

PROGRESS OF THE DISTRICT

Shown in Annual Report of President Elder Griffin, Read at the Conference.

VOTE ON CONSTITUTION

Effort to Make Changes Was Defeated by a Vote of 96 to 38. Those Who Were Continued on the Superannuated List—F. N. Smith Dismissed to the Congregational Church at His Request—Devotional Exercises of the Afternoon Led by Rev. A. J. Van Cleft—Rev. Manley S. Hard, D. D., Had Charge of the Church Extension Anniversary at Night.

Special from a Staff Correspondent. West Pittston, April 11.—This was a very busy day at the conference. Absentees had all struggled in and the work was carried on with enthusiasm. The business schedule was strictly followed by Bishop Fowler. The sessions were crowded with visitors and were full of interest. There were continual breaks in the routine by the swift little gleams of humor which the bishop flashed into the proceedings.

Rev. W. L. Hiller conducted the devotional exercises. Rev. J. L. Rice offered prayer. Bishop Fowler officiated and conducted the business session at 9.30. Dr. Hard offered a resolution that Hon. William Connell should be elected to succeed himself as trustee of Syracuse university for the next six years. This vote eliciting him was unanimous. L. D. Palmer was named as reporter for the Northern Christian Advocate.

Dr. Hard read the report of the Historical society. Among the recent acquisitions of value to the society were the papers of a man whose work is inseparably associated with the history of Methodism.

The Ontario district was called, and Rev. T. E. Hall gave an interesting report. The amount of \$34,753 has been raised this year. Among the names of effective offers were called. It was stated that J. C. Johnson, because of illness, sought the superannuated relation. The case was referred to the committee on conference relations with a view to granting his request.

Report of Delinquents. The statistical secretary gave the report of delinquents and the bishop spoke strongly in the bishop's report of carelessness of conference members who thus delay the work of the statisticians.

The chief business of the morning, the vote on the church constitution, was then taken up. The bishop read the paragraphs of the discipline in which were comprised the changes. The general conference is composed of ministerial and lay delegates, "lay members," interpolated the bishop, "meaning any kind of members. The discipline says lay members, not lay men or lay women." The following is the text on the subject of the changes:

The general conference shall be composed of ministerial and lay delegates to be chosen as hereinafter provided.

A lay conference shall be instituted quarterly, or whenever duly called by the general conference, and for the purpose of voting on constitutional changes. It shall be composed of members, one from each pastoral charge within its bounds, chosen by the lay members of the charge over twenty-one years of age in such a manner as the general conference may determine. Those who have been duly returned shall be recognized as members, their certificates of election being evidence of their right to membership. However, in the case of a change of persons thus enrolled, such change shall be signed by at least six delegates, representing as many different annual conferences, three lay delegates and three ministerial.

Heretofore the bishops have constituted the highest court of appeal on seating delinquents. Under the new rules the delegates bring their own credentials.

Two-thirds Necessary. The concurrent recommendation of two-thirds of the members of the several annual conferences are necessary to decide a measure under the new constitution. Heretofore three-fourths of the requirement. No change can alter the standard of doctrine or faith. Delegates to the lay conference are elected by the church society, instead of the quarterly conferences.

The following is the text of the question on which the conference voted: The general conference of A. D. 1900, by a vote of 342 to 94, proposed and recommended a revised Constitution of the Methodist Episcopal church, and ordered it to be submitted to the annual conference of 1901 for their action thereon; and the said general conference also authorized the bishop, if the annual conference should occur in said recommendations by a vote of three-fourths of all the members present and voting, to thereupon declare said constitution to be duly adopted and in force as the constitution of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Said revised constitution is printed in the discipline for 1900, beginning with the preamble, on page 206, and continuing through page 262, and as thus printed is the constitution submitted to the annual conference for their vote thereon. The bishop put the question and on motion of Dr. Griffin, no debate was offered. The vote was again taken adopting the new measures by a majority of 96 against 38. The bishop stated incidentally: "It looks as if it might be carried by the majority of the conference; as for myself I have taken precaution to give no indication of which way I stand for I don't know myself."

Wyoming District. Dr. Griffin then gave the report of the Wyoming district, which appears below:

I will read a brief report. I cannot give with any degree of accuracy in detail the work done in Wyomington during the past year. The Wyoming district. A few facts only, and these simply stated without extended rhetorical embellishment. This district is regarded by not a few as the Eldorado of the conference. But even here much faith, great sacrifice and hard work are the conditions of success. Our work lies in the storm center of the conference.

