

Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Philadelphia, May 23 — For what is said to be the first time in the history of American Christianity several of the leading Communions of the United States will cooperate here this week in a series of meetings held in connection with the annual business meeting of one of them. Methodist, Baptist, Episcopal and other Churches will have a leading part in a Presbyterian and interdenominational conference on evangelism to be conducted May 24-25 under the auspices of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. The Assembly is holding its annual sessions in Philadelphia May 24 to June 1.

The dominant point of interdenominational interest is the fact that Tuesday, the first of the two evangelism conference days, is the 200th anniversary of an historic experience on May 24, 1738, of John Wesley. On that day the future founder of the worldwide Methodism had in a London religious meeting what he called a "heart-warming" experience. According to his later followers, this experience resulted in Wesley's evangelistic zeal which eventually led to his withdrawal from the Church of England and to the birth of the Wesleyan and Methodist Churches.

This 200th anniversary will be observed at three meetings on Tuesday and one on Wednesday morning. The Rev. George W. Truett of Dallas, Texas, an outstanding evangelistic preacher of the Southern Baptist Church, and the Rev. Dr. Thomas C. Darst, Protestant Episcopal bishop of the diocese of North Carolina, will address the evening mass meeting.

A chorus of nearly 2,000 will sing at the Tuesday night meeting, which, like all other sessions of the General Assembly, will be held in commodious Convention Hall.

The Rev. Dr. Ralph Cushman, bishop of the Denver area of the Methodist Episcopal Church; the Very Rev. Dr. Daniel Lamont of Edinburgh, official representative of the Church of Scotland; and the Rev. Dr. Jesse M. Bader of New York, evangelistic secretary of the Federal Council of Churches and the director of the 1936-37 National Preaching Mission, will speak at the Tuesday morning and afternoon sessions of the evangelism conference.

A "Congress of New Americans" also will be held during the day time on Tuesday and Wednesday. Sponsored by the department of city and immigrant work of the Presbyterian Board of National Missions, the congress is designed to dramatize the evangelistic and social welfare work carried on by the Presbyterian Church particularly among the foreign-language speaking groups in the cities and industrial centers of this country.

The Rev. Dr. William P. Shiver, of New York, a secretary of the Board of National Missions, is the director of the Congress of New Americans. The director of the conference on evangelism is the Rev. Dr. William F. Klein of New York, a secretary of the same board. Associated with Dr. Klein is the Rev. Alexander M. Warren, a young minister who has had evangelistic experience with prison chain gangs of Georgia, and in prisons and shops elsewhere.

The Presbyterian Church conducts a wide variety of evangelistic work. Among its activities are radio addresses, meetings in colleges, conferences with the leaders of adults and youth, distribution of evangelistic literature, special evangelistic meetings in communities, and a week by week evangelism in all departments of the organized congregation of the Church.

THE ASSEMBLY AND AMERICAN CIVIC LIFE

Philadelphia, Pa.—In keeping with the historic emphasis of the 150th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, various aspects of American civic life in which Presbyterians have taken a prominent part will be presented at a Pre-Assembly Conference on Social Education and Action, Wednesday afternoon, May 25, at 3 o'clock in Convention Hall.

Guest speakers will be Dr. G. Barrett Rich of Cincinnati, Ohio; Dr. F. Scott McBride, of Philadelphia; and Rev. James Myers of New York. Dr. Charles J. Turck, general director of the Department of Social Education and Action of the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education, under whose auspices the conference is held, will preside.

Dr. Rich, who is pastor of Avondale Presbyterian Church of Cincinnati, O., will speak on "Presbyterians and the Anti-Slavery Movement." Since Seminary days Dr. Rich has been interested in better race relations. He is chairman of the Racial Amity Committee of the Community Chest, Cincinnati, Ohio, and has served on Interracial Commissions of the State of Kentucky for seven years.

"Presbyterians and the Temperance Movement," will be the subject presented by Dr. F. Scott McBride, superintendent of the Pennsylvania Anti-Saloon League. Before 1936, when Dr. McBride assumed his present position, he had been for 12 years national superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of America. He has been an official of the League since 1911, serving as District Superintendent of Illinois and State Superintendent of the same State. Dr. McBride is a member of the executive committee of the World League against Alcoholism.

