

Front Rank Sociological Workers in Omaha Today



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OF CONFERENCE



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J. M. HANSON—SECY. ORGANIZED
CHARITIES—YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO



MISS JULIA C. LATHROP
HULL HOUSE, CHICAGO

BEGINNING this afternoon, at 3 o'clock with a public mass meeting at the Boyd theater, the fourteenth annual session of the Nebraska Conference of Charities and Correction will open in Omaha. It will continue through Monday and Tuesday, with morning, afternoon and evening sessions, and all persons interested may attend any or all sessions. The different meetings of Monday and Tuesday will be held at the Hotel Rome at 9 a. m. and 2 and 7:45 p. m.

The officers of the conference have been able to secure the presence in Omaha for these meetings of some of the most noted workers in this country along sociological lines. Chief of these is Very Rev. Walter T. Sumner, dean of the Episcopal cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, Chicago. Dean Sumner is chairman of the famous "Vice Commission" of Chicago and is also superintendent of city missions. As chairman of the Vice commission he had the practical direction of a large corps of workers who went through the Chicago slums earnestly and systematically and produced an array of facts as to the prevalence of graft and the ramifications of the social evil that held the shocked attention of the country for a time. He is intimately familiar with the social problems engaging public attention today, from first-hand knowledge, and has the reputation of being a most eloquent and interesting platform speaker. At the meeting this afternoon Dean Sumner will have for his theme, "The Child in Industry—the Nation's Mortgage on Futurity." At the morning session Monday he will discuss "Some Aspects of Social and Civic Progress." Monday evening he is on the program for an address on "The Attitude of Society Toward the Social Evil."

Two of the leading women workers of Chicago's uplift brigade are coming with Dean Sumner. One of them is Mrs. Gertrude Howe Britton, in whom Nebraska people will feel a particular in-

terest. She is a daughter of Mrs. James Howe of Omaha and a sister of Robert Howe, manager of the Armour plant. The other is Miss Julia C. Lathrop, president of the Illinois Society for Mental Hygiene and vice president of the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy. Mrs. Britton is president of the Juvenile Protective League of Chicago and had charge of the dance hall investigation under the Vice commission. Both women are residents of Hull House and trusted lieutenants of Jane Addams in her great crusade. Dr. D. E. Jenkins, president of the conference, feels that those who attend the sessions will be afforded large opportunity for social education in meeting and hearing these Chicago women, in connection with the addresses of Dean Sumner.

Both Miss Lathrop and Mrs. Britton were on the committee of Hull House workers which on last Monday heard from her own lips the story of 15-year-old Violet Buehler, recently found in New York after being deceived and running away from home. Her disappearance several months ago engaged the attention of the police and detective departments of every city in the United States, and she was finally found working as a nurse girl in New York City, although a putative heiress to a large fortune. The inside facts of Violet Buehler's story will very likely be told at the Omaha conference.

J. M. Hanson, general secretary of the Charity Organization society of Youngstown, O., has achieved a widespread reputation as a student of social problems, especially on the line of his own work. He will deliver two addresses, Monday afternoon on "Philanthropy and Five Per Cent—the Solution of the Housing Problem," and Monday evening he discusses "Character-Building Charity."

The meeting this afternoon will be opened with music by the Omaha High School Glee club and Bishop Williams will offer prayer. There will be but two addresses, by Dean Sumner and Miss Lathrop. At the conclusion of the latter "Amer-

ica" will be sung. Immediately following there will be a social service rally of the Men and Religion Forward movement.

Monday morning, after the registration of delegates at the Rome, the opening business session of the conference will be held, and Dr. Jenkins is to deliver the annual address. Miss Nan Dorsey, well known in Omaha, is to discuss "The Educational Value of the Tuberculosis Dispensary."

At this session Rabbi Frederick Cohn of Temple Israel is to talk on "The Social Evil in Nebraska." As is known to Omaha and Nebraska people, Rabbi Cohn has very decided views on this question, the correct solution of which is subject of thought and discussion by civic leaders and societies all over the country.

