SECTION ONE
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GREAT CONGRESS OF THE SOUTHLAND MEETS THIS WEEK

Annual Conference for Education in the South at Richmond Opens Wednesday

2,000 DELEGATES COMING

Craig, Joyner, Hill, Carr, Poe and Other North Carolinians to Participate

Richmond, Va., April 12.—Representative farmers, business men, school workers, ministers of all denominations and other prominent interested persons from all parts of the South are turning by the scores toward Richmond to participate in the great congress of the Southland, the sixteenth annual Conference for Education in the South, which will open in the Capital City of the Old Dominion Wednesday 16th, to remain in session throughout the 18th.

It is expected that over 2,000 accredited delegates will be in attendance. Governors of nine States have appointed special delegations and it [illegible] that these alone will be represented in this manner—Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

Several large affiliated bodies will meet in conjunction with the Conference, among which are the Interstate Meeting of County Superintendents, the Commission on Accredited Schools, the Co-operative Local Credits' Association, the League of Southern Women Writers and the Southern Association of College Women.

The first general meeting of the conference will be held Wednesday night at 8 o'clock in the auditorium of the John Marshall High School. President Robert C. Ogden, of New York, the president of the conference, will preside. Governor William Hodges Mann, of Virginia, will welcome the delegates on behalf of the State, and the address of welcome on behalf of the city will be made by Mayor Ainslie. President L. E. Johnson, of the Norfolk and Western Railway, will make the address of the evening.

Activities of the conference will, however, begin Wednesday morning, when, simultaneously, four separate meetings will be held. At that time the Farmers' Conference will meet in the high school auditorium, the Business Men's Conference will gather in the auditorium of the Jefferson Hotel, the Conference of Virginia Preachers will assemble in the Mechanic's Institute auditorium and the Interstate Meeting of County Superintendents will be held in the Young Men's Christian Association auditorium.

These separate conferences will frequently be cemented together by general conferences at which matters pertinent to each of the separate interests will be the subjects of general discussion, in which all will be invited to join.

Calls Great Men.

Among the distinguished personages which the conference calls together are the following:

Robert C. Ogden, New York, president of the conference; Dr. Walter H. Page, ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the court of St. James; Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels; Secretary of Agriculture Houston; Gen. Julian S. Carr, of Durham, N. C.; D. H. Hill, of Raleigh, N. C.; Joseph D. Eggleston, president-elect of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute; W. E. Gonzales, editor of the Columbia State; L. E. Johnson, president of the Norfolk and Western Railway; Dr. Wickliffe Rose, of the Rockefeller Commission; E. F. Noel, former Governor of Mississippi; John L. McLaurin, former Senator from South Carolina; Theodore H. Price, of New York; Harvie Jordan, president of the Southern Cotton Association and the Farmers' Gin Compress and Cotton Company; Dr. S. C. Mitchell, president of the University of South Carolina; Charles Lee Raper, dean of the graduate school University of North Carolina; Dr. H. B. Frissell, president Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute; J. I. Foust, president Normal and Industrial College, Greensboro, N. C.; D. B. Johnson, president Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S. C.; Governors McCreary, of Kentucky; Mann, of Virginia; Craig, of North Carolina; Brown, of Georgia; Brewer, of Mississippi; O'Neal, of Alabama; Hooper, of Tennessee; Cruce, of Oklahoma, and Glasscock, of West Virginia.

The object of the conference is the promotion of rural life by the promulgation of the latest methods and systems of rural development along all lines. Its ultimate result is the

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A. C. REID WINS IN HIGH SCHOOL CONTEST

Student of Churchland School Awarded Declaimers' Medal Over Eight Competitors at Chapel Hill.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Chapel Hill, April 12.—In the third annual declaimers' contest of the East Central division of the State high schools, A. C. Reid, of Churchland high school, was the winner of the declaimers' medal over eight other competitors. His subject was "The New North."

The other eight declaimers and schools represented in the contest were: Bacon Hardee, Stem; M. G. Eatman, Cary; Percy Groome, Jamestown; D. H. Lashley, Sylvan; Aubrey Biscoe, Albert Gibson, Hawfields, and Wiggins, East Durham; J. L. Maness, Lafayette Isley, Friendship.