DIFFERENTIALS IN WAGE BILL OPPOSED BY N. A. A. C. P.

Washington, May 20.—Opposition to any geographical differential in the wages and hours bill has been expressed to Congressmen and Senators by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The association has taken the position that if a lower wage is placed in the bill for Southern States, this will be unfair competition with manufacturers in Northern States.

It is known that the association believes that the real opposition to a universal wage scale on the part of Southern Congressmen is the fear that Negro workers in the South will be guaranteed the same wage as other workers. Even though the wages and hours bill provides only (at the beginning) a wage of 25c an hour, this is far above the scale now received by Negro workers in many areas of the South.

The New York Daily News in an editorial some weeks ago put its finger on the key point of the Southern opposition by saying that Southern Congressmen opposed the bill because they thought it would "spoil the Negroes."

In many places in the South, Negroes are working for five, seven and eight dollars a week, whereas this bill, if passed, would give them a minimum wage of \$10 a week.

The N. A. A. C. P. in its letter to Congressmen pointed out that there is no reasonable factual basis for the contention that it costs less to live in one section of the United States than in another.

The necessity of the Negro being constantly on the alert to fight against differentials was illustrated last week by the statement of Senator Pat Harrison, of Mississippi, in which

he declared that the wages and hours bill ought to recognize the same differentials as the old NRA codes. It will be remembered that in 1933 and 1934 the N. A. A. C. P. and other organizations sought to arouse the country on the danger of the precedents being established by the differentials in NRA codes. These differentials were thinly disguised as geographical, but in reality were racial. In the NRA laundry code, for example, wages in the Deep South States were set at 14 cents an hour, but in Northern States at 27 cents an hour. In the NRA steel code, Pittsburgh wages were 40 cents an hour, but Birmingham, Ala. steel workers got only 27 cents. Now the ghost of the NRA wage codes, which were grossly unfair to Negroes, rises to haunt the wages and hours bill.

There is evidence, however, that there will be stiff opposition to any differentials and the bill will be passed as drawn.

DR. W. A. HINTON TO GET SPINGARN MEDAL

New York, May 20.—Dr. William A. Hinton, instructor in bacteriology and immunology and in preventative medicine and hygiene on the faculty of the Harvard medical school, was awarded the 24th Spingarn medal this week by the committee for "26 years of brilliant scientific work of the highest technical calibre."

Dr. Hinton is the originator of the Hinton Serological Test for syphilis, which is recognized and used as a most delicate and accurate blood test for the disease. He is the author of a textbook on syphilis, declared by many to be the best written in the English language, which is used by health authorities, medical schools, and clinics.

Dr. Hinton is a recognized figure in public health circles and is regarded by the entire medical profession of America and other countries as one of its outstanding scientific leaders.

The attention of the committee was directed to Dr. Hinton's work this year, particularly, because of the nation-wide fight on venereal disease and the outstanding work Dr. Hinton has performed in this field.

The medal, which has been donated annually by J. E. Spingarn, President of the N. A. A. C. P., will be awarded formally to Dr. Hinton at the 20th annual conference of the association in Columbus, Ohio, on the night of July 1.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh.—Nine times every hour, day and night, some doctor or nurse in North Carolina says: "It's a boy" or "It's a girl."

Each day there are 216 additions to the Tar Heel family, according to the State Board of Health's vital statistics for the first four months of 1938.

There are approximately four deaths each hour in the State, or one every fifteen minutes, one is killed in a preventable accident about every eight hours, while somebody succumbs to cancer every five hours.

Each day sees an average of more than one suicide, according to the average for the past four months. Each day the number of homicides is one and a fraction and one victim of syphilis dies.

SCHOOL NAMED FOR JOHN HOPE

Indianapolis, Ind. — (C) — School No. 26, George L. Hayes, principal, has been renamed "The John Hope School," in honor of the great educator of Atlanta, Ga., who was president of Atlanta University at his death, and who served for 42 years as an outstanding teacher and administrator. The Board of School Commissioners took the action, effective April 15.

