Since the fate of a nation is determined by the character of its citizenship, and training for citizenship of the highest order is the main purpose of the American public school, good schools must be provided for the children of all people, irrespective of race, color, or other condition of life, if the nation is to attain its greatest possibilities.

2. By "good schools" is meant schools with strong men and women of noble purpose as teachers, well trained for their work, with adequate buildings and equipment and term of sufficient length to give to every child a chance to develop fully its powers of soul, mind and body.

3. Injustice, whether legal, industrial, educational, or otherwise, to any person, however poor and helpless he may be, places a penalty upon all people, since there is a kind of eternal justice that can not and will not be denied.

4. Since pride of race is one of the most powerful incentives to noble effort, the good deeds of individual Negroes and the contributions to civilization of the race as a whole should be taught in every school for Negroes. A book giving a faithful account of the contribution of the American Negro to the life of our country should be prepared under proper guidance for use in all our schools.

5. There should be taught in both white and colored schools those things that will build up in the lives of the people of both races such a knowledge of the factors involved in a bi-racial civilization and such mutual understanding as will promote good will, fair play, and a spirit of co-operation that will enable us all to work together as one for a safer, a saner and a more fruitful civilization.

As a first step in that direction we recommend that each State Department of Education make a careful study of the public school textbooks in use in that State, with a view to such eliminations and additions as may be necessary to the above end. The details of this study should be arranged and the results correlated by a committee of this Conference.

6. Substantial improvement has been made during the last decade in educational facilities for both white and Negro children, the improvement being more marked in some States than others. Every State should have a definite program of education for children of all races.

7. The State Superintendents of Education, with their staffs, are urged to take immediate steps, in cooperation with their higher institutions of learning and other educational and social agencies of their respective States, to put into effect the suggestions outlined in these findings.

8. It is strongly recommended that this conference be made an annual affair at Peabody College.

Respectfully submitted,
W. F. BOND, Chairman, Mississippi.

JNO. W. ABERCROMBIE, Alabama.
NOLEN M. IRBY, Arkansas.
W. S. CAWTHON, Florida.
J. C. DIXON, Georgia.
T. H. HARRIS, Louisiana.
N. C. NEWBOLD, North Carolina.
L. A. WOODS, Texas, Committee

Y. M. C. A. RENDERS SERVICE TO THE NATION

New York.—(By the Associated Negro Press)—Despite the discouraging financial situation which faced welfare organizations of all kinds during the past year, the Y. M. C. A. has been able to show gains at various points in its diversified program according to Channing H. Tobias, Senior Secretary, upon whose shoulders has rested the chief burden of piloting the far-reaching work of the "Y" organization.

Staff curtailment and salary slashes have been taken by members of both local and national staffs. Nevertheless, despite some losses, there has been a definite upward trend in "Y" work.

Boys' Work Stands Out

"Of special importance," said Mr. Tobias, describing the year's activities, "are the gains made in Boys' work. There were sixteen States and three Older Boys' Conferences held during the year. All of these, except two, showed increases in attendance over the preceding year. The number of boys enrolled in groups in the same Associations in 1932 was 9,363, and in 1933 was 10,578, showing the remarkable gain of 13 per cent.

The boys' membership gain is also impressive with 9,599 boys enrolled in membership in 1932, and 10,412 in 1933. From April to June, inclusive, the National Council Office assigned R. W. Bullock, the national worker with boys, to the State of Georgia to make a study of the needs of Negro boys in the State. In this connection he helped to organize a State council for work among Negro boys and also visited seventeen local communities, assisting them in the organization of local councils.

Suggest Readjustment of Program

The regular annual Laymen's Conference was held this year at Bordentown, N. J. High lights of the gathering were the addresses of Ira De A. Reid, of the Urban League, and Max Yergan, of South Africa.