At the afternoon session Dr. George Mordridge, superintendent of the Iowa School for Feeble-Minded Youth, will make an address on "Centralized Administrative Control in Iowa." As this method of control of state institutions is to be a live topic of discussion in Nebraska during the coming campaign and in the following legislative session, Dr. Mordridge's story of the working of the plan in Iowa will be a timely contribution.

On the same topic two other addresses will follow by State Senator John E. Miller of Lincoln and Rev. Joseph Reusing of West Point. Senator Miller's subject is, "The Pending Amendment of the Nebraska State Constitution," and Father Reusing will discuss "Nebraska's Need of Improved Administration in Philanthropy."

At this Monday afternoon session, too, a lively discussion is to be looked for on the housing

problem in its relation to effective administration of charity funds. The subject will be opened by an address from J. M. Hanson of Youngstown, O. Superintendent F. W. Booth and a class from the Nebraska School for the Deaf will hold the platform at the opening of the Tuesday morning session. Mr. Booth will make an address concerning the oral method of teaching the deaf child and the class will give an exhibition of how the work is done in school.

Bishop George A. Beecher is on the program Tuesday morning to talk on "Prison Reform in Nebraska," and Judge Lincoln Frost of Lincoln will follow with an address on "The Paroled Prisoner." The discussion of these papers will be led by J. A. Leavitt and M. A. Bullock.

Another topic of live interest at this time, especially in Nebraska, is that touching workmen's compensation during lay-offs occasioned by accident, and workmen's insurance. Labor Commissioner Louis V. Gays will read a paper on the subject, and all who care to may take part in the discussion.

A business meeting of conference members will open the Tuesday afternoon session, at which officers for the ensuing year will be elected. At the conclusion of the business meeting Miss Margaret Guthrie of the University of Omaha will present a paper on "Wider Use of the School Plant," a subject at this moment engaging earnest thought in Omaha and other cities. This, too, will be open to discussion and is expected to be the occasion of some interesting talk.

Superintendent E. U. Graff of the Omaha schools will give his views on "The Work of the Continuation School in America" at the Tuesday afternoon session, and this will be followed by an address from Prof. J. R. Fulk of Seward on "The Moving Picture Show in Relation to Education and Morals," with discussion to follow.

Child life and child labor will be the subjects for consideration at the concluding session of the

conference Tuesday evening. The child labor committee of Nebraska, which is affiliated with the national organization, will hold its annual meeting following a luncheon at the Rome Tuesday noon, and this meeting is expected to bring to Omaha all members, as well as many other men and women interested in the welfare of children. In the evening the meeting will be opened with music by the Young Men's Christian Association Glee club. Mrs. Britton is first on the program, to outline the purposes and tell of the work of the Juvenile Protective League of Chicago, a branch of Hull House activities. John J. Ryder, secretary of the Nebraska committee, will follow with an address on the status of child workers in Nebraska, and then will come up a matter that is expected to be subject for a most interesting debate. At the last annual convention of the Nebraska State Teachers' association the following resolution was adopted:

"We believe that the provision of our present child labor law which forbids any child under the age of 14 years from working at a gainful occupation during the time when the schools are not in session is baneful in its effects, because it forces the child during the vacations to a life of idleness in the street and in the alley. We recommend that the legislative committee of this association be urged to use its influence to have the law so modified that the healthy child will be permitted to work during vacations at such pursuits as will not harmfully affect the physical, intellectual or moral welfare."

Following are the officers and executive committee of the conference: President, Rev. D. E. Jenkins, Omaha; first vice president, Mrs. Draper Smith, Omaha; second vice president, A. L. Weatherly, Lincoln; secretary, Ida V. Jontz, Omaha; treasurer, Esther A. Johnson, Omaha.

Executive Committee—Senator J. E. Miller, Lincoln; C. B. Manuel, Kearney; Leo Hoffman, Omaha; E. L. King, Osceola; E. D. Gepson, Omaha.