The judges of the contest were: Drs. B. P. Venable, H. W. Chase and Professor Collier Cobb.

FORMER LEGISLATOR SENTENCED TO JAIL

Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. Coudrey.

St. Louis, April 10.—Former Congressman Harry M. Coudrey must leave his young wife in order to serve four years and a half in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth. He and Harry B. Gardner, both of this city, have been sentenced to that term and the payment of $1,500 each by the federal district court. The sentence the maximum allowed under the law.

The men were convicted of using the mails to defraud in the promotion of the so-called "twin-insurance companies," the Continental Life Assurance Company and the International Fire Assurance Company.

ORANGE PRESBYTERY HOLDS SPRING MEETING

Adjourns to Hold Fall Meeting at Glade Valley, After Interesting Session at Graham—Overtures Adopted

Graham, April 12.—Orange Presbytery, which convened in the Graham Presbyterian church Tuesday night, adjourned yesterday, after an interesting and profitable session. It will hold its fall meeting at Glade Valley, convening September 16.

Orange Presbytery is the oldest south of the Virginia line. It is about 150 years old and embraces seventy-five churches in fifteen counties, with a membership of 7,500. More than sixty were in attendance. The opening sermon was preached by Rev. R. M. Williams, of Greensboro, who is working in the interest of the Presbyterian orphanage at Barium Springs.

Overtures handed down from the General Assembly provoked considerable debate and were adopted, these being to change the "elect infant clause" so as to positively declare the salvation of all infants, to make the number of communicants instead of number of ministers the basis of representation in the Synod, and to refer cases on appeal in the Synod to a commission rather than have them settled in open session of the General Assembly. Rev. W. T. Thompson preached on forgeln missions.

George S. Cooper was presented as a candidate for the ministry, examined and received as a member of the Presbytery, as were also Rev. W. A. Crawford, of Fayetteville, and Rev. R. E. Redding, of West Virginia. Calls from vacant fields were placed in their hands. James Murray, of Graham, was examined for license to preach and preached his trial sermon, making a splendid impression upon the able ministers present.

Dr. W. J. Martin, president of Davidson College, spoke on Christian Education, and laid the needs of the institution before the Presbytery.

INDIAN AND NEGRO BREAK HAYWOOD JAIL

But Are Captured By Jackson County Officers and Returned to Sheriff—Behind Bars Again.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Waynesville, April 12.—Last night about 12 o'clock, Will Miller, a negro, and Isaac Johnson, an Indian, escaped from jail here. They had trimmed a broom handle so it would go through the bars with which they prized up the lever to the cage door, on which was a defective lock. In some way they battered the lock and succeeded in getting out of the cage and managed to pick through the brick wall.

Sheriff W. A. Palmer phoned in all directions for officers to look out for the pair.

Early this morning they were captured by Jackson county officers at Willets, twelve miles west of here. Deputy Sheriff Plott went to Willets after the jail breakers, who are in for house breaking and adultery. They are behind the bars again.

INJURED IN COLLISION.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Burlington, April 12.—Erey Somers, of Elon College, while riding his motorcycle Saturday night, plunged into an automobile driven by Mr. N. L. Williams, of this city. Mr. Somers was seriously injured, and was rushed to St. Leo's Hospital, Greensboro, for treatment.

"THE GENERAL" AT CHATTANOOGA YET

Locomotive With Most Interesting War Record

SERVED THE CONFEDERACY

Figured Conspicuously In Andrews Raid in April, 1864, and Was Stolen by Federals

(Special to News and Observer.)

Chattanooga, Tenn., April 12.—Visitors to the Confederate reunion here on May 27-29 will be interested in an old locomotive that is fenced off to itself with a substantial and ornamental iron fence in the Union depot. This engine is known from one end of the South to the other as "The General," and it is cared for by the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway as a precious heirloom. "The General" is the property of that road. It has the most interesting and extensive war record of any engine on the American continent.

