

White Women of South Oppose Lynching

METHODISTS MERGER MARKS MARVELOUS MODERN MOVEMENT

Stupendous Religious and Commercial Transaction Affecting 1,500,000 Members and 10,000 Organizations.

\$36,000,000 VALUE REAL ESTATE

Territorial Scope of Organization Practically International—Legal Business Involved Large.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—At the joint session of the bishops of the A. M. E. and the A. M. E. Zion Churches, held in Avery Mission Temple, this city, Friday, June 24, a report of the joint commission on organic union of the A. M. E. and A. M. E. Zion Churches was read by Dr. John R. Hawkins, financial secretary of the A. M. E. Church, and secretary of the joint commission.

Report Greeted With Applause

At the conclusion of the reading of the section referring to the name of the merged church organization—the United Methodist Episcopal Church—a prolonged storm of applause was given by the more than 2,000 persons attending the meeting. The tentative plan for the Episcopal districts was roundly applauded, as well as suggestion for allocation of officers for the first four years of the proposed organization.

To Have Three Weekly Papers

The report of the commission called for combination of the eighteen Episcopal districts of the A. M. E. and the twelve districts of the A. M. E. Zion into a total of thirty Episcopal districts for the United Methodist Episcopal Church. It also arranged for a publication board, calling for three publishing houses. These to be located in Philadelphia, Pa., Charlotte, N. C. and Nashville, Tenn. The report provides for three weekly church publications: The Christian Recorder, The Star of Zion and another to be located in the southwest, possibly Dallas, Tex., and to be known as the Southwestern Herald.

Plan To Go to Local Churches

It suggests the appointment of a special commission to thrash out the legal problems in connection with property rights. The plan calls for the organic commission's report to be sent first to the board of bishops of each church connection for consideration, and then with their approval and revisions to the General Conferences of the A. M. E. in Chicago and the A. M. E. Zion in St. Louis in 1928. Following the action taken in these conferences the amended and approved plan is to then go to the various annual conferences, the quarterly conferences and local churches in the two church organizations for their approval or rejection. Should a majority of these annual and quarterly conferences and congregations approve the plan, a special General Conference will be called, possibly in 1930, to work out the final details preparatory to the organization of the first regular United General Conference in 1932.

Stupendous Commercial Transaction
This movement is regarded by many as the biggest concerted organization effort ever undertaken by Negroes. Fully one and a half million members will be involved. The transaction will affect over 10,000 individual church organizations representing a real estate value of nearly \$36,000,000, and involving the handling of nearly \$7,000,000 annually. The territorial scope of the organization is world-wide, including the United States, Canada, Mexico, South America, Africa and Islands of the Sea. The proposed merger is one of the biggest pieces of legal business ever executed by Negroes. The handling of various individual church charters, transferring deeds and the property rights of the two organizations into the new one offers Negro lawyers throughout the world unprecedented legal work.

Miss Ione Pinkett is visiting relatives at Beatrice, Nebraska.

N. A. A. C. P. ENDS BRILLIANT CONFERENCE IN INDIANAPOLIS

Ten Thousand Hear Darrow's Address—Many Others Listened Over Radio.

Indianapolis, Ind.—With the presentation last night of the Springarn Medal by Zona Gale, celebrated novelist and playwright, to Anthony Overton of Chicago, for his achievements in business, finance and insurance, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People concluded its Eighteenth Annual Conference, one of the most brilliant it has ever held.

To hold this Conference the N. A. A. C. P. invaded the stronghold of the Ku Klux Klan in the United States and the speakers at the mass meetings spoke with utmost freedom in condemnation of the Klan. At the Sunday mass meeting in Cadle Tabernacle, attended by 10,000 people, both of the principal speakers, Clarence Darrow and James Weldon Johnson, secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., paid their respects to the hooded order in no uncertain terms.

The night mass meetings, held in Caleb Mills Hall, were attended by audiences of 1,700, who heard spirited musical programs. Among the speakers at the N. A. A. C. P. Conference were Governor Ed. Jackson of Indiana, who delivered the address of welcome to the Conference; Congressman Hamilton Fish, Jr., of New York, who delivered a stirring address in praise of the heroism of colored troops in the World War whom he commanded; Dr. Will W. Alexander, of Atlanta, Director of the Inter-racial Commission, who spoke of the rise of a new South.

One of the features of the Conference was the presence of N. C. Newbold, Director of the Division of Negro Education of the State of North Carolina, who told of the steps being taken in his state to procure educational opportunity for colored children and students in institutions of higher learning.

