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METHODIST BODIES APPROVE A UNOIN

Representatives of Northern and Southern Churches Hold Conference

Cleveland, Ohio, July 25.—A plan for the reunion of the northern and southern divisions of the Methodist Episcopal church was taken under consideration by the joint commission on unification tonight after having been approved by members representing both branches at separate meetings.

The plan, drafted by a joint committee of 16, was adopted unanimously by the northern members at a meeting this afternoon. At its meeting tonight the southern members made a few changes in the wording of the plan which was then submitted to the joint commission.

Confidence that the differences in the wording of the plan would be ironed out and the breach which arose in 1845 over the question of slavery would be healed, was expressed by members of the joint commission as they went into session.

Approval of the plan means the possibility of a united church by 1925, according to Dr. A. W. Harris, general secretary of the board of education of the northern branch and secretary of the unification commission. If reunion occurs, the Methodist Episcopal church will be the first of the three great Protestant denominations which divided over the question of slavery to become reconciled.

The plan, Dr. Harris said, provides only that each church change its constitution so that instead of holding separate general conferences, every four years, the two general conferences will be merged. Details of unification of the various missionary, educational and benevolent boards and other matters of organization and administration are left to the merged general conferences to work out, he said.

The required changes must be approved by both general conferences and then ratified by the annual conferences of the church throughout the country.

The general conference of the church, north, will meet in Springfield, Mass., next May. Should it adopt the plan, a special meeting of the general conference of the church, south, whose next regular meeting is scheduled for 1926, Dr. Harris said, could be called for the fall of 1924.

Assurance that the two general conferences will be merged is seen by Dr. Harris in the fact that during their period of separation both branches have maintained a similar faith and organization. The problem of reunion has been one of agreement rather than of complicated questions.

The ministerial standing of the negro bishops and clergymen in the northern Methodist Episcopal church will be continued to the reunited church on an equality with the white ministers and bishops, Dr. Harris said. The negro bishops, however, will not preside over white conferences.

Twenty of the 154 annual home and foreign conferences into which the northern churches are grouped are negro conferences.

The southern church has no negro conferences.

After the merger the Methodist Episcopal church will have 25,000 ministers, 44,000 churches and 6,200,000 members.

Cleveland, July 25.—A plan for the merging of the General Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, North, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, separated since 1845, was adopted tonight by the joint commission on unification. The plan will now go to the general and annual conferences of the church for ratification.

Delegations from both branches, composing the membership of the joint commission, adopted the plans at separate meetings today, after minor changes were made in the original plan submitted at yesterday's meeting. Further changes were made by the joint commission tonight, but they are said to be unimportant.

LOSS OF \$200,000 IN STORE BLAZE AT ASHEVILLE

Asheville, July 25.—After making a first hand inspection of the site of the Emporium building, which was destroyed at noon today by one of the worst fires that ever occurred in the uptown district, and after consulting Jack Blomberg, manager of the establishment, Chief A. L. Duckett, of the fire department, estimated the losses at approximately \$200,000. Further investigation may reveal that the loss is less, he said.

Insurance on the building and contents was about \$76,000, a total of \$40,000 on the building itself having been covered by policies held by Haywood Parker, owner. Mr. Blomberg holds policies for about \$30,000 on the stock of goods and a policy for \$6,000 on the fixtures.

A modern structure costing about \$200,000 will be built on the site, Mr. Parker announced, if the walls are condemned. If they are not, the building will be repaired.

The three-story building and contents of the Emporium Department Store on South Pack Square were entirely destroyed by fire which developed about 11:30 o'clock this morning. O. P. McArthur and Mrs. C. A. Williams, employees, were severely burned and the former suffered a broken leg when he jumped from a second story window. Two clerks reported missing were later located.

So rapidly did the fire gain headway that for a time it appeared that several other buildings in the heart of the business section would be destroyed. All the fire apparatus of the city was concentrated and save for minor losses to the City Library and Legal Building, the fire was confined to the department store. Several clerks escaped from the second and third floors by jumping into life nets.

The next case was State vs. Joel B. Lee charged with trespass. Lee was found not guilty and the prosecuting witness Ed Strickland was taxed with the costs. This was followed by a case against Ed Strickland charged with trespass, who was also found not guilty, and the prosecuting witness Joel B. Lee was taxed with the costs. The indictments grew out of trouble over a line between the plantations belonging to Mr. Strickland and Mr. Lee. It seems when the division was made in the original tract, a tobacco barn was on the line, which fact caused the trouble.