The General figured conspicuously in the Andrews raid between Big Shanty, Ga., and Ringold, Ga., in April, 1864, being the engine that was stolen at the former point by spies of the Federal army. This company was headed by a dare-devil Federal soldier by the name of James Andrews, of Flemingsburg, Ky.

This raid is one of the many incidents of the civil war in the Chattanooga-Atlanta campaign that has around it the glamour of fiction. But it is a fact of history that emphasizes [illegible] the contending armies.

The Story in Brief.

On the morning of April 12, 1864, Capt. W. A. Fuller, a conductor on the Western and Atlantic Railroad, left Marietta, Ga., with a mixed train for Chattanooga. A company of twenty-two Federal soldiers, disguised as citizens, boarded this train at Marietta with tickets for Chattanooga. The train stopped at Big Shanty, Ga., something more than a hundred miles south of Chattanooga, for breakfast. While the train crew were in the dining room of the eating house, Andrews and his party uncoupled the engine and a few freight cars from the passenger coaches, turned on steam and "hit the rails" in the direction of Chattanooga. It was their intention to burn all bridges between Big Shanty and Chattanooga, fifteen in all, and by that means separate the Confederate army from its base of supplies.

Capt. W. A. Fuller, conductor of the train, however, heard the noise of the retreating engine and immediately ran out to see what the trouble was. At a glance he knew what he was up against—that the engine had been stolen by Federal soldiers in disguise for the purpose of tearing up track or burning bridges. Captain Fuller and party started on foot to overtake the engine. Two miles up the road they found a handcar, and appropriated it to their own use. With this car they made their way to Rome, Ga., where an engine was secured. Without loss of time they took possession of this engine and started after the Andrews party. It was a race full of the most exciting incidents, such as jumping over crossties that had been placed on the track by the Federals, repairing broken rails and the like.

Caught Them.

The fugitives were finally overhauled between Ringold and Graysville, after a chase covering a distance of ninety miles. When Andrews and his men saw they were beaten, they abandoned the engine and took to the woods. As Captain Fuller passed Ringgold he saw a company of Confederates at muster. He sent word back to the captain of this company to get his whole command into the woods at once on horseback to capture the Federals under Andrews. All of them were quickly captured.

They were taken back to Atlanta and turned over to the Confederate authorities there. Eight of them, including Andrews himself, were tried by court-martial and executed as spies. Eight escaped from jail and six were exchanged for Confederate prisoners.

Mile a Minute.

At a number of places on the trip from Big Shanty to Ringgold, Captain Fuller ran his engine at the rate of a mile a minute. Fifty miles at one stretch, according to his report, was covered in 52 minutes, faster time than is now made on this road with modern engines, the best of roadbed and other facilities for fast travel. It makes the feat all the more remarkable when it is known that Captain Fuller's engine was "crawfishing," as the railroad men say, all the way from Rome to where the fugitives were overhauled.

In addition to this exciting experience, The General was almost under the guns of the Federals at the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, having pulled an ammunition train from Atlanta to Kennesaw for the Confederates and hauled the wounded back to Atlanta. At the fall of Atlanta, The General was the last locomotive to leave that city. As late as 1886, this engine was doing regular duty on the Western and Atlantic Railroad, pulling trains between Atlanta and Chattanooga. The late Maj. John W. Thomas, for so many years president of the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railroad, recognizing the historical importance of this engine, had it taken out of service and preserved in the depot at Chattanooga. Thousands of tourists view The General every year, and it has been a difficult task to preserve it against relic hunters, many of whom would strip it of every movable part and take them home as souvenirs of travel.

The General was built in 1855 by the Rogers Locomotive Works; is an eight-wheel engine and wood burner of course. The machinery is yet good,

MT. OLIVE PRIMARY.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Mt. Olive, April 12.—Notice has been given of a primary, to be held here April 15, for the purpose of nominating a mayor and board of town commissioners. Already there are three candidates for the mayoralty nomination, B. H. Hatch, merchant; F. F. Manly, merchant, and Colon S. Smith, a prominent young lawyer.