At the same meeting N. C. Frederick, the colored attorney of Columbia, S. C., told of the legal defense of the Lowmans before they were taken from the Aiken, S. C., jail and lynched by a mob with the connivance of the local officers of the law.

The keynote address of the Conference was delivered by Judge Ira W. Jayne of the Wayne County Circuit Court, Detroit, a member of the N. A. A. C. P. Board of Directors, who urged colored people to stand together and support the N. A. A. C. P.

Other speakers at the Conference and their subjects included Dr. Alva W. Taylor, Social Service Secretary of the Disciples Church in Indianapolis, "The Responsibility of the Church in the Race Problem;" Charles S. Johnson, Editor "Opportunity" magazine, on "The Changing Economic Status of the Negro;" Mrs. S. Joe Brown, Vice President of the National Association of Colored Women, "The Colored Woman and the Race Problem;" Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, "The Business Man As a Social Servant;" and Bishop W. T. Vernon of the A. M. E. church.

One of the outstanding events of the Conference was an address by William Pickens, who declared that segregation and the race problem were one and the same thing and that where segregation did not exist there was no race problem.

On Sunday, June 26, many of the leading churches of the city turned over their pulpits to speakers sent by the N. A. A. C. P.

ENTERTAINS FOR GRAND OFFICER

Eureka Council No. 9 of the Ancient Sons and Daughters of Jerusalem entertained last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Abe Jackson, 1609 North Twenty-seventh street, in honor of Mr. C. M. Johnson, supreme king of the order; Mrs. W. M. Rose of Dundee and Mrs. C. K. David. Covers were laid for 20. Mr. Johnson was given a beautiful present by members of his council.

SOUTHERN WHITE WOMEN PLEDGE THEMSELVES TO INTER-RACIAL JUSTICE

Jackson, Miss.—Meeting here recently in annual session, the Mississippi Woman's Committee on Race Relations pledged themselves to the most progressive program of inter-racial justice ever adopted by any group in this state. Beginning with a terrific broadside against lynching and mob violence, they promised to seek better school advantages for the colored people of the state, offered their co-operation to the Negro club women in their efforts for a home for delinquent boys, and then gave proof of their sincerity by inviting the Negro women of the state to membership on their committee. Among the specific improvements in school conditions to which they pledged themselves were better facilities for teacher training, better school buildings, and a more equitable distribution of school funds.

Mrs. David M. Key, wife of the president of Millsaps college, was elected president of the state committee, which includes a score of the most prominent women in Mississippi, all of them leaders in one or more of the great religious or civic groups. The meeting was convened by Mrs. Maud P. Henderson, of the Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation, who reports a much more active interest in the movement than was apparent in earlier meetings.

N. A. A. C. P. WINS VICTORY, ENDING NEW JERSEY SCHOOL SEGREGATION

Toms River Colored Children Ordered Reinstated in School

New York, July 1—A sweeping victory in the Toms River, N. J., school segregation case has been won by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People resulting in an order by John H. Logan, state commissioner of education for New Jersey, reinstating the colored pupils in the school from which they had been barred because of their color. The victory is a decisive blow at school segregation in the state of New Jersey and will probably have a profound effect in similar cases arising in northern states.

The order of Commissioner Logan was in response to proceeding by the N. A. A. C. P. through Attorney Eugene R. Hayne, who carried the case of the colored children both before the state supreme court and before the commissioner of education. Commissioner Logan in his order held that the Dover Township Board of Education had barred the children from school and moved them to another building solely because of their color, such action being against the law of New Jersey. His decision stated: "That ultimately, however, the placing of children in such a school was determined upon a color basis is evident from the fact that not only the appellants but other Negro pupils were sent there, that no white children were ever placed among them, and no characteristics other than color were proved to be peculiar to appellants and in no way shared by the pupils who were left in the Toms River school so as to justify the exclusion of such appellants on other grounds."

MISSISSIPPI WOMEN VIGOROUSLY CONDEMN CRIME OF LYNCHING

Jackson, Miss.—Stirred by recent outbreaks of mob violence in this state, a group of Mississippi's most prominent women, meeting here last week, drew up and gave to the press a vigorous condemnation of lynching, declaring that "as Southern women, we hold that no circumstances can ever justify mob action and that in no instance is it an exhibition of chivalric consideration for the honor of womanhood." The governor was commended for his efforts to suppress mob violence, sheriffs were urged to meet with force any attempts upon their prisoners, and grand juries and courts were called upon for earnest efforts to bring recent lynchings to justice. The

statement in full was as follows:

"We place ourselves on record as unalterably opposed to mob murder. The barbaric practice of lynching arouses unchristian passions, violates the sovereignty of our state, brings Mississippi into disrepute in the eyes of the world, and brutalizes all those who come within its evil influence. "As southern women we hold that no circumstances can ever justify mob murder and that in no instances is it an exhibition of chivalric consideration for the honor of womanhood."

