M. E. CONFERENCE BEGINS ITS WORK IN HARMONY

Opening Session Marked by Offer of Resolution for Church Union

BISHOP BERRY'S HOPES

He Expresses Confidence That Peace Will Prevail During Proceedings

Today's Program

4 p. m.—Doctor Boswell's Pentecostal service.

8 p. m.—Conference Claimants' Endowment Fund anniversary, St. James' Church.

8 p. m.—Epworth League anniversary, Central Church, Frankford.

Harmony ruled at the 129th session of the Philadelphia Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at St. James' Church, Tabor road and Water street, Olney, today, at which a resolution proposing the union of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South was offered.

The resolution, which came from the Southern body, was received favorably before being referred to a committee.

Rumors of strife and internal friction predicted for the meeting were stilled by Bishop Berry, president of the conference, in reply to an address of welcome.

"It has been said this is to be a trying and turbulent session," he said. "But I believe that this will not be the case Everything will move along in a quiet and harmonious manner and there is no doubt that we will have the most beautiful session this conference ever held.

"Of course," he continued, "there will be some disappointments when the assignments for the coming year are announced, but I think in the main that things are going to turn out to please you. I am inclined to think that there is a great deal of unnecessary apprehension in this matter. I have not done much in the last few weeks but to receive advice. But nothing has been determined. All the wisdom is not confined within the cabinet of this conference, however, and there are many things that you know that we should know in order to make our action successful."

Bishop Berry also said that he had moved into the neighborhood in which the conference is being held, and would devote his entire time and attention until the conclusion of the session to the service of the ministers in attendance.

FLORAL GIFT FOR BISHOP.

The bishop's address was in reply to an address of welcome by J. Sibley Felton, president of the board of trustees of St. James' Church. At the conclusion of his address he presented Bishop Berry with a huge basket of flowers, that stood seven feet high, on behalf of the women of the church.

"The lilies in the bouquet represent the purity of Bishop Berry's life," Mr. Felton said. "The yellow daffodils his golden deeds and the perfume signifies the sweet influence of his life."

Mr. Felton also presented the Bishop with a gavel of walnut, cherry and oak. The walnut came from the home of Jonah Wentz, one of the founders of St. James' Church; the cherry from the home of G. H. Bickley, who for 35 years was superintendent of the church and whose father furnished 11 sons and grandsons to the ministry, and the oak from the home of Samuel K. Felton, who was for 53 years a trustee of the church.

Mr. Felton also announced that St. James' debt had been paid and the mortgage burned 10 days ago. He said all cost of the conference would be borne by St. James' and called attention to the fact that it is now celebrating its 100th anniversary.

There were 176 ministers in attendance when the roll was called this morning. By noon there were more than 225 at the church. The conference stood at reverent attention while the secretary called the names of those who died since the last session.

CHURCH UNION PROPOSED.

The unification resolution was offered by the Rev. A. C. Kynett, of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, proposing the union of the Methodist body of the United States and especially the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South by the method of reorganization. The resolution called upon the church to make a suggestion acceptable to the entire church as a basis of possible union. A committee of five was appointed to consider the matter and report back to the conference which will then vote on the matter and render its decision at the quadrennial conference at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., in May. The committee consisted of the Revs. William G. Jones, of Grace Church; C. W. Green, of the Chestnut Hill Church; N. B. Masters, of the Lansdowne Church; Robert Crawford, of the Fletcher Church; W. H. Smith, of the Port Richmond Church. It is thought probable that the resolution will be adopted, as it has been favorably viewed in previous conferences, when the matter came up.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The officers at the 1915 conference were re-elected to serve at the present session. They are Robert C. Wells, secretary; W. E. P. Haas, Richard Radcliffe, Henry Franklin and W. Sands Fox, assistants; F. E. Graeff, biographical secretary; W. E. P. Haas, railroad secretary; Maris Graves, statistician; F. E. Graeff and Henry Huff, assistants; Thomas Kirkpatrick, treasurer emeritus; W. A. Ferguson, conference treasurer, E. W. Rushton, assistant; Cornelius Hudson, chorister.