NO HOT-HOUSE AID; HEALTHY GROWTH

Early Cotton Mill Industry Not Coaxed Along

MARKETS NOW THE NEED

Address of Secretary Daniels at Dinner Given by W. A. Erwin at Washington, D. C.

(By H. E. C. BRYANT.)

Washington, D. C., April 12.—Secretary Josephus Daniels was one of the speakers at the dinner given by W. A. Erwin at the New Willard Tuesday night. He said:

"Cotton! What a word to conjure with to us who are from the South. You all remember Henry Grady's tribute: 'What a royal plant it is! The world waits in attendance on its growth. The shower that falls whispering on its leaves is heard around the earth. The sun that shines upon it is tempered by the prayers of all people. The frost that chills it, and the dew that descends from the stars are noted, and the respase of the little worm on its green leaf is more to England than the advance of the Russian army on her Asian outposts. It is gold from the instant it puts forth its tiny shoot. Its fiber is current in every bank; and when losing its fleece to the sun it floats a sunny banner that glorifies the field of the humble farmer. It is enamoled under the [illegible] that will compel the allegiance of the [illegible] that God gave to this people forever as their own when He arched our skies, established our mountains, girt us about with the ocean, loosed the breezes, tempered the sunshine and measured the rain. Ours and our children's forever. As princely a talent as ever came from His hand to mortal stewardship.'

"You will remember better than I do the development of the cotton industry in my own State of North Carolina. You know that it developed along individual lines. Edward M. Holt built the first mill on the Haw river. He became the father of the industry in North Carolina, if not in the South, and his Alamance plaids became famous the world over. You will agree with me that the industry in those early days developed without any aid, without any hot-house assistance. It was not petted and coaxed, but it stood on its own resources and had a healthy, normal growth. In our own day modern conditions have brought it about that the industry is carried on by corporations, the levers of modern progress. But may we not hope that the lesson that we learned from the early days may not be forgotten and that we may continue to depend upon our own resources. What we need is markets for our manufactured product. China today becomes a republic, and China calls for an enormous quantity of our cotton goods. High tariff walls are beginning to crumble and we live in a new era of freedom of trade which it seems to me must inevitably tend to increase the demand for what we make.

"Allow me to refer to another matter that I am sure will be of interest to you. The whole Christian world today is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of David Livingstone. I am reminded that he started on his career as a pathfinder of Africa from the humble place as 'piecer' in a Glasgow cotton mill. His father was a crofter and moved from a sunny Scotch farm to the great city to better his condition by placing his children in the big Blantyre mill, just as so many of the small 'renters' do on our southern farms today. Mill owners then did not take as great interest in the welfare of their employes as you gentlemen do now. The hours of work were long. The lad saw the morning star and it was after sundown when he 'knocked off.' By a pine-knot fire he read his books till the midnight hour. He built a bookrack upon his looms and snatched his education on the run. Livingstone never complained of his hard schooling. He is an inspiration to us all—to employer and employe.

"If a Scotch cotton mill boy could fit himself for his life work under such conditions, what may not an American boy do with the advantages of education which we are beginning to realize that we owe him? I am glad and I know especially that those of you who are from my own State, are too, that the lesson of Livingstone comes to us when a six-months' school term and compulsory education are dawning in North Carolina."

PROGRESSIVE PARTY PARCELS OUT WORK

Ten Legislative Subjects Assigned Ten Members of the Third Party in the House—Bills to Be Prepared and Pushed.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, D. C., April 12.—The Progressive conference of the House today parceled out the work of preparing the measures that will form a part of the Progressive legislative plan. Among the House members who work in conjunction with the legislative committee of the Natoinal Progressive party, of which Gifford Pinchot, Jane Addams, Dean Lewis, of Pennsylvania University, Walter Weyl, and other prominent persons are members.

Ten legislative subjects were assigned at today's conference. Bills on these subjects will be prepared after thorough investigation by the members assigned to them, and they will form the basis for the legislative campaign of the Progressives in the present Congress.

FROM ENGLAND TO SKYLAND.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Asheville, April 12.—Western North Carolina has just acquired two English families as permanent residents. These are Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Baker, their son, Charles B. Baker, and daughter, Miss E. S. Baker; Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Pickens and daughter, all of whom are of Trumbridge Wells, Kent, England. The English people have purchased large tracts of lands, near Skyland, and will develop them as truck farms.