The findings of the Conference stressed the need of the Y. M. C. A. readjusting its program to meet the changing trends in economics, Government, Family and Church. A resolution passed by the conference was a request directed to the National Council that in the reorganization of the national service into areas scattered over the country, care should be taken that wherever the Negro population and the number of Negro associations warranted, Negro field representatives should be appointed to render the needed service. Principal W. R. Valentine, of Bordentown, continues as chairman of the Conference. Dr. R. R. Moton, of Tuskegee Institute, is the chairman of the colored work committee of the National Council, and Dr. John Hope, of Atlanta University, is the representative of Colored Associations on the World's Committee and the General Board of the American Movement.

Finance and membership campaigns have been successful with few exceptions. Of the many successful campaigns reported, the one in Philadelphia stands out above the others because of its strategic value locally and

its importance for "Y" work throughout the nation.

Outstanding business, professional and laboring men of the city were organized into a campaign committee, and late in February a ten-day effort resulted in collecting pledges totalling \$6,300, of which \$4,000 was cash and \$1,000 collectable in thirty days. On the strength of the result, J. H. McGrew, former National Council Secretary in the Southern Region, was called to the executive secretaryship of the Philadelphia Branch. The result of this campaign was not only a tribute to local leadership but to the technique of our National Financial Service Bureau as supplied by Robert B. DeFrantz who directed the campaign. Three successive efforts following the one in Philadelphia, namely those at Cincinnati, Los Angeles, and Denver, were largely indebted for their success to the example set by Philadelphia.

Inter-State Work

Conspicuous features of the year's work of Pennsylvania and New Jersey services, directed by R. P. Hamlin, have been successful laymen's conferences conducted in two States and the appointment of a colored welfare director, J. C. Arnold, to the Camp Dix Reformation Work.

Student Work

At the request of the Colored Field Councils and the National Colored Work Department Committee, the Association Work for Colored students has been integrated into the National Student Division. Frank T. Wilson is at present the only Secretary serving this field. The Colored Work Department Committee has pledged its continuing cooperation.

High-Light Achievements in Local Fields

There have been two building openings during the year. The West 135th Street branch of New York was opened to the public January 1. As is well known, this is a million-dollar structure—the largest and finest social service building for colored men and boys in the world. Since the building opening the organization has grown consistently in popularity and public support. The membership is now more than 2,100, which is the largest in its history. The Forster Street Branch, of Harrisburg, was opened March 5. This building, of Old English type architecture, is one of the most beautiful of its size in the entire country. The citizens of Harrisburg, regardless of race, take pride in and give generous support to the Forster Street Branch.

The 12th Street Branch of Washington has come into possession of a \$15,000 bequest by a generous white friend. The money is now available for use in building improvements and promotion of programs.

"Y" Leadership and Negro Who's Who

Why is "Y" work among colored people popular and successful? The answer is obvious—because it commands the respect and support of the outstanding leadership among the colored people of the nation. The truth is that a listing of the board and committee personnel of our National, State and Local Associations would parallel a large section of the Negro Who's Who in America. For the World Committee and General Board Membership, there is John Hope, President of Atlanta University. The chairman of the Colored Work Department Committee is Dr. Robert R. Moton of Tuskegee Institute and the world. The Vice-Chairman of the Colored Work Department is Principal W. R. Valen-

(Continued on page 3)

THE NEGRO AND THE NATIONAL RECOVERY ACT

II. HEARING ON BITUMINOUS COAL CODES.

By George Edmund Haynes, Ph. D., Executive Secretary, Department of Race Relations, Federal Council of Churches

Washington, D. C.—Leaders of capital and industry in the bituminous coal industry scattered over thirty States hurried to Washington last Wednesday at the urgent request of Col. Hugh S. Johnson, National Recovery Administrator, following the end brought to the Pennsylvania coal strike. They remained for the rest of the week discussing codes or parts of codes of fair competition submitted by operators and owners. The attendance was greater than that at the steel hearing the preceding week. The auditorium of the Department of Commerce, which seats about 1,000, was full when the first session opened.