Other cases tried were as follows: State vs. Alonzo Atkinson charged with seduction. The warrant was changed to prostitution. The defendant was found guilty, fined \$25 and costs.

State vs. W. C. Murchison charged with giving a worthless check. The defendant was found not guilty.

R. E. Massengill was brought into court having broken the conditions of a suspended judgment imposed by Judge Brooks in June 1922. He was tried at that time for fornication and adultery with Temple Coates and judgment was suspended for two years upon good behavior. Evidence was disclosed that the conditions had not been kept, and a capias issued for both parties. The Coates woman escaped to Virginia where she now is. Massengill was sentenced to four months on the roads.

She is survived by five sons and one daughter. These are A. D. Creech, W. M. Creech, J. R. Creech, Hume Creech and Miss Ethel Creech of Clayton, and Harvey Creech, of Newport News, Va. She was a sister of the late J. G. Barbour of Clayton, and one brother J. R. Barbour, now lives in Raleigh.

PLAY TRICK ON MAN WITH BIG APPETITE

Chicago, July 25.—For a year "Professor" Bengo has astonished onlookers here by eating enormous quantities of food and drinking copious draughts of liquors. Today he is in a hospital near death as a result of a trick played on him while giving an exhibition last night, and two men are held in jail pending the outcome of his condition.

Bengo had downed his seventeenth stein of beer in a saloon last night after despatching a quantity of sausage and a half a dozen eggs. Some one poured oil of mustard in the eighteenth stein. He drank the doctored beverage and collapsed. Physicians say he may die.

Hail Does Damage

The severe storm which visited this section Tuesday afternoon was accompanied by hail in some places. Tobacco on the Mitchiner farm owned by Mr. T. S. Ragsdale was considerably damaged. Hail was also reported near the county home.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RECORDER'S COURT

Cases Few But Long Drawn Out; No Liquor Cases Were Tried

The cases in Recorder's court this week while few in number were long drawn out and occupied Tuesday and a part of Wednesday. Liquor cases were noticeably absent. The first 3 cases on the docket involved the same quarrel and affray and were consolidated upon motion of the solicitor. These cases were: State vs. Lena Henry, charged with assault with deadly weapon; State vs. Laddie Carr, charged with assault with deadly weapon; State vs. M. C. and Nettie Carr charged with assault with deadly weapon. From the evidence it seemed that the family of Lena Henry was a tenant upon land belonging to the Carrs. After some dispute the Henry family decided to move. When they went to move, the Carrs went up to the house and gave some instructions as to what to move and what not to move. This brought about a quarrel and a fight. Lena Henry cut Nettie Carr on the head with a knife. Laddie Carr, son of Nettie Carr then went home for a gun and it seems assaulted Lena Henry's husband. The outcome of the affair was that M. C. Carr was found not guilty; Lena Henry was found guilty and fined \$15 and one third of the costs; Laddie Carr was guilty and fined \$15 and one third of costs; and Nettie Carr was found guilty of affray, fined \$1 and a third of the costs. The fine of the latter was lessened inasmuch as she had to pay for medical attention given her after the fight.

The figures compiled by Mr. Cowhig yesterday cover reports from the following divisions, with varying miles of trackage, in North Carolina Danville division, 330.37 miles; Richmond division, 60.75 miles; Norfolk division, 35.88 miles (does not include 126 miles of Selma division); Winston-Salem division 220.62 miles; Charlotte division, 126.99 miles; Asheville division, 355.97 miles; Knoxville division 45.51 miles; total North Carolina mileage 126.97 miles.

The figures compiled by Mr. Cowhig are from reports on 10 day periods as follows:

June 1 to 10, 1923; grade crossing accidents one; persons injured none; persons killed none. June 10 to 20, 1923; four grade crossing accidents, persons injured one; persons killed two.

July 1 to 10, 1923; grade crossing accidents, none; persons injured none; persons killed none. July 10 to 20; grade crossing accidents none; persons injured none; persons killed none.

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Mr. Cowhig said that he had not had an opportunity to receive reports from railway engineers as to the feeling of greater security that he felt sure would be theirs on crossing roadways at grade in making fast schedules, but he was sure that their feature of the stop law would have good effect in helping to maintain fast running time on the railway lines in this state.—Charlotte Observer, July 26.

