

## FARM SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

### THE MANY PHASES OF THE GATHERING.

#### Recreation, Spiritual, Mental, and Physical, in the Mountains.

During the past fourteen years a large number of the picked Christian men in the Southern colleges have met for ten days each summer in the Southern Student Conference of the Y. M. C. A. These conferences have been powerful factors in shaping the voluntary religious activities of Southern students. The number of colleges sending delegates and the size of individual college delegations have constantly grown until those colleges are few and isolated which do not make an effort to secure the advantages of these conferences by sending strong delegations of picked men.

The Conference will meet from June 14 to 23, inclusive, at The Farm School, eight miles from Asheville.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The mere trip itself is worth a year in college. Not to take the place of the prescribed course, mind you, but simply to supplement it. Or to use the technical figure of college speech these ten days spent in the heart of the Blue Ridge mountains—the highest mountains on the continent east of the Mississippi river, and as beautiful as the Creator could make them—these ten days of glorious vision are the elective or post-graduate course.

With such a course every college man in the South, no matter where his institution is located, has the chance of attending the ideal educational institution of President Eliot of Harvard. President Eliot said his ideal institution should be located by the seaside, as at the Golden Gate of California, or on the mountain top in the heart of the Blue Ridge mountains—anywhere he said, where men could look long and far and see human life in its true perspective.

#### SOCIAL.

Another feature of these conferences is the social. The mingling with fellow students from the leading colleges and universities of the Southern states tends to broaden one's social life. Some say that this is worth a year in college. Many who have attended these conferences in the past will agree to the above, provided you mention the much used opportunity for friendly interviews with some of the most prominent educational and religious leaders in the world.

To emphasize the social feature of the conference each college delegation brings its college colors, pennants, songs, and yells. This tends to individualize the conference and thus brings out a stronger college spirit. Especially is this seen during the athletic contests or in "College Nights". One afternoon or evening is usually devoted to this "College Night". Each institution having a certain number of delegates has the privilege of giving some college stunt in addition to its yells and songs. The University of Oklahoma delegation recently opened the eyes of the conference by the "Indian Stunt". The result of this healthy college spirit is that the delegates get well acquainted, and appreciate each other better, and therefore form lasting friendships.

#### ATHLETIC.

Still another feature of the conference which is quite pleasant is the athletic. The afternoons are devoted exclusively to recreation. The locations afford ample opportunities for



University of North Carolina Delegation to Student Conference, Asheville, N. C., June 15-23, 1906.

sports. A tennis tournament, a track meet, and other athletic events will take place. Series of baseball games will be arranged between the various states and colleges represented in the conference. Mountain climbing and excursions are other delightful forms of recreation.

#### SPIRITUAL.

The most permanent impression of these unique college gatherings is the spiritual. What do we mean by such a term? We do not care to define it. We would rather say, come and ye shall see. The characteristic and pervading note of these conferences will not be definitions and abstractions. It will rather be the quiet revealing of power within each man.

#### ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE.

An hour each day will be given to the consideration of the best methods and agencies for promoting the religious life of students through the Christian Association. The problems which confront the Association will be discussed in the light of experiences of student secretaries and those organizations which have been most successful.

#### MISSIONARY INSTITUTE.

A missionary institute will be conducted each morning under the direction of the Student Volunteer Movement. The methods, which are successfully employed to build up the missionary life in the various institutions will be presented and illustrated. Many Associations trace the development of their effective missionary meetings, study classes, library, missionary giving, and general missionary interest to the inspiration and suggestions received by delegates at these conferences.

#### BIBLE STUDY CONFERENCE.

Another conference which is most helpful is the one on Bible Study. Conferences similar to those on Mission and Association work are held on Bible Study. To realize the most from these conferences actual Bible study is carried on each day. The scheme of Bible study year before last was so successful that it will be continued not only at the Southern Conference but also at many other student conferences in the United States. On this plan the entire conference divides into small groups for Bible study for an hour each morning under the leadership of men with experience in the conduct of Bible classes.

RALPH M. HARPER.