Corporal's Guard of Negroes Present

Again, as at the preceding hearings, Negro workers were represented by only a corporal's guard. Dr. Robert P. Weaver and John P. Davis, of the Negro Industrial League, and this writer were there at the opening as at the steel code hearing, although we had worked and conferred until after the preceding midnight on a brief to be presented in behalf of Negro mine workers. Bishop E. D. W. Jones and Rev. Wallace, of the A. M. E. Zion Church, soon joined us. Bishop Reverdy C. Ransom sent a telegram asking us to speak for the wage-earners of the A. M. E. Church; Miss Nannie Burroughs had endorsed our plans; and Dr. R. R. Moton sent a telegram urging no discrimination in wages for Negro workers. Two Negro mine workers with a left-wing union group from Pennsylvania were present.

Negroes Large Factor in Coal Industry

There were 621,000 mine workers in this industry in 1930, of whom 57,000—over 9 per cent—were Negroes. This was an increase of about three per cent since 1923. They were located mainly in Alabama, West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Virginia. The three Southern States and West Virginia held three-fourths of the Negro mine workers. In Alabama, 53 per cent of mine workers in 1930 were Negroes. The representatives of mine-owners from Alabama said they now constitute only 40 per cent. There are probably 44,000 Negroes in the industry this year. Bituminous coal is the most important source of heat and power in America. Nearly all our rail roads and factories are dependent upon it. The costs and conditions of its mining and transportation affect the welfare of every man, woman and child in the Nation.

Labor Policies Divide Operators

The major dividing line among those who control the industry is on labor relations. Some are willing to deal with organized labor, mainly the United Mine Workers of America, John L. Lewis, President, in making agreements with their employees. Others oppose unions except what is known as "company unions," which have not found much favor with workers in the industry. One other factor—that of geographical location—seemed to be a major point in division of opinions and plans among the mine-owners. For example, the Ohio River divides the Northern and Southern interests even for the same coal formation like that of the Appalachian Range. The State of Il-

linois seems to be the dividing district between East and West. Principal Codes Affecting Negro Workers

The submitted codes of fair competition that vitally affect Negro workers fall generally into three classes typified by:

- 1—code filed jointly by the Northern Coal Control Association for producers in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Northern West Virginia and Smokeless and Appalachian Coal Association for producers in Southern West Virginia, Virginia, Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee;
- 2—code filed by a conference of bituminous operators in Washington, D. C., July 7-13, known as "the general code;"
- 3—code filed by Alabama Mining Institute for the operators of that State.

The matters in the code of particular concern to Negroes were maximum hours of labor, minimum rates of pay, the weighing of the coal as mined, and the rights of employees to organize and bargain collectively. In addition the codes dealt with questions of fair prices to consumers, cost of production, unfair trade practices, etc.

There seemed to be a trend toward agreement on eight hours, except for lunch and emergency, as a standard mine workers' day with a few exempted occupations that especially concern Negro common labor named below in a summary of our brief. The general code proposed a thirty-two hour week for the non-peak months of the year, and a forty-hour week for the months of peak production. Only a few codes proposed longer work weeks. President Lewis, of the United Mine Workers, proposed a thirty-hour week of five six-hour days, saying that his organization did not agree to the hours proposed in the several codes as best for mine workers, North or South. His proposal precipitated much discussion from operators, who submitted data to support their view that such short hours would be too costly and impracticable for operation under the present conditions of mining.

Mr. Lewis accepted the wage proposal of "the general code" of a minimum of \$5 per day for work inside the mine, and \$4.00 a day for work outside; but he entered strong objections to differentials in wages between mining districts, especially between Northern and Southern territory. Testimony of representatives from Alabama, from Illinois, and from the Rocky Mountain and Northwest regions gave extensive data to show that oil, natural gas, and hydro-electric energy are taking large proportions of their trade, both commercial and domestic.

Brief for Negro Workers Presented

On Friday afternoon, following the strong presentation of the code of the Alabama Mining Institute, Dr. Robert P. Weaver, Director of Research of the Negro Industrial League, presented the brief on behalf of Negro mine workers. Endorsement of the document had been secured by this writer from Bishop E. D. W. Jones and Bishop Reverdy C. Ransom. The brief in part sets forth the case as follows:

"Throughout the history of coal mining in the United States the workers in the industry have been exposed to extremely irregular employment. The average days worked by bitu-

(Continued on page 4)