WILSON RECEIVES REPORT OF HEAVY CROP DAMAGE

Wilson, July 23.—Reports brought here today by Wilson county people who were in Pitt County during the storm of Sunday afternoon estimate the damage to growing crops at around a half million dollars. The loss on the farms of Alf and Gus Forbes, between Falkland and Greenville, is estimated at between \$12,000 and \$14,000. The storm area, it is claimed, covered a scope of 20 miles and destruction was left in its wake. There was considerable wind, hail and rain in Wilson county, but slight loss.

ANTI-TYPHOID CAMPAIGN WILL BE HELD

It is an assured fact now that an anti-typhoid campaign will be put on in Johnston County. In fact in Bentonville township where there have been several cases of typhoid, the work has already begun. Dr. Thel Hooks, the County Health Officer, went to Bentonville Tuesday afternoon and vaccinated between two and three hundred persons. He worked at two points in the township at the Bentonville post office and at Mill Creek. He asks us to announce that next Wednesday he will begin at those places to give the second treatment but the hours will be changed. He will be at Bentonville at one o'clock and at Mill Creek at three o'clock. Toxin antitoxin, a preventative of diphtheria, will also be given during the anti-typhoid campaign. Children up to six years should take this treatment. All persons who have not taken the typhoid treatment recently should be vaccinated again. The treatments give immunity for a period of two years. Toxin antitoxin gives immunity in definitely.

STOP LAW MAKES THE CROSSINGS SAFE

Official Reports No Accidents on Southern During First Twenty Days

Not one crossing accident on the 1,232 miles of track of the Southern railway in North Carolina was reported during the period between July 1, 1923, the date the "Stop, Look, Listen" law applicable to drivers of automobiles went into effect, and July 20, according to a statement from W. M. Cowhig, general superintendent of transportation for the Southern Railway system, lines east at Charlotte yesterday. There were no crossing accidents reported, no person was injured or killed at grade crossings in that period.

In the same period in June, 1923, from the first to the 20th, there were five crossing accidents; one person injured; and two persons were killed.

In the 30 days from July 1 to July 20, 1923, there were two crossing accidents reported; three persons injured and no one killed.

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MISS SANDERS HAS WEEK END HOUSE PARTY

Miss Leone Sanders is entertaining a number of friends for the weekend at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John K. Sanders in the Sanders Chapel section. Those in the party are Misses Lucy Wellons, Mattie Lassiter, Edna Coates, Nell and Maude Meacham, Rose and Nell Grantham, of this city and Virginia Stevens of Richmond, Va.

Union Services

The Union services will be held at the Methodist church Sunday evening at 8:15. Rev. J. C. Wooten, presiding elder of the Raleigh district will preach. The public is invited.

MRS. T. W. BICKETT TO ADDRESS FARM WOMEN AT GREENSBORO

Mrs. T. W. Bickett, widow of ex-Governor Bickett, the negro's friend, will address the North Carolina Negro Farmers' Congress in the auditorium of the A. & T. College, Greensboro, N. C., Thursday night, August 9th at 8:00 o'clock. This program has been arranged by Mrs. Jane McKimmon, State Home Demonstration Agent and a committee of Colored County Home Demonstration Agent, and promises to be intensely interesting. It will be accompanied with fine music furnished by the best negro talents. Mrs. L. E. Hall of Raleigh will preside.

Although the women will have charge, it is understood that it will be a joint meeting of both men and women. There will be some fine demonstrations that will be especially interesting and helpful to the women; every negro woman in Greensboro as well as those from various parts of the state should be present at this occasion.

Mrs. Bickett represents the State Health Department and is doing a work that is particularly useful and helpful to the women. Those who miss her address will miss some very helpful information.

There will be ample provision for white women who wish to hear Mrs. Bickett, the Congress extends them a cordial invitation. We are looking forward with much anticipation to the success of this two days meeting and we will announce other speakers later.

Don't forget to observe President Dudley's request, that is: All individuals and automobile parties should report to the secretary, John D. Wray, A. & T. College, Greensboro, N. C., not later than August 6th. Free accommodation can only be given to those who observe this rule and pay the one dollar membership fee of the Congress upon arrival and secure a badge which will admit them to the dining hall and dormitories free of charge. It is very important that you should observe this regulation.—Jno. D. Wray, Farm Makers' Club Agent and Secretary, Farmers' Congress.