CALVIN'S DIGEST

By Floyd J. Calvin
(Listed by Editor & Publisher)

Commencement Orations

It will be interesting to hear what the commencement orators will tell college graduates this year. A year ago the depression seemed to be lifting, but now it is back, full force, with opportunities far around the corner for youth going out into the world.

Perhaps the safest theme the orators can take will be that it always pays to be optimistic; that the darkest cloud has a silver lining; and that "even this will pass away."

However, we believe the most practical thing the orators might tell the graduates is something of the art of holding money if they are lucky enough to earn any. It does not take a "seer" to note that one great weakness of the Negro group is improvidence. This seems to be basic, for it is true of those who have had superior advantages as well as of those who may actually not know better.

Recently, the New York Times made a survey of Harlem retail stores, and from the published reports, the only figures which were sufficiently impressive for circulation were the sales of "dollar whiskey."

A sad commentary. Of course Harlem has recently "lost face" on several economic counts, but this affluence in the "dollar whiskey" class is, to our mind, most disheartening of all.

We wish the commencement orators would warn young people who will live in industrial centers and earn from \$12 to \$30 a week, that if they do not watch their pennies they will most likely find the pawn shops getting \$1.25 and up a week for furnishing from \$5 to \$8 a week "ready cash;" they will find themselves paying three times the worth of clothing because they buy "on credit" ("easy payments"); and that they may eventually get married, and mortgage their future for years to come, buying what they want but what they really do not need. Many will be unable to live sound economic lives because, even though they may have a job, they are weighed down by debt.

If our young people knew these things when they left school, and as a consequence avoided some of these pitfalls, our group life would be improved to a marked degree almost over night.

Our Newspapers

The latest report on our Newspapers from the Department of Commerce gives hope for the continued growth of that industry. Life Insurance is in the lead as our economic bulwark, but the press, according to the report just issued, has investments ranging from \$300 to \$500,000; and 34 concerns own equipment at more than \$5,000.

Ninety-eight newspapers employ 1,064 persons, and 70 papers have a combined average monthly payroll of \$72,349.95. Forty-nine newspaper enterprises have invested \$1,523,960 in equipment.

Again, it is noted that 124 newspapers reported a total circulation of 1,206,787, "or 87,599 more than was reported in 1936 by 106 newspapers." And 183 publications (newspapers and magazines) reported combined average net circulation per issue of 1,411,087.

This is a very fine record for the press. And we are glad to have as compiler of these statistics a former editor, Charles E. Hall, whose love of the press causes him to gather such basic data as will enable publishers to gain a larger share of the advertising revenue of the nation's business.

Politics

It is reported that Republican Congressman Hamilton Fish of New York, speaking to Harlemites recently, told them that they are themselves to

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WILL THE NEGRO MEET THE CHALLENGE?

By Rev. Warren C. Jones

While it is true that some of the policies and programs of the New Dealers do not measure up to our standards, and we might not be able to see any wisdom in the great spending program of the WPA, as it aims to bring relief and to restore confidence, and many of the projects seem foolish and a waste of money; on the other hand, there are many valuable and worthwhile things being accomplished under this present government, and not only will the people of this generation reap and enjoy the benefits of this vast program, but boys and girls yet unborn will have their lives made fuller and happier by such things as have been done in this day of building schools, playgrounds, public buildings and the many other helpful projects.

In this article I wish to tell you of one project fostered by the government, in which I have been interested for many years. I recently attended a meeting of the District National Park Service, meeting in Ardmore, Okla., for the purpose of inspecting a permanent camp, which is one of two constructed by the Government on a tract of land consisting of 20,000 acres, the State having bought 17,000 and the Government the other 3,000. Mr. Christianer, of the National Camp Service, at Santa Fe, New Mexico; Mr. Higgins, of Oklahoma City, Okla., National Park Representative, and several local white men, together with some of the leading race men of the State, over 100 in all, made up the Conference.