The annual reports of the ministers were then read. In the gallery of the church were many women who manifested keen interest in the preliminary work of the conference. At later sessions they will take part in the discussion of missionary work.

Sessions similar to the one of today will be held at St. James' Church every weekday until next Tuesday, when the appointments for the coming year will be made. Other features of interest to be taken up at the meetings include the selection of delegates to the General Conference, to be held in May at Saratoga Springs, N. Y. Each afternoon at 4 o'clock the business sessions will be adjourned for a Pentecostal service. These will be conducted by the Rev. Dr. C. M. Boswell.

Although Bishop Berry asserts that there will be less than 100 pastoral changes this year, considerable speculation as to the nature of the appointments was heard among the ministers today. Of especial interest is the appointing of district superintendents to succeed the Rev. Frank P. Parkin, of the Central District; E. C. Griffith, of the West Philadelphia District; E. E. Burris, of the South District, and G. H. Bickley, of the North District.

"CLASSICAL BUMS" AS SALOON PATRONS

Remonstrants Against McMonegle's License Describe Conditions There as Intolerable

"Classical bums" that frequent a saloon at 2614 Lombard street and gather around an electric piano were the main cause of a protest made in the License Court today against the renewal of the liquor license of Edward F. McMonegle, the proprietor. Judge Barratt and Judge Davis, who heard the cases today, held the case under advisement and made no decision.

The protest against the "classical bums" was made by the University Settlement, which is just across the street. The first witness called was Miss Helen I. Duncan, of the Settlement. During her testimony she collapsed against the rail and but for the prompt application of cold water would have fainted. She had to be led from the courtroom, and Louis F. Burn took up the testimony where Miss Duncan had left off.

"What do you mean by a classical bum?" asked Judge Travis.

"He's a bum that's a bum all the time," answered Burns. "He's a bum because he enjoys it. He sings and laughs and discusses and argues all the questions of the day with any one that will talk to him. The McMonegle saloon is full of happy-go-lucky, classical bums. The worst is when they gather around the electric piano and try to sing. The harmony is terrible."

It was testified that boys that go to the Settlement dances go over to the saloon after the dance is over and drink till early morning. It became necessary, it was said, to have the dances last till 12 o'clock in the hopes that by that time the saloon would be closed. But such was seldom the case. The "Cheshire Cat," a notorious character in the neighborhood, was said to "hang around" the saloon day and night, and another reason for wanting the license revoked, was given by representatives of the settlement as the desire to drive this character out of the district.

John R. K. Scott represented Scott Cobbs, a colored man, who applied for a license to open a saloon at 4406 Fairmount avenue. This was said to be a colored neighborhood, and, according to Cobbs, even the church people in the neighborhood favor a bar. But, because it is a residential section, the new license was not granted by the court.

DISTILLER WHO WAS JAILED NOW PROMISES REPRISALS

J. P. Drumgoole Says He Is Victim of Malice and Persecution

READING, March 15.—J. P. Drumgoole, of Philadelphia, who was arrested in the courthouse on Monday, charged with nonpayment of taxes on his distillery in Robeson township, after his license had been renewed by the court, was released at 9:30 p. m. the same day, after payment, under protest, of the disputed taxes, amounting to $122. Mr. Drumgoole made this statement:

"I was kidnapped after appearing in the license court. It was a high-handed, malicious action. It wouldn't be tolerated in any other community. I am going to bring the matter before the Board of Judges and the Berks County Bar, to see whether they permit such practices.

"When lodged in the jail, I was subject to ridicule and permission was refused me to phone to my family.

"I am the man who discovered the 'joker' in the fake 'pure liquor bill' which Governor Stuart vetoed during his term of office, after it had passed both houses of Legislature. That is the reason I am being persecuted. I intend to take criminal action."

Drumgoole's distillery is the only one in the United States that makes liquor from rye flour.

DIES IN LEGISLATOR'S HOME

Patrick Kane, City Employe, Expires Suddenly

Patrick Kane, 58 years old, of 2208 Columbia avenue, was taken suddenly ill while talking with John Drinkhouse, member of the State Legislature from the 20th Legislative District, while in the Drinkhouse home, 2202 Oxford street, a few minutes after midnight this morning. Mr. Drinkhouse summoned aid and, according to the police, Kane died within a few minutes. Dr. W. Shea, of 1705 North 16th street, pronounced death due to acute indigestion.