For months this year we seemed to be in the crater of a volcano. The labor troubles for a time completely paralyzed business and had serious interference with the work of the churches. Ministerial support and especially the benevolence fund. It has been with great difficulty and in some instances an utter impossibility to hold our churches up to their former record in general benevolence, and especially in the case of missions. The miners' strike in the fall, from the effects of which we have not fully recovered, and the more recent strike of the

operatives in the silk mills, have wrought and have in the finances of a number of our churches. A number of our pastors have also been confronted with strange difficulty in raising their benevolence fund, although they have worked like trojans, I fear some will be compelled to report deficiencies in their apportionments. There are some who have been among our most generous contributors to the cause of missions, giving annually from \$50 to \$100, more or less, who this year reduce their subscriptions, or stop altogether, because they do not approve the policy of our government in the administration of affairs in our island possessions. They withhold from the cause of missions and charge it up to the mistakes of Mr. McKinley.

A Great Loss. We have also suffered great loss in the retirement of this line of some of our local financial supporters. A little while ago Mrs. Ruben Nelson, who gave annually through the Kingston church \$100 to the cause of missions, passed peacefully to her rest, leaving behind her by Caroline Pringle, a generous giver from the same church. Early in this conference year Mrs. Payne Pettibone, of Wyoming, was called to the other side. Her regular subscription for the cause of missions was \$500 annually; \$100 to support our preachers; \$50, or one-half the pastor's salary, and all other causes in proportion. An ardent and generous friend of our seminary. There has been a strange fatality in the Wyoming church of late. Sister Pettibone was followed by others in rapid succession who were prominent in church work until the membership has been sadly depleted by death. While the pastor and church have fought bravely, still there must inevitably be a large falling off in the collections from the bereaved families.

In common with the rest of mankind our pastors and people have suffered from the prevailing sickness during the winter. Revival services have been interrupted, and in some instances, as meetings were entirely suspended and some of the pastors laid aside temporarily from their work. Now, although our ranks have been depleted by the translation of these saints, both beloved and beloved, and we are facing the untoward conditions which have befallen us, still the battle is on. We are not here with trailing lambs, empty hands and dejected hearts. We are not here to mourn over churches bankrupt, congregations depleted, altars abandoned, God's praises hushed, temples in ruins, Sunday schools and Epworth societies abandoned and Zion languishing. But despite the labor troubles, Mr. McKinley's alleged mistakes, the moderate greed of the rich, the helpless poverty of the poor, the grip of the adverse winter, we are not here with our hands and feet bound. We have been able to do more than we have in any other year.

I desire to make grateful acknowledgment of the many kind friends who have been faithful to our pastors and their families. The silent reap of death has not entered a parcel in the district during the year. Brother H. L. Johnson, of the Wyoming district, died early in December, just at the close of a very successful revival resulting in the conversion of more than seventy souls. It is a great loss to the district. The fact that the district is largely free from the influence of demoralizing worldly amusements was emphasized. A majority of the people would stand in support of the Epworth League. \$2,000 in the discipline. At Athens a Brotherhood of St. Paul has been organized with great success.

The following were continued in the superannuated relation: Charles S. Alexander, John B. Allen, W. W. Andrews, Hiram G. Blair, John D. Bloodgood, Arthur G. Bloomfield, Thomas Burgess, Bishop B. Carruth, Gilbert M. Chamberlain, Leonard Cole, Ziba Evans, Richard C. Gill, Addison P. Harding, Richard H. Hill, Philip Holbrook, W. H. Hunt, J. Judd, George W. Leitch, Abraham W. Loomis, Joseph Madison, Philip M. Mott, David Personson, Charles L. Rice, Joseph B. Santee, Edgar Sibley, Cornelius Sweet, Young C. Smith, Samuel Stevens, Samuel M. Stone, Charles W. Todd, Purinton W. Tracy, Jonas Underwood, Seymour E. Walworth, James L. Wells, Luzerne A. Wild, Saunders F. Wright, Nelson J. Hawley, John V. Newell, Stephen H. Wood.

Cases Referred. The cases of P. J. Ruckman and C. W. Babcock were referred to the committee on conference relations. The following were referred to studies of the fourth year: W. S. Adams, Ernest Colwell, De Los H. Gridley, W. W. Watrous, Frank James. David Evans was continued in studies of the third year.

F. N. Smith was dismissed at his own request to the Congregational church and allowed to retain his parsonage. The benediction was pronounced by the bishop. The devotional exercises of the afternoon were conducted by Rev. Dr. A. J. Van Cleft. Rev. Dr. Paulsen presided over the session which followed. The first order of business was another innovation in its way. It was known as "candidates session." To a certain degree it typified more significantly the inner light of Methodism in this country, and was understood, than any other incident which has come up in many years. The service took the form of an "experience meeting," when the candidates for elders' orders came to the platform, one after another, and gave of their religious experience in their own lives; the conviction of sin, the conversion, the hopes, faith, doubts and fears. A large audience listened with the deepest interest and sympathy to these quiet recitals of the secrets of human hearts in their relation to the Infinite. E. B. Barker, B. R. Hanton, J. N. Meaker and George A. Warburton were the young men who took the platform, and while at first suffering from evident embarrassment, lost their self-consciousness in the earnest relation of their story, told with gentle simplicity and unmistakable sincerity.