#### Membership Committee.

The Young Men's Christian Association has divided its membership into two classes, (1) active and (2) associate. All young men holding membership in the Association who

are members of any evangelical church are recognized as active members. These only are entitled to vote in matters of Association polity and to hold office, and they are expected to take active part in some phase of the Association work. All members of the Association who are not members of any evangelical church are termed associate members. These are denied none of the privileges of the active members, except voting and holding office. All students and professors of good moral character are welcomed as members of the college Association, regardless of sectarian belief.

The membership canvass in the University for the year 1906-7 has resulted in a total membership of one hundred and ninety-four—a gain of about thirty-three per cent over the membership of last year. One hundred and fifty-five of these members are active, and at least fifteen different denominations are represented. Three hundred members was the goal fixed at the beginning of the year, and, while gratified by the substantial increase over last year's record, the membership committee regrets that its ideal has not been more nearly realized.

E. S. W. DAMERON,

#### Dr. Silliman.

Dr. H. B. Silliman, of Cohoes, N. Y., is the largest single contributor to the care of the Y. M. C. A. here so far. He presented us with \$1000. He writes:

"My earnest prayer is that your Association will prove a blessing to the college and that the building will be the center of everything that is pure, lovely, and of good report in the college life."

We appreciate Dr. Silliman's interest in our affairs and will strive to help realize his prayer.

#### How the Money Came.

- 1896. J. S. Wray paid first student subscription.
- 1897. \$584. P. H. Eley, Pres.
- 1898. \$13.75.
- 1899. \$54.
- 1900. \$145.75. \$112 in damage fees given.
- 1901. \$452.62. F. M. Osborne, Pres.
- 1902. \$85.
- 1903. R. M. Harper, Pres. Building started in earnest. Z. V. Judd, Harper, and C. P. Russell canvassed the State.
- 1904. \$5,000. Z. V. Judd, Pres.

Ralph Harper more perhaps than any other man is due the credit for the erection of the Y. M. C. A. building. His energy, pluck, and faith held up when others doubted and fell down. His memory lives in brick as well as good wishes.

## ON TWO URGENT NEEDS.

### SOME PLANS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITY.

#### Secretary Rankin Proposes the Support of a Foreign Missionary.

The Young Men's Christian Association of the University stands for the domination of the teachings of Jesus Christ. It stands for more; it stands for the exemplification of these teachings in the lives for its members.

Mr. Highsmith strikes the key note when he names service as the law of our life. "The son of man came not to be ministered unto but to minister." As men are frail, they sometimes fail. But this is our ideal and to it we strive.

The things we have attempted and the things we have attained are fully and clearly set forth in the reports of the officers and committeemen printed elsewhere in this issue. These reports show that our efforts have been directed along two lines. I. Bible study and II. Social Problems. In the first we have striven to learn in His own word what we are to believe concerning God and what duties he requires of us. Under the able leadership of Mr. Barnhardt quite an interest has been shown in this department. Busy men have taken a daily period to carefully and prayerfully study God's word. Results in deepened spirituality are already evident in several cases.

As we have in this way tried to find our relation to God we have not been unmindful of the second table of the law, man's duty to man, the Association believes in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

The work for new students, the information bureau, the book exchange, the work in the churches and Sunday Schools of the neighborhood, and the cheerful tone around the building show the desire to be of service to each other. Nor must we omit to mention in this connection the work for our distant brother whose need of higher and better things is being answered in some measure by the intelligent interest in, and liberal giving of our meagre funds to the cause of missions.

The President, in the conclusion of his report, sounds a note of regret that we have not measured up to our opportunities and in some particular cases his plaint is well founded. Taking the year as a whole I would say that Mr. Leonard has cause for self gratulation rather than lament. This is evident in the respectful attitude of the leading men in the University toward the Association.

In closing the review of the year's work two suggestions present themselves:

I. That a social committee be appointed, which committee shall have in charge the social gatherings of the Association, shall plan for and conduct at least two receptions, one in the fall for members only, and one during Commencement. The Commencement reception would be given to our friends generally and should become a strong and enjoyable feature of the Commencement occasion.

II. I would suggest that the aid of the University students and faculty be invited to the support of one of our alumni on the foreign field.

This year we gave \$250 with less than 200 men subscribing. Next year we should give at least \$600, which will pay the salary of a man in India or China.

Allow me, gentlemen of the Y. M. C. A., and citizens of the community, to thank you all for the aid and encouragement you have given the secretary in this the first year's work.

FRANK B. RANKIN,