"We commend our governor for calling out troops to suppress mob activities, urge all sheriffs to meet attempts on their jails with force, and call upon grand juries and officers of the law to prosecute vigorously the lynchings in Mississippi who have unlawfully slaughtered six men within the past two months."

The signers were Mrs. Theodore D. Bratton, wife of the bishop of Mississippi; Miss Susie V. Powell, president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs; Mrs. Myrtle G. Hicks, vice president of the Mississippi Synodical; Mrs. C. H. Alexander, active worker in various organizations; Mrs. D. G. McLaurin, president of the Mississippi Synodical; Mrs. W. W. Epperson, president of the Jackson Federation of Missionary Societies; Mrs. Edgar Goodwill, social service superintendent of the Mississippi conference; Mrs. David M. Key, wife of president Key of Millsaps college; Miss Paralee McLester, secretary of Jackson Y. W. C. A.; Mrs. Ivy G. Hill, Mrs. John Bell Hood, Mrs. J. T. Calhoun, Miss Mamie J. Chandler, and Mrs. C. A. McCurdy.

COFFEYVILLE ASSAULT TRIAL DATE JULY 15

Kennedy to Be Tried Then, But Mooney Girl May Go to September

Independence, Kans.—Ira Kennedy, who with Julia Mooney, Coffeyville high school girl, is accused of assaulting Miss Margaret Akers, another Coffeyville high school girl, the night of March 17, will be tried in district court here July 15.

Walter S. Keith, city attorney of Coffeyville, has been designated by the attorney general as special representative for the state in the prosecution.

Julia Mooney, who is accused of being an accomplice to the assaulting of the Akers girl, may not be tried until September. A motion is before the court here to pass all criminal cases over to the September term of court where the defendants have furnished bond. The Mooney girl has furnished bond of \$5,000. Kennedy has not furnished bond and, if the motion passes, will be tried July 15.

Coffeyville, Kansas.—The local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is making extensive preparations for the defense of those colored men charged with inciting a riot the night of March 17 when Julia Mooney and Margaret Akers circulated the report that they had been raped by three Negroes.

A meeting will be held Friday night at the Sardis Baptist church at which Mrs. D. G. Morris and the Rev. T. T. Addison will be the speakers. Elisha Scott of Topeka will be the defense attorney.

YOUNG ATTORNEY ADMITTED TO THE BAR

Mr. Charles F. Davis, of Council Bluffs, a student at the University of Omaha, passed the Iowa State Bar examination at Des Moines, Iowa, June 8 and was admitted to the bar in that state June 9. He also passed the Nebraska State Bar examination at Lincoln, June 14 and 15 and was admitted to practice in this state June 15. Attorney Davis has opened an office at 1516 North Twenty-fourth street and will also have an office in Council Bluffs.

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Church of St. Philip the Deacon enjoyed a delightful outing Thursday afternoon at Elmwood park.

DIRECTOR OF INTER-RACIAL COMMISSION ADDRESSES RACE CONFERENCE

Dr. Will W. Alexander of Atlanta Tells of Rise of New South

Indianapolis, Ind., June 25—Declaring that a new South has come into being, directed largely by business men, many of whom are turning to the republican party, Dr. Will W. Alexander, of Atlanta, director of the Commission on Inter-racial Relations, last night addressed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People now in 18th annual conference here.

"The new leaders of industry in the South are hardly conscious of the race question at all," said Dr. Alexander. "To them it is a labor question and an industrial question. They are preoccupied, as the rest of the nation is in making money. With them the hot spot in their thinking is neither the race problem, nor politics, or fundamentalism; it is business. They do not get excited over the race problem except as it might affect industry. They are willing to listen with minds open and go at least as far as the best interests of industry demand."

"The coming of industry and the new economic background is slowly working a change in the political philosophy of the South. Thousands of business men are republicans, nationally, and are yielding to the arguments that make the business section of this country favorable to the republican party. They no longer respond to the old slogans in local politics. As a rule they are indifferent to local politics but ultimately this indifference must give way to an intelligent interest based upon what they conceive to be good business policy. This means a profound change in the politics of the South."