The delegates met at the Dunbar School in Ardmore at 1 P. M. and from there drove in a body out to the camp, some ten or twelve miles away. This is one of 46 under construction by the Government as a part of its relief program, and is the only one of its kind in this section of the country. Camp No. 2 visited by us is constructed of the native stone, with native oak for the woodwork, using boards drawn on the grounds from the oak trees. The complete camp unit consists of 36 buildings as follows: 18 cabins, staff quarters, infirmary, combination building—kitchen, dining room, recreational center, bath house, and quarters for the help.

The cabins are built in three sections or units, each unit out of sight of the other and complete in itself, with the combination building and the infirmary in the center of the three units. This camp (No. 2), built for Negroes, is the same as Camp No. 1, built for whites, and will serve the people of the States of New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma, and will be used only by those groups who can measure up to the Minimum Standard for Organized Camps as set up by the United States Government, and are incorporated under State laws. Such organizations can secure permits for a full camping season of 10 weeks with full use of the entire camp. All three units will each take care of 72 boys or members of whatever the organization might be, and the staff, that will consist of the Director, Council, doctor or nurse, life guard, and kitchen help for \$432.00. The camp can also be used for shorter periods at the rate of 25c per day for each member.

This camp, along with others that will be constructed, will serve as a training school for the youth of the land, and will give the boys and girls of the crowded slums and poorly housed cities, where little or no provisions are made for recreation, an opportunity of securing wholesome out-door life at a low cost. It will also provide scenery, privacy, and recreation, all of which are necessary for the building of a strong body; for it matters not how keen the mind may be, unless one has a

strong, healthy body to carry that mind.

In this park will be constructed in another section a few of the necessary things for good health, such as sewage connections and cans for trash and paper. A group wishing to use this type of camp, commonly known as the "Back to Nature Camp," must furnish tents and prepare their food on the open fire. There will be a small charge for this type of camp.

And then we will have a third type, where a Sunday school class can go out for a day on a picnic.

Will the Negro become interested enough in youth to take advantage of this opportunity and support this program as outlined by the Government, where youth can get these fine, very vital things necessary for wholesome life: meeting place for the group, health, recreation, education, and change of scenery?

Murray Lake, located in this park, is at present 80 feet deep and when it is filled will be 100 feet deep. This will furnish plenty of good swimming water. When this park is completed it will be turned over to the State. America will be lost unless some outdoor recreation is provided for the boys and girls.

Valliant, Okla.

THE EPISCOPAL ADDRESS OF M. E. BISHOPS

By Rev. A. De Barritt, D. D.

The address of the Bishops of the Methodist Church contains reading that is worth serious study. Twelve Bishops signed it, and two presented dissenting opinions. In the course of that address the following was said:

"But after all is asserted that can be justly claimed, it must be conceded that the white race has not given the American Negro the full Christian consideration that is his due.

"Whatever may be the sins of others and whatever may be pleaded in extenuation of our own shortcomings, a large bulk of omission needs to be rectified in the course of our future relations with our brother in black. The Negro wants good wages, good schools, better housing, wholesome recreation, police protection, justice in and out of the courts, a larger share of civic improvements, and a chance to make the most of himself, and the same things for his children.

"This is nothing more than, as a human being and an American Citizen, he has the right to expect."

I certainly rejoice to hear such words from any source and to know that many thousands of your readers will seriously peruse these statements.

Charles Dickens in Nicholas Nickleby says this: "Among men who have sound and sterling qualities, there is nothing so contagious as pure openness of heart."

To be frank with Christ, with each other, and to possess the spirit of candor and of truth is to travel a long way on that path which brings us into the land of mutual love and understanding.

Key West, Florida.

NEW BOOK ON "SOJOURNER TRUTH" IS OUT

Chapel Hill, N. C.—(C)—A new book, "Sojourner Truth, God's Faithful Pilgrim," by Arthur Huff Fauset, has just been published by the University of North Carolina Press, W. T. Couch, director. Mr. Fauset, a Philadelphia teacher, is author of "Booker T. Washington," "For Freedom," and "Folklore from Nova Scotia." Mr. Fauset is the second colored author whose work has been published by the U. of N. C. Press. Dr. Benjamin G. Brawley was the first.