FERGUSON'S PLAN LIFTED THE MAINE

How a North Carolinian's Ingenuity Solved the Problem

Sick in Bed With Fever He Worked It Out With Linen Cuffs, Scissors, Needle and Thread

(BY H. E. C. BRYANT.)

Washington, D. C., April 12.—Secretary Daniels in his exhaustive inspection of the various bureaus and offices of the Navy departments was much interested when he came to the model of the wrecked battleship Maine. This model had a special interest for him in that it was the work of a North Carolinian, Naval Constructor William B. Ferguson, U. S. N., now on duty at the Boston navy yard.

The model shows in detail the condition in which the Maine was found when exposed on the bottom of Havana harbor in the fall and winter of 1911. This exposure was effected largely through the efforts of another North Carolinian, Major Harley B. Ferguson, U. S. A., a native of Wayneville, who was the representative at Havana of the Board of Army Engineers charged with the execution of the work.

It will be remembered that by an Act of Congress approved May 9, 1910, provision was made for the removal of the wreck of the Maine from the harbor of Havana, Cuba, and for the proper interment of the bodies found therein in Arlington cemetery. A board of army engineers was appointed and charged with the work of raising [illegible] amination to be made before disturbing any parts which might indicate the cause of the disaster, this board of army engineers proceeded to build a cofferdam around the wreck and then to pump out the contained water.

To assist in the collection of data and the identification of exposed wreckage as the water was pumped down in the cofferdam, Naval Constructor W. B. Ferguson was ordered to Havana, and remained continuously on duty with the wreck until the board of investigation appointed by the Navy department made its final report.

Because of the difficulties attendant upon a clear understanding of any description of the confused wreckage, Naval Constructor Ferguson conceived the idea of explaining conditions by means of a model. The first attempt was made by Naval Constructor Ferguson while in bed in Havana under the doctor's orders, suffering from an attack of fever. He insisted that his wife furnish him with several pairs of linen cuffs, scissors, and needle and thread, and while on his back in bed, suffering from fever, he made the first model of linen. This model is at the present time in the office of the chief constructor of the Navy, in the Navy department, and by its use a clear understanding of conditions found at the wreck was exposed, was so apparent that Naval Constructor Ferguson proceeded to develop more elaborate and permanent models.

The first models were constructed by Naval Constructor Ferguson with materials purchased out of his own funds. After spending such money as he felt that he could afford, he requested the Navy department to allot funds for the preparation of a large-scale model. This large-scale model was made of sheet brass and was very cleverly equipped with cams, springs, and weights. Naval Conctructor Ferguson was thus able to start with a model of the ship in the condition as she floated before the explosion, and by operating one lever after another he was able to duplicate a possible sequence of events ending with a correct model of the wreck in the condition in which it was found by the investigating board after the water was pumped from the cofferdam. The board appointed to investigate the cause of the wreck of the Maine was so impressed with the ingenuity of this model, and of the remarkable aid it furnished to an understanding of the situation, that it was included as one of the exhibits in the exhaustive reports of this board.

Naval Constructor Ferguson personally accompanied this model to Washington, set it up, and by direction of the Navy department exhibited the same to many of the senior officers of the Navy. He also had the pleasure of taking the model to a cabinet meeting, operating it, and explaining to President Taft and the members of his cabinet the conditions as found when the cofferdam surrounding the Maine was completely unwatered.

The model at the present time is exposed to public inspection in the corridor of the bureau of construction and repair of the Navy department, and is a tribute to the wonderful ingenuity and skill displayed by Naval Constructor W. B. Ferguson—an officer of whom the State of North Carolina may well be proud.