SPIRIT OF THRIFT SHOWN IN THE SOUTH

Atlanta, Ga., July 24.—The spirit of thrift continues in the south, according to Atlanta bankers. Savings deposits in all banks of the south it is shown here give evidence that the people of the south are putting aside money for the lean days as they did not long ago.

"The prosperity of southern people has much to do with this" today declared John K. Ottley president of the Fourth National bank of Atlanta, "and the saving habit in the south is doing much to offset the reckless spending era that came with the war time boom."

Increased savings deposits in Southern banks, as Mr. Ottley points out, and the big bank which he heads has one of the largest savings departments in the south—give evidence that the people have a surplus of money and are able to lay some aside without interfering with their ordinary living expenditures. Mr. Ottley says that savings accounts always show a gain when wages are good, work is plentiful and the farmers are realizing a profit upon their crops.

Report of the federal reserve board shows that savings deposits in the country at large have increased 10 per cent in the last year, according to information received by the Federal Reserve bank of Atlanta, of which Mr. Ottley is a director. It is noted that the greatest savings in proportion have been, among others in the Atlanta district, this district showing 16 per cent increase. Most of the saving is being done, it is shown, by the wage earners and the people of moderate means.

MARK TWAIN'S HOME DESTROYED BY FIRE

Redding, Conn., July 25.—Stormfield, the home of Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) in the closing years of his life, a picturesque house on a ridge in this town was burned early today. It was unoccupied for many years after Mr. Clemens' death and was bought last December by Mrs. Margaret E. Givens, of New York.

VOCAL UNION WILL BE AT WAREHOUSE

Thousands Are Expected to Be Here Sunday to Hear The Choirs Sing

Plans are nearing completion for the big Vocal Union which will be held here Sunday, according to Mr. J. B. Beasley, president of the Union. A program has been planned which includes several short talks, but main feature of the day will be the singing of the various choirs which will assemble here. At least fifteen singing classes are expected, and thousands of persons from every part of the county will be here unless Mr. Beasley has miscalculated. The meeting was first announced to be held at the Methodist church but the president has decided that this building will be insufficient to house the big crowd which will come, so the Farmers Warehouse has been designated as the place.

Unusual interest is taken in these vocal unions which are held ever fifth Sunday in various sections of the county, the crowds attending rivaling the numbers who go to the Primitive Baptist Associations.

SECT BELIEVES JESUS IS ON EARTH NOW

The following clipping from the Washington Post was sent to us for publication:

Columbus, Ohio, July 14.—That Christ is present on earth and has been present during the past 50 years is the claim made by International Bible Students at a conference here. The "Epiphania," or bright shining, soon will convince everyone "of the fact" of the second presence of Christ, according to C. B. Shull, who addressed the students on "Christ's Second Advent."

"Actual presence of Jesus during His second advent will cover a period of 1,000 years" said Shull. "His secret presence covered the first 40 years of this time and is in the past, having begun in 1874. We are now in the revelation stage, which will burst into the Epiphania, or Bright shining, in the near future.

"Jesus never again will be visible to human eyes—one can not see above the plane he occupies. Jesus as a divine being, has returned to earth, and soon will manifest Himself as the lightning shineth from east to west."

"We do not see the electricity back of the lightning, but discern the power, or influence, of Jesus' presence will operate on humanity and the sick will be healed, the dead raised, and the whole earth will be made a paradise, and all tears will be wiped from all faces, and they shall be no more death. Thus 'every eye shall see Him.'"

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT HALF MILLION DOLLARS

Goldsboro, July 23.—According to information received by telephone from Sheriff Jackson of Pitt county, damage to growing crops estimated at \$500,000 was caused by a terrific hail, wind and electrical storm which struck the Greenville section of that county Sunday.

Sheriff Johnson stated that the storm covered an area of perhaps 12 miles. In many sections large quantities of tobacco, cotton and corn were totally destroyed.

The sheriff said that Messrs. Gus and Al Forbes, Travis Hoker, R. E. Currin and Gorman & Jenkins were probably the heaviest losers, a hundred or more acres of tobacco belonging to the Forbes brothers being virtually torn to pieces by the heavy fall of hail and rain, the hail at times being as large as guinea eggs.

No injuries or deaths as a result of the storm had been reported up to a late hour tonight.

To Visit Boll Weevil Section

Messrs. H. C. Woodall, J. Rufus Creech and N. B. Grantham left yesterday for an automobile trip through boll weevil sections of North and South Carolina. They spent last night in Sumter, S. C.