Missionary Sermon. The missionary sermon of the conference was delivered by Rev. Dr. A. W. Hays, the brilliant pastor of the Tabernacle church, Birmingham. He spoke from Matt. 28: 7, giving an unbacked presentation of a much sermonized subject. The climax to the impassioned appeal for more earnestness in the missionary interest was one of the most striking incidents of the conference.

The evangelistic service was preceded by a hymn sung by the Wyoming conference quartette, after which Dr. J. W. Wilson, of Providence, R. I., gave an address, notable in the history of the conference. He has a mind keen, analytical and brilliant, and is an exponent of the simplicity of gospel preaching rather than the literary and scientific method employed to some extent in the modern pulpit. He made some strong statements regarding the tendency to regard it as a misfortune that one is a sinner rather than a crime voluntarily committed and which can be prevented. There is no liberty to do wrong in God's government. He remonstrated against the easy way to multiply church membership by spreading over the list, but giving no added power. It is a mistake for a pastor to take upon him for regeneration and "willing right" instead of righteousness. "The religious crank," said he, "is the crankiest kind of a crank," and followed with a significant allusion to one-time fad of paying the professional evangelist \$1,000 a week to run a machine-made revival. To find converts, them as self-confessed unbelievers in the faith they preached.

Evening Services. Dr. M. S. Hard presided over the Church Extension anniversary on the evening. Dr. J. A. Faulkner made a fine address on "The Church Building in History." He referred to the temple and synagogue and their place in the history of the Jewish church. The synagogue paved the way for Christianity, and was the nucleus of Christian societies. There were no church buildings in the first two centuries of Christian history. The speaker traced the history of

frankardous toil. For these men God writes across the face of the sky: "Our labor is not in vain in the Lord." It is faithfulness that wins at last. All honor to the reapers who come with rejoicing, bringing their sheaves with them. All honor also, to those who have waited for us, and followed the plough or "have sown in tears." But for such service and ministry, laid as it is, there could be no glad reaping time. Faithfulness wins whether behind the plough or scattering the seed or reaping golden sheaves. "The first sowing and he that reapeth receiveth wages." Let them rejoice together.

In calling the affectionate elders, S. Homan and M. L. Andarese were referred to the committee on conference relations. Dr. Mason was introduced and spoke on the work of the Freedmen's Aid society and was warmly supported by the earnest approval of the bishop. He called Dr. Hard to the platform, who spoke in the interest of Church Extension. Dr. Sweet gave a lucid and inspiring address on the subject of the annual deficit thereof. On motion of Dr. Fuller it was voted to appropriate the expense among the various districts.

Twenty-second Question. L. W. Treible was excused to attend a funeral, after which the twenty-second question was taken up, "Who are the supernumerary preachers?" The following were continued: S. J. Austin, Dayton C. Barnes, Chas. H. Jewell, Joshua S. Lewis, W. R. Netherlert, J. S. Southworth, W. G. Ward, C. W. Babcock.

The following figures are from Dr. L. C. Floyd's report of the Birmingham district: Total sum spent for improvements, \$13,350. The will of the late Mrs. H. H. Cray has made Methodist richer by the noble amount of \$74,250. There are 82 Sunday schools with 1,200 officers and teachers; 30 Epworth Leagues, with 1,200 members; 550 converts were reported.

Rev. George Forsythe, presiding auditor of the Otwego district, read a beautifully prepared report, which, as it marked the close of his six years' term, was in the nature of a farewell address. It was estimated that 600 converts were numbered for the year. The fact that the district is largely free from the influence of demoralizing worldly amusements was emphasized. A majority of the people would stand in support of the Epworth League. \$2,000 in the discipline. At Athens a Brotherhood of St. Paul has been organized with great success.