It will be of further interest to North Carolinians in this connection to note that the Major Ferguson of the army engineer corps, referred to above as in direct charge of raising the Maine, is a brother of Naval Constructor Ferguson. Mr. Homer L. Ferguson, another brother, was also a naval constructor in the Navy, and is now general manager and in complete charge of the large shipyard of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company at Newport News, Virginia. As officers of the construction corps of the Navy and of the engineer corps of the army are selected only from among the most promising and distinguished graduates of Annapolis and West Point respectively, it will be seen at once that the Ferguson brothers of North Carolina stand exceedingly high in the technical engineering work of the army and navy.

SPARKS SHOW MOVES OUT.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Salisbury, April 12.—After spending four months in winter quarters here the Charles H. Sparks Circus opened the season with a performance under the auspices of Salisbury Lodge of Elks here yesterday afternoon. New tents, new equipment, new features and with a new program complete the show starts out with bright prospects. Only two dates have been given North Carolina—Salisbury and Greensboro.

HE'S FOLLOWING IN TEDDY'S FOOTSTEPS

Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, the new assistant secretary of the navy, has started out on a political career very much like that of his illustrious cousin Theodore. Young Franklin has the same position at Washington that the elder Roosevelt held under McKinley. Both Roosevelts are graduates of Harvard and both have been state senators in New York. They are related both by blood and marriage. The [illegible] cousin, married in thirty one [illegible]

DIAMOND JUBILEE AT COMMENCEMENT

To Be Real Gala Week With Greensboro College

Alumnae, Faculty and Students Combining Forces for an Unprecedented Event

(Special to News and Observer.)

Greensboro, April 12.—Greensboro College for Women has issued the following statement:

"The alumnae, faculty and students are combining forces under the unfailing inspiration of our president and assisted by the capable management of Mrs. Martin, our very efficient president of the alumnae association, we expect to besiege the fort of custom and make this commencement an unprecedente done. We purpose to make it a real gala week and one long remembered in the annals of the college.

"Sunday, Bishop Collins Denny will preach the baccalaureate sermon at West Market Street church. The music will be under the direction of Miss Foreman, of the voice department of the college. On Sunday night in the chapel, services will be held by the Young Woman's Christian Association.

"Monday night there will be a musical recital by the undergraduates.

"Tuesday—Alumnae Day—At 10:30 a. m. the business meeting of the Alumnae association will be called.

"At 1:30 p. m. the Alumnae luncheon will be served at the college, when the toasts will be given by the classes which are having reunions.

"At 3:00 p. m. a second business session will be held.

"At 5 p. m. Class Day exercises will be observed, the seniors being assisted by the visiting alumnae.

"On Wednesday night, a beautiful 'Al fresco,' extravanganza, including 'The Sleeping Beauty' with the interlude, 'The Woman's Awakening' will be presented, under the capable direction of our gifted expression teacher, Miss Mitchell. Enhancing this spectacular play to be given on the campus will be the gorgeous costumes, worn by the young ladies. During the entire evening, music will be renedered by the college orchestra, assisted by local talent.

"Wednesday—At 10:30 a. m. will be the graduating exercises. On this accasion Dr. P. P. Claxton, United States commissioner of education, whose gift as an orator is well known throughout the South, will deliver the address. During the morning, the memorials will be presented to the college and accepted by the chairman of the board of trustees.

"At 2:00 p. m. will be the 'Jubilee.'

"For Wednesday evening Professor Kraft, our talented musical director, is planning the jubilee festival, which will be one of the most effective features of commencement week. The cantata 'Fair Ellan' will be given by a chorus of sixty voices, accompanied by the archestra of fourteen pieces. Our chorus will be augmented by several members from town, and the solo parts will be taken by Miss Hazel Neff and Mr. Edgar Clapp, with Miss Anne Albertson as accompanist. Mr. Robert Roy will also give a violin solo. The chorus will sing a double number (a) 'Hail Smiling Morn;' (b), 'Come Dorothy, Come.' 'The Millers Wooing' and the 'Hallelujah Chorus.'

"Ten classes are going to have reunions at this time, including classes, 1877, 1878, 1881, 1885, 1900, 1905 and 1912. It is desired that all members of these classes and others who can possibly arrange to attend will be present at commencement, and the alumnae will appreciate it if they will notify Mrs. Charles Kendall, Summit St., Greensboro, by May 15. Arrangements have been made for 100 to be entertained by local alumnae and at the college, hence early notification is earnestly desired."