Kane lived with his brother at the Columbia avenue address. He was a frequent caller at the Drinkhouse home and often enacted the part of caretaker while the family was away. Mr. Drinkhouse is connected with the office of the Receiver of Taxes in City Hall.

LOCOMOTIVE CREW SCALDED BY STEAM, BUT STICKS TO POST

Engineer and Fireman of P. R. R. Halt Train When Pipe Bursts on N. Y. Flyer

WORK DESPITE PAIN

An engineer and fireman saved the lives of several hundred passengers on a Pennsylvania Railroad train late last night, when a steam pipe burst in the locomotive and the men remained at their post, stopping the engine after they had been badly scalded.

The railroad men are Matthew McNearney, 42 years old, of 224 New Brunswick avenue, Rahway, N. J., and John M. Norton, 28 years old, of 208 Ridgeway avenue, Newark, N. J. They were in charge of a train that left Broad street at 10:20 o'clock for New York. They were approaching Tacony shortly before 11 o'clock when the accident occurred.

The "arch bar" of the engine broke, according to the authorities of the Pennsylvania Railroad, causing the escape of steam. The faces, arms and bodies of both men were covered with steam. In spite of their pain, they worked madly in an effort to repair the defect, while the train moved at high speed.

It continued for more than a quarter of a mile, when the men realized that the only chance of saving the passengers was to stop the train. Despite the blinding steam which filled the cab, the engineer succeeded in closing the throttle and applied the air brakes.

The passengers were frightened by the jar, but it is doubtful whether any of them knew of the heroism of the engineer and fireman and the dangers from which they had just emerged. The train came to a standstill at the Disston street crossing.

Another engine was dispatched to the scene and attached to the cars, while the broken locomotive was sidetracked. The train had been moving on the main track and traffic was delayed on the railroad for more than an hour.

The injured men were taken to the Frankford Hospital. Although their burns are severe, it was announced at the hospital this morning that their recovery was expected. Their families have been notified of their injuries. Unqualified praise was accorded them today at the offices of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

McCREA TO TEACH ECONOMICS

Announcement of Former Dean's New Duties Made in New York

Announcement of the formation of a school of business, to be attached to the Columbia University, at which Dr. Roswell C. McCrea, who recently resigned as dean of the Wharton School of Commerce and Finance in the University of Pennsylvania, will teach economics, has been made in New York. The new school of business will open next autumn. Instructors from prominent universities have received calls to accept chairs.

Dr. Solomon S. Huebner, an authority on insurance, and Guy R. Hubbart, both of the University of Pennsylvania, will lecture at the school of business on insurance, advertising and salesmanship.

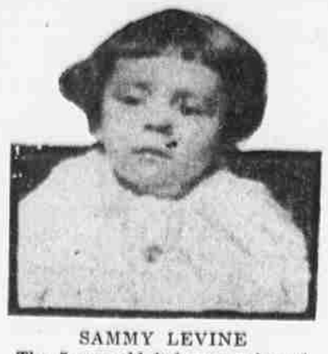
Methodists Meet for Conference

ALTOONA, March 15.—The 48th annual Central Pennsylvania conference of the Methodist Church was formally opened here this morning.

NINE GUESTS POISONED WHILE MARKING GIRL'S BIRTHDAY DOWNTOWN

One Man, Two Women and Six Children in Mt. Sinai Hospital Are Likely to Recover

LAY BLAME ON CAKE



SAMMY LEVINE
The 5-year-old lad was poisoned by cake eaten at a party.

Nine persons, stricken at a little girl's birthday party, are in the Mt. Sinai Hospital today, and chemists are analyzing part of a cake which is believed to have poisoned them.

