

BIG EXPOSITION PIONEER FEATURE

Never Before Had Any Christian Denomination Undertaken Such a Thing

METHODISTS MEET IN CROWDS AT COLUMBUS

Reception Accorded Secretary of Navy Josephus Daniels, Who Was One of Speakers at Celebration, Was Notable One; Greensboro Minister Reviews Significant Features

By A. W. Flyler. The centennial exposition at Philadelphia in 1876 to celebrate the signing of the declaration of American Independence was a pioneer of its kind in the history of our country.

Philadelphia was chosen as the place for the centennial of 1876 on account of what occurred in that city a hundred years before, was not because of anything that happened a century before upon these pasture lands of the buffalo, but because this city occupies a central vantage point among American Methodists of the present day.

From afar as well as the people daily thronged the gates of this colossal exposition in which eight buildings of extensive proportions were required to provide for the exhibits from Africa, India, China, Japan, Korea, the islands of the south seas, Latin America, Canada, and the United States of America.

In these buildings, where things from the ends of the earth had been brought together and arranged in orderly, yet bewildering fashion because of the infinite variety, were representations, hourly, of the customs and habits of the people. For example, Hindu worshippers bending low over funeral pyres, Korean wedding processions, savage tribes chanting the native melodies of Central Africa, or the wild man from Borneo presiding as despot over the hut of hatched bamboo.

Forum and Musical Center. But the exposition was vastly more than a collection of an endless variety of people and things to look at. It was a forum for the discussion of questions social, ethical and religious. From time to time men of national reputation like former President Taft, John R. Mott, Wm. G. McAdoo, and Secretary Daniels spoke upon such questions as the League of Nations, world reconstruction, the place of the layman in the modern church, etc.

In addition to these men who occupy a conspicuous place in the public eye, were church leaders, bishops, secretaries and others, who with prophetic vision talked of the things that ought to be, and that will be, accomplished.

But nothing was quite so evident on every hand and at all hours of the day as the provision that had been made for the pleasure and inspiration of the assembled thousands through the ministry of music.

Among these rich provisions were military bands back from the firing lines in France, orchestras of national repute, a trombone choir of an hundred instruments, the gloria trumpeters, a mixed chorus of fifteen hundred voices, duets, quartets, sextets, and smaller choruses seemingly without number.

Places for Public Assemblies. Ample provision had been made for public assemblies. The coliseum provided with a fifty thousand dollar pipe organ and a stage to accommodate a thousand, and that seated eight thousand people, was an admirable building for pageants, and great mass meetings of all sorts, and it was occupied all the day long. The amphitheatre with a capacity of 60,000 and in front of

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which had been erected a screen one hundred feet square furnished accommodations for the multitude that witnessed the great victory parade of Methodism on the evening of July 8, and provided nightly for the crowds that assembled to see the pictures showing world conditions and what the gospel has done for the heathen world. The amphitheatre was used frequently also for band concerts and for public addresses when the coliseum proved inadequate to accommodate the crowd.

In addition to these structures for the use of public assemblies a huge tent with a capacity of four thousand was erected upon the lawn of the fair grounds and not far distant from the coliseum and the amphitheatre. With something going on at each of these places at the same time, and the eight buildings of exhibits as active as a beehive, the visitor was in a worse predicament than the small boy at the three-ring circus who exclaimed, "There is an inch to see that I can't see nothing."

Reception to Mr. Daniels. No visitor to the centenary has been received with greater cordiality and enthusiasm than was Secretary Daniels on July 6th, when, as chief speaker for the day, he delighted all who heard him. The Secretary seems to surpass himself when before a northern audience.

With an escort from Boston composed of forty minute men wearing colonial hats, blue coats, canvas trousers, high top boots—the regulation garb of the days of Bunker Hill—Secretary Daniels entered the coliseum where six thousand Methodist minute men from every section of the country were gathered for the first meeting of the kind ever held in the history of the church. These militant fellows who had figured conspicuously in the centenary campaign seemed to vie with each other as to which one could extend the warmest welcome to the Methodist layman at the head of the United States Navy.

But the distinction of leading the acclaim, "Daniels for President" belongs to a minute man from Boston. Dr. Chas. F. Reiser of New York, chairman of the meeting, in presenting the speaker said among other things: "Secretary Daniels is a magnificent Christian statesman and gentleman who kicked 'old boss' out of both the front and the back door of the United States navy and by that act did more than any one man to hasten the coming of National prohibition." This brought the entire audience to its feet in another great demonstration.

Mr. Daniels spoke most effectively of the ever increasing activity of the layman in the church, told how the Methodist church had been the most effective and powerful organization in the overthrow of the liquor traffic and then referred to the next great campaign which would be waged against the "social evil," and called upon the Methodist church to enter heart and soul into this war, as she had gone into the battle against intemperance.

"The twin evils that curse our civilization are drunkenness and immorality," said Mr. Daniels. "With the coming of National prohibition the former will grow steadily and increasingly less, and with the reduction of intemperance the call is laid upon the churches and upon all social workers to concentrate their efforts for reform upon a campaign against the destructive evil of prostitution.

"Houses of ill fame, wherever sanctioned or winked at, are the centers of national crime and physical decadence. They must be wiped out root and branch. In this crusade good men and

women will have the cooperation of all who wish to protect home, and many who doubt the wisdom of national prohibition will swell the ranks of militant forces fighting the social evil."