Colleges Studying Race Relations

"The most obvious change which is taking place in the South with relation to the race problem is the intelligent interest of many college teachers, college students and other thoughtful people generally. In nearly 100 colleges courses of study on various phases of the race problem are now in the regular curriculum. Thousands of students are working and writing on these themes and an exhaustive examination of these papers from all parts of the South reveals that they are thoughtful, honest and liberal. "The churches in the South—I refer to white churches—have in the past been silent. This silence is being broken. Two great Southern denominations are today working out fairly liberal programs of education for their young people, to be used in young people's societies and Sunday schools."

Negro Test of American Democracy

"The nation must find some way to deal with the mob and mob violence. The fight is discouraging. Aiken is slipping back on the part of South Carolina. The guiltiest states are now Mississippi and Florida where there is no effective opposition to mob violence and Arkansas where there is very little. These states have been the least influenced by the new economic and industrial development. They have particularly large communities. Lynching must be looked upon by the whole nation as so horrible that these indifferent and backward states shall be forced to put an end to it. "In closing may I say that I am not especially interested in Negroes or the race problem. Something very much more important than this is involved in this situation. It is a question of civilization. Can human beings be civilized and can they learn to meet the situations that they confront by civilized methods and a civilized spirit? That is the great question. The experiment of the human race in civilization is very interesting and important. The outcome of the democratic movement which gave birth to this nation is an important aspect of the experiment of civilization. Twelve million American Negroes and their future are a test as to the outcome of this experiment in democracy and free institutions."

"What chance has democracy?"

On every hand I am reminded by cynics and dogmatic industrialists that the whole idea of democracy is a failure to be distrusted. Aiken, Mississippi and Arkansas and Florida incline one to think so. But looking back over the past 60 years one sees that there have undoubtedly been some steps forward. In spite of handicaps Negroes have made great progress. My presence here tonight is evidence that at least one white man has made progress and I represent a type and that is the only significant thing about my presence.

"At the University of North Carolina last spring the distinguished secretary of this organization made a very moving statement, speaking to a great audience of students and faculty in the chapel of the institution: 'Negroes want full participation in American life and they expect to secure it.'"

"This last clause has great power in it. If they continue in this intelligent expectation it will probably come, step by step even in the South—certainly in the South if anywhere in the nation, for the South will go with the nation."

STUDENT CONFERENCE TAKES ACTIVE STAND AGAINST LYNCHING

Blue Ridge, N. C.—Stirred by the many recent outbreaks of mob violence in the South, the Y. M. C. A. Student Conference for the Southeast, which has just concluded its annual meeting here, adopted and gave to the press the following resolutions relative to lynching and mob violence:

"Whereas, the encouraging decline in lynching which has marked recent years suffered a serious relapse in 1926, and

"Whereas, there have occurred in recent months many instances of this fearful crime, particularly in the states of Mississippi and Arkansas, and

"Whereas, we, the Southern Regional Council of the Student Y. M. C. A.'s, assembled at Blue Ridge, N. C., believe we voice the sentiment of the great mass of Southern people in condemning all such atrocious crimes, and

"Whereas, we have heard of these tragic occurrences with keen regret, and believe that they are unjustifiable from any standpoint;

"Therefore be it resolved: "That we earnestly hope that the public officials and the Christian citizenship of our country will use every means of upholding the law and cultivating public sentiment against such atrocities."

Similar resolutions were adopted by the Y. W. C. A. Student Conference meeting at the same place during the preceding week. The students in attendance at these two conferences represent practically all the colleges of the southeastern region.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY HONORS ALEXANDER

Atlanta, Ga.—Rev. W. W. Alexander, of this city, director of the Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation, has just returned from Boston where, at the recent commencement of Boston university, he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. The degree was presented by Dr. Daniel L. Marsh, president of the university, who at the same time conferred honorary degrees on Governor Alvan T. Fuller, of Massachusetts; Chief Justice R. J. Peaslee, of the supreme court of New Hampshire; Dr. John G. Bowman, president of Pittsburgh university; Robert L. O'Brien, editor of the Banner Herald and Clarence W. Barron, editor of the Boston News bureau.

Dr. Alexander's degree was conferred in recognition of his work of the past eight years as director of the Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation. A few days previously he had been honored with the same degree by Berea college, of Berea, Kentucky.

"Will power of the individual is the taproot of all his growth in character and efficiency."