All of the victims, six of whom are children, are expected to recover. They are Isaac Segal, 28 years old, 1343 South 5th street; Esther Segal, 24 years old, his wife; their children, 4-year-old Minnie and 2-year-old Beckie; their nephews, 11-year-old Abraham Segal, 9-year-old Reuben Segal and 4-year-old Morris Segal, all of 407 Dickinson street; Samuel Levin, 5 years old, of 1600 South 9th street, and Miss Rose Erkss, 20 years old, of 1315 Leithgow street.

The cake, which was the climax of the birthday party celebrating Minnie Segal's fourth anniversary, was baked by Mrs. Segal, the child's mother. It was served with other refreshments late last night. Little Minnie was the first to show symptoms of poisoning. She became violently ill, and while the others were endeavoring to relieve her pain they, too, were stricken. A physician was called in and he sent them all to the hospital. Some of them had narrow escapes.

The cake which is blamed was made according to an ancient Hebrew recipe, which included rice, sugar, milk and yeast. It is the last-named ingredient which is thought to have resulted so seriously. A piece of the cake is in the Mt. Sinai laboratories today.

GERMANTOWN FOES OF RUM "HAVE JUST BEGUN TO FIGHT"

No-License League Leaders Announce Their Purpose to Abolish Saloons in That Section

CRITICISE COURT RULING

The fight on the part of the No-License League, of Germantown, to cause the abolition of 52 saloons in the 27th Ward "has just begun," according to the Rev. Wayne Channel, pastor of St. Stephen's Methodist Episcopal Church, and one of the organizers of the league, despite the adverse opinion handed down by Judges Barratt and Davis, of the License Court, in rejecting the remonstrances prepared by the league, which contained the names of 3707 men and 1523 women.

"The rulings of the court were made in the interests of the saloons," the pastor asserted. "If legally possible, we will carry the case in the Superior Court." The latter was also the assertion of Walter L. Sheppard, attorney for the remonstrants.

In turning down the remonstrants yesterday the Judges ruled that the fact that the saloons were "not necessary" was not sufficient grounds for their abolition. Specific violations of the law, in the opinion of the Court, against any of the places mentioned would constitute a ground for some action.

"The whole proceedings in the court yesterday," declared the Rev. Mr. Channell, "has strengthened the conviction in my mind that the granting of these licenses should not have been placed in the hands of the Judges. There must be a change, so that the people directly should have an option that is local in giving saloon licenses."

According to the opinion of Judge Barratt, the court would have to assume the powers and prerogatives of the State Legislature if it carried out the wishes of the members of the league. The plea, according to the court, is not one of regulation. It prohibits.

"This is a matter for the Legislature," Judge Barratt said. "We have no right to legislate saloons out of business. The fact that many residents living in the neighborhood are opposed to the saloon is not a legal reason for revoking its license."

Attorney Sheppard declared that there was no need for 55 salons in Germantown. "Even if these saloons were once necessary," he argued, "there is no need for so many now."

Hugh Logan, prsident of the No-License League, asserted that the opinion of the Judges had already created enough sentiment in favor of local option to predict a victory for the anti-saloon forces, and that the league would go on with its work of getting more signers to the petitions.

Saloon owners are elated over their victory in the License Court and have retained City Solicitor John P. Connelly to plead their case for them. The City Solicitor asserted today that he anticipated no "worth-while" opposition to the granting of saloon licenses.

Medical Fraternity Meets

The Tri-Chapter banquet of the Phi Rho Sigma medical fraternity was held last night at Kugler's restaurant. The chapters represented were those at the University of Pennsylvania and Jefferson and Medico-Chirurgical colleges. The toastmaster was Professor L. Webster Fox. Speeches were mane by Dr. Ernest La Place, Dr. Judson Daland, Dr. W. H. Wells, Dr. A. E. Rouselle, Dr. Seneca Egbert, and the presidents of the respective chapters, F. A. Sharp, L. C. Druffner and W. F. Peters.

Firemen Overcome at Uptown Blaze

Oil fumes at a fire in the Blabon Oil Works, 22d street and Hunting Park avenue, resulted in three firemen being overcome last night. The men collapsed while fighting the blaze on the first floor. They were treated at the scene by police surgeons. The blaze, which was caused by spontaneous combustion in building No. 14, was not extinguished until three hours after a local alarm was sounded.