SOCIAL QUESTION FROM VIEWPOINT OF THE WOMAN

Young Women's Christian Association, Now in Convention, Face Evils

MISS WILSON A SPEAKER

Women of Wealth, Learning and Leadership Consider How to Help Girls

(The Religious Ramblers)

The other side of the current social question—the host of noble, efficient women who, all over the land, are systematically engaged in helping young women to meet and solve present problems—is represented by the fourth biennial convention of the Young Women's Christian Associations of the United States of America, now in session in Richmond.

The Y. W. C. A. is of the un-presuagented religious organizations. Its fame is not all commensurate with work. The white light of publicity which has beaten upon its brother organization, the Y. M. C. A., has missed it, yet there are nearly nine hundred associations in this country, seven hundred of which are in connection with higher schools of learning for young women. The organization is officered by college graduates [illegible] a scientific study of the present problems of the young women and modern life.

Some see in the Y. W. C. A. the last word in organized ministry to young women because it is more than merely economic. It is engaged in constructive work for the promotion of the highest ideals of Christian womanhood. Doubtless it is the greatest single force in the land engaged in the problems which are at present attracting international attention.

A Refuge for City Girls.

When a country girl first comes to the city, she may be met at the station by the Traveller's Aid Department of the Y. W. C. A., safeguarded through the dangers of her arrival, directed to the association building, where she will find a home, taught in educational classes, provided with employment, and given a social center for recreation and the employment of her leisure hours.

The lack of a wholesome social life appears to be the crux of the present problem. The Young Women's Christian Association undertakes to furnish this in more than two hundred cities and towns. It stands as a witness to all young women that somebody cares for them. The agencies of the association are designed to help young women become their best selves. It does more than shelter and safeguard them from evil; it trains them in city life and for employment, as well as for home making. Moreover, and most shrewdly, the association employs that highest factor in helping young women to attain their best; namely trained service for other girls. It is the young woman who is busy in helpful, congenial work for her fellows who is free from half the problems that beset other girls.

A Quarter of a Million Women.

The fact that Miss Jessie Wilson, the daughter of the President, speaks and writes under the auspices of the Y. W. C. A., which she is a national officer, and that she is on the program of the Richmond convention, attracted attention to the fact that here is a field for the employment of the highest abilities of the college trained woman. The volunteer helpers in the Y. W. C. A. are a notable company of strong women. Miss Grace Dodge is the national president, and Mrs. F. C. Sheppard, who was Miss Helen Gould, is another officer.

The national association, which is housed in a great office building at Fifty-second street and Lexington avenue, New York, reports to the Richmond convention 253,406 members enrolled in 875 local associations. Of these associations 309 are in cities and towns. Their activities include, besides the maintenance of boarding houses, religious services, Bible classes, mission study classes, domestic science study, educational talks, girls' clubs, gymnasiums and swimming pools, and recreation homes and camps. Employment bureaus, factory meetings for girls, restaurants and neighborhood centers all come in the long list of activities of these city associations. Life need not be monotonous nor empty for a girl who belongs to the Y. W. C. A.

In addition to the city and town associations, there are a number of county associations reported, a new field for reaching the country girl before she leaves home.

With the College Girl.

The one recognized agency for religous work in practically all of the women's colleges and seminaries and schools in this country, is the Y. W. C. A. All the largest women's colleges possess this organization which usually is the livest thing on the campus. It often, if not commonly, dominates the social life of the institution. In addition to its strictly social work, the average college association maintains Bible classes, mission study classes and weekly religious meetings.

The summer conferences for college students are a new development in the religious life of our time. Literally thousands of girls attend these gatherings in early summer at sequestered resorts, where they listen to addresses upon religious themes during the morning, and in the afternoon go in for a vigorous outdoor life. Silver Day, on Lake George, is the most famous of the college conference centers.

Getting at the Present Problem.

Reporting to the Richmond convention are three commissions which have long been at work on the subjects, "Social Morality," "Thrift and Efficiency," "Character Standards." The first named of these may not

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