"The war," he said, "gave a rude awakening to the prevalence of the social diseases, and led more to crystallize the sentiment for the fight against them than normally would have happened in twenty-five years."

Other Notable Speakers. Among others speaking with great effectiveness was John R. Mott, who for carrying power of voice, comprehensive grasp of his subject, clarity of statement, and personal command of his audience proved himself a peer of any man that appeared upon the centenary platform. Bishop Mooton of Texas in a sermon Sunday morning, July 6, in the coliseum, maintained the best traditions of the South for great and eloquent preachers. Whenever George E. Stuart was announced to speak the people flocked hither, laughed and cried and called for more.

Dr. Charles G. Tindley, of Philadelphia, where a few years ago he was janitor of the church that he is now pastor, is the most remarkable negro on the platform since the death of Booker Washington. He was one of the principal speakers on "negro day," got a great hearing, and none seemed to enjoy it more than the Southerners present.

One might go on and on enumerating the speakers and preachers that made this one of the most remarkable gatherings places of the princes of the platform and pulpit in the history of the American people, but I desist, except to add that the South easily continues to hold the place of the primary for attractive and compelling oratory.

"The Wayfarer." The one feature of the exposition of supreme popular interest distinction justly merited was the pageant entitled, "The Wayfarer." This pageant was presented each evening in the coliseum by 300 actors in costume and a chorus of more than 1,000 trained voices. The scenic and lighting effects were indescribably beautiful and the music and action moved in perfect accord.

The production takes "the wayfarer" on a journey through history, shows him how the world is out of joint, but at last after the age-long struggle brings him to victory, universal and supremely triumphant through Christ. So great was the interest in this pageant that the people in order to secure tickets would stand in line for three hours in the sun when the official instruments of the weather man were registering 96 in the shade, in order to secure tickets, and after the tickets had been secured they would take up their stations hours before the doors were opened so that they might be able to enjoy the most desirable seats as the management did not reserve seats till the last week of the exposition when extra charges were made for these.

But the thousands who passed through this ordeal, in order to witness the pageant—the most wonderful of its kind ever presented—said after beholding the scenic wonders, the superb costuming of the participants, and the art of the actors and having been thrilled by the music of more than a thousand

voices, that it was worth all the efforts made to witness the greatest product in the history of the pageants.

Those in attendance were at all times orderly, good natured and entirely free from any word or act to mar the dignity of happiness of the assembled throngs. With more than a hundred thousand people pressing their way through the unavoidable jam that frequently occurred, I saw two policemen leaning against the corner of the grand stand, while one was trying to impress his fellow officer with an account of the enormous size of the perch caught on his last fishing trip.

Another blue coat whiled away the hours on duty by humming "A Charge to Keep I Have." One North Carolina preacher said that he heard a robin on a maple limb just above a restaurant that made a specialty of serving chicken dinners, singing, "Jesus Lover of My Soul." But for this I refuse to vouch.

WHOLESALE GROCERS FORM ORGANIZATION FOR STATE

Goldboro, July 12.—An enthusiastic meeting of wholesale grocers was held Thursday at Rocky Mount, when an association was formed, to be known as the North Carolina Wholesale Grocers' Association. The following officers were elected for a term of one year: Thos. E. Holmes, of the Goldboro Grocery Co., Goldboro, president; James Ellison, of the James Ellison Co., Washington, vice-president; W. L. Rawlings, of the Barnes-Harrell Grocery Company, Goldboro, secretary and treasurer.

The following, together with the officers, compose the executive committee: Geo. S. Edwards, of the Geo. S. Edwards Co., Rocky Mount, chairman; F. E. Haggard, of F. E. Haggard Co., Wilmington; C. G. Morris, of the C. G. Morris Co., Washington, and H. T. Morris, of the Henderson Grocery Co., Henderson. The meeting was largely attended, most all of the towns in the eastern part of the State being represented. The association being formed for the betterment of the grocery business, and all strictly wholesale grocers of the State are invited to join.



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An Open Letter From A. J. CRAFTS Richmond, Virginia.

I have already had the pleasure of meeting a number of the Raleigh folks, and I am impressed with the fact that they are "real folks." And that just brings us back to the thought that we must offer REAL Piano values!

Of course, we have been doing business with the North Carolinians for a good many years, but we have lacked the personal contact which we now have and which is so much to be desired in building a great business.

In opening our Raleigh store we determined to organize a local force which would conduct the business in accordance with our policies; and with that ideal in mind, we were fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Theodore H. Bower as District Manager, and he, in turn, has surrounded himself with such able assistants as Mr. A. C. Stallings, Mr. Karl Essrich and Miss Velma Stallings. This, however, is only the nucleus of a greater organization. We want North Carolinians to expect a good deal of us—more than they do of any other music store, for we expect to serve them better. We want them to be more exacting. We feel sure they will find that our Raleigh store will measure up to the highest standards. They will find Mr. Bower ever ready, willing and able to please.

Mr. Bower is a man of wide experience in the Piano trade. He was associated with us in Richmond before taking charge of our Raleigh headquarters, so that he has been thoroughly imbued with our policies and ideals. We bespeak for him a courteous reception at your hands, and hope to merit, through him, your confidence and patronage.

A. J. Crafts, President. July 12, 1919.

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