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Vol. 26—No. 103 TRYON, N. C. WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11, 1953

Religious Conference Here Has Record Attendance

The 128th annual session of the North Carolina and Virginia Conference of Congregational Christian Churches opened in the Tryon Congregational Church Tuesday afternoon with a full house. Approximately 250 people were in attendance including 35 ministers and special guests, representing 43 churches in the west-central parts of the two States. Delegates traveling the farthest came 275 miles from Liberty Church in Nathalia, Virginia.

Special guests included Miss Alice M. Huggins, missionary to China; Miss Jenny Dodge, new Associate Secretary of the Missions Council, with headquarters in Boston, Mass.

During the afternoon and dinner sessions reports were heard from various committees, officers and organizations of the conference and talks were given by Miss Alice M. Huggins, Martin T. Garren and Mrs. William T. Scott. Miss Pattie Lee Coghill of Elon College, presided at the dinner meeting.

The Rev. Orville H. White, was in charge of the evening worship service and Dr. William T. Scott gave an address on the importance of the church extending its work throughout America. Fred T. Wrenn, student at Elon and pastor of Zion Church, was licensed to preach; being presented by the Rev. John R. Lackey, and licensed by the Rev. W. W. Snyder, retiring president of the conference.

New officers of the conference were elected at the afternoon session as follows:

President, Rev. Mark W. Andes, Virgilina, Va.; vice president, Dr.

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FOREST LANDS CLOSED

Gov. Umstead Tuesday ordered forest lands closed in 29 Western North Carolina counties.

"The order was issued at 4:30 p. m., as 75 men were battling a blaze raging on Snowbird Mountain in northwestern Cherokee County. The fire was reported headed off early last night. However, one end was still free, this was going downslope, and the burning was proceeding slowly.

"The blaze was expected to be brought under control by noon today. Up to early last night, it had burned about 700 acres of timberland, substantially more than had been feared earlier in the day.

"The order will become effective at 4:30 p. m. today, 24 hours after the time it was issued. It bans fishing, hunting and trapping; and the building of camp fires, or burning of trash within 500 feet of woodland in state-owned or private forests.

"Generally it forbids entry of private woodland to anyone without a permit, except the owner or his tenants.

"The order was necessitated by the critical fire danger brought to the forests by the prolonged dry weather. This was the same cause that produced Monday's U. S. Forest Service order closing the Western North Carolina lands of the North Carolina National Forests to everything but through traffic on main highways and to logging operations.

"Orders similar to Gov. Umstead's have been issued in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee."—The Asheville Citizen.

Polk County Forester Joe Ritchey of Columbus is urging all

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