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Many Stores Combined Jonas Long's Sons. Many Stores Combined GREAT FRIDAY AFTERNOON HOURLY SALES The unmatched opportunities to save money during these Great Friday Afternoon Sales are due to our determination to make these Friday Sales increasingly popular. The successful efforts of the past are the foundation stones upon which we build our future endeavors. The list for this Friday's selling is interesting for two reasons. First, the prices are from ten to fifty per cent. below the regular prices, and second, the goods are the newest that money can buy

Sale No. 1 Begins Promptly at 2 O'clock. House Furnishing Goods. In the Basement. PLATES—An assortment of plain and festooned white Porcelain Plates. This is a full size plate the extreme measurement being 7, 8 and 9 inches. Friday for one hour, each 3c. FLOOR SIFTERS—Heavy tin, large size Rotary Floor Sifters, never sells for less than 10c. Friday for one hour... 7c. CLOTHING LINES—Braided, White, Cotton Clothes Line, 50 feet long; the every day price is 10c. Friday for one hour 7c. WASH BOILERS—No. 9 size heavy tin Wash Boilers, at any other time except this hour they are worth 50c. Friday for one hour 39c. TEA AND COFFEE POTS—A 3-quart size Agate or Peerless Enamelled Coffee and Tea Pots. You will pay for the ordinary quality of enamel much more than we are charging for these genuine agate tea and coffee pots. Friday for one hour 19c. WATER BOTTLES—The Perfection Water Bottle is the kind most easily cleaned; it has a detachable white metal band so adjusted that it adds much to the beauty of the bottle. There are four different sizes. Friday for one hour 39c. On Main Floor. SILKS—Full 20-inch wide. Heavy Cord Wash Silks in a variety of colorings such as lavender, turquoise, red, light blue, pink, old rose, and black and white. Regular value 50c. Friday for one hour... 39c. PONGEE SILKS—Choice designs in printed stripe pongee. There is an extensive range of colorings, including white, a very desirable fabric for shirt waists. Friday for one hour 39c. PERCALES—A choice assortment of medium and dark colored percales. The grounds are red and blue, with the newest design patterns, including scroll and vine ideas; this would be good value at 12 1/2c, per yard. Friday for one hour 7 1/2c. EMBROIDERIES—An extraordinary offering in fine quality nainsook and lawn embroideries. There is over 900 yards in the lot, but judging from the favorable comments thus far heard, they won't last the hour. There are many sets, with inserting to match. The widths range from 2 to 10 inches, the regular price ranges from 15c to 40c per yard. For one hour 12 1/2c. UMBRELLAS—A 36-inch Ladies' Colored Umbrella, with 20th century runner. The colors are garnet, navy and green. Judge them by the \$1.75 grade. Friday for one hour 1.29. CALICOES—A fine selection of the newest designs in calicoes that usually sell for 6 cents. Friday for one hour 4c. Second Floor. OVERALLS—Boys' Brownie Overalls, made of good heavy blue denim, with apron front and suspender back. For one hour 99c. Fourth Floor. ROCKERS—This is the last item, but to many it will be the most important. Oak and mahogany finished parlor rockers in saddle or cabinet seats—double rail backs, close heavy ornamental understock, good value at \$2.50. Friday for one hour 1.75

Jonas Long's Sons The Cheapest Shoe Store Myer Davidow, The Cheapest Shoe Store 307 Lackawanna Avenue. Shoes and Oxfords for Men and Women At \$1.50, \$2.00, 2.50, \$3.00, \$4.00, \$5.00, In Russia Calf, Velour Calf, Patent Leather and Patent Kid, all styles, all widths and all sizes. It will pay you to see them before buying elsewhere. Special Bargains for Today and Saturday: Men's Shoes Ladies' Shoes THE BEST IN THE WORLD IS A HANAN SHOE Men's Enamel and Box Calf hand-sewed, \$3.50 shoes at \$1.98. Men's Russia Calf \$3.00 shoes at \$1.98. Men's Vici Kid, leather lined, \$2.50 shoes, at \$1.69. Men's Dress Shoes at 98c, \$1.29 and \$1.49. Men's Working Shoes at 98c, \$1.25 and \$1.50. WE HANDLE ONLY UNION-MADE. MYER DAVIDOW, The Cheapest Shoe Store. 307 Lackawanna Avenue.

Yes, McKinley likes short names. And now I hear that he is going to be again named Knox to be attorney general when Mr. Griggs resigns this month. That will make Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock and Secretary of Agriculture Wilson feel pretty lonesome. Mr. Whitney has recently purchased what is considered the best Van Dyke in existence, and is said to have paid \$20,000 for it. It is a portrait of William de Villiers, Viscount Grandison, the favorite courier of King Charles I., at whose order it was painted and in whose boudoir it hung until after his death. It represents De Villiers, life size, in the attire of a cavalier of the seventeenth century, whose high boots, deep lace collar and a hat with brilliant plumes. At the recent celebration of the 30th anniversary of the man named Knox to be attorney general, and was the picture brought together at Antwerp, and this portrait was universally conceded to be the most perfect and characteristic example of his genius.