

METHODISTS OF STATE TO MEET

Conference Will Be Held in Shelbyville in September.

LONG PROGRAM IS ANNOUNCED

Gathering Will Open on Thursday, September 9 and Close on Monday, the 15th—Bishop McDowell to Preside at Sessions.

Springfield.—For the third time in the history of Illinois Methodism, the annual session of the Illinois conference is to be held in Shelbyville this fall.

The first session held here was in 1870, with the late Bishop Simpson presiding. The second session was in 1889, when the late Bishop Foster was in the chair. The approaching session, which will be the nineteenth annual meeting of the conference, will be presided over by Bishop William F. McDowell, and will open Tuesday evening, September 9.

The tentative program for the conference session follows:

Tuesday, September 9—7:15 p. m., organ recital; 7:45 p. m., sermon, Rev. M. S. Rice, Duluth, Minn.

Wednesday, September 10—8:30 a. m., conference session; 11:45, adjournment; 1:30 p. m., meeting of committees; 2, meeting of board of examiners with undergraduates; 2, anniversary of our conference interests; 1, Domestic Missionary society; 2, Historical society; 2, Preachers' Aid society; 4, address, Rev. M. S. Rice; 6:45, street preaching; 7:45, anniversary; 1, Freedmen's Aid society; 2, Board of Foreign Missions.

Thursday, September 11—8:30 a. m., conference session; 11:45, adjournment; 1:30 p. m., meeting of committees; 2, conference examiners; 2, anniversary of women's work; 1, Woman's Home Missionary society, address by Dr. W. H. Wilder; 2, Woman's Foreign Missionary society; 4, address, Rev. M. S. Rice; 6:45, street preaching; 7:45, lecture, to meet conference expenses.

Friday, September 12—8:30 a. m., conference session; 11:45, adjournment; 1:30 p. m., meeting of committees; 2, meeting of board of examiners; 2, anniversary of Anti-Slavery league; 2, anniversary of Brotherhood; 4, address, Rev. M. S. Rice; 5:15, annual educational banquet; 6:45, street preaching; 7:45, anniversary of board of education.

Saturday, September 13—8:30 a. m., conference session; 10, reading report of committee on education; 11, joint session of preachers and laymen; 11:45, adjournment; 1:30 p. m., meeting of Preachers' Aid society; 2, address, Rev. M. S. Rice; 3, open air meeting and recreation at Forest park; 6:45, street preaching; 8:30, anniversary of Episcopacy; 7:30, anniversary of Home Missionary and Temperance societies.

Sunday, September 14—9:30 to 12, services in auditorium and various churches; 2 p. m., annual missionary sermon, the Rev. George W. Flagg, D. D.; 3, ordination services; 7:30, anniversary of Home Missionary and Temperance societies.

Monday, September 15—Closing up of business, reading of appointments, adjournment.

The Illinois Conference Laymen's association, of which George S. Tarkenton of Artois, is president, and John M. Olsson of Charleston is secretary, will open its annual session in this city on the Friday afternoon of the conference week, and will have meetings Friday and Saturday. Many of the laymen will remain in the city over Sunday.

State Contracts Awarded.

The awarding of contracts for the quarterly supplies of state charitable institutions was begun by the state board of administration.

Chicago firms protested largely. Contracts awarded included the following:

Sugar—237,500 pounds, \$4.35 to \$4.50 per 100 pounds to Campbell & Holton, Bloomington.

Flour—5,323 barrels, to C. F. Mundy.

Fresh meat—For Waterbury, Peoria, Chicago state hospitals, the blind and deaf institutions at Jacksonville, Soldiers' and Sailors' home at Quincy—to the Cudahy company, Chicago.

For Lincoln State School and Colony, blind infirmary, Chicago—Armour & Co., Chicago.

For Jacksonville State Hospital, Chester State hospital and Soldiers' and Orphans' home at Normal—to Morris & Co., Chicago.

For Kankakee State hospital, Anna State hospital—to Swift & Co., Chicago.

For Elgin State Hospital, Girls' School at Geneva and Boys' School at St. Charles—to the Karber Packing company, Elgin.

Crops in Good Condition.

Despite adverse weather conditions the wheat yield in Perry, Jackson and Franklin counties is much larger than last year.

On many farms the yield is averaging 15 bushels to the acre. A. G. Koth, living west of here, averages 30 bushels to the acre. The grain is of splendid quality and farmers are hoping for a top price. The corn crop will be far above the average. This is especially true of Perry and Union counties.

ILLINOIS HAPPENINGS

Galesburg.—Five persons were injured and a score of others badly frightened when two Rock Island Southern Interurban street cars met in a head-on collision between Galesburg and Monmouth. The motorists escaped death by jumping. The cars were telescoped. A switch left open by mistake caused the wreck. The injured: Ed Miller, Monmouth, modernism, right hand cut by flying glass; H. F. Parkins, East Galesburg, back sprained, internal injuries; Albert Riley, Cameron, cut on forehead, leg crushed; Anton's Swanson, Galesburg, leg hurt; Albert Carter, Galesburg, injured on legs and internally.

Jerseyville.—Mrs. Hattie Ryan and her five-year-old son, Stewart, and three-year-old daughter, Lillian, were killed in a collision. The buggy in which they were driving to church was struck by an Alton passenger train a mile south of Jerseyville. Engineer Johnson failed in the collision. The train traveled almost a quarter of a mile before the fireman recovered from the shock and stopped it. On the pilot of the engine were found the bodies of the children, tangled in shreds of the buggy top.

Chicago.—A gasist 100 feet high floating the Stars and Stripes and pennant of the Illinois department, Daughters of the American Revolution, in honor of the Illinois soldiers of the war of 1812, will be erected at Starved Rock, near Rockford, Ill., Saturday, September 6, 1913, according to plans determined at a meeting of the state officials of the society and the committee on flag-raising, with the state regent, Mrs. George A. Lawrence of Galesburg.

Danville.—A stranger identified by receipts found in his pocket as T. S. Maxwell, residence unknown, and further identified by tattooed initials "T. S. M." on his arm, was found in an empty boxcar in the Wash freight terminal at Tilton, Ill., miles west of Danville, discloses mysterious firing of three shots there at the railroad, followed by the flight down the railway tracks of a half-clad, shoeless and hatless man in the direction of Danville. The body contained three bullet holes and in the car with it was a hat, shoes and coat, apparently belonging to the murderer. In the pocket was a pay envelope of John Marlow from Detroit manufacturing concern. Unidentified followed the tracks to Bismark, twelve miles north, an improbable distance for a barefoot man to travel over railway ballast.

Elgin.—Joy riding cost one girl's life and resulted in the injury of four other persons, one of whom is in a critical condition. All were from Elgin. Miss Ruby Wood, sixteen years old, was killed, and Mrs. Nellie O'Connor, Robert Costello, Earl Marlow and Lillian Volpe, each twenty, were seriously hurt. The party was returning to Elgin from the speedway and in attempting to pass another car their machine swerved and crashed into a tree. Miss Volpe collapsed later, and physicians pronounced her condition serious, saying there was a possibility of hemorrhage into the lungs. The condition of Miss O'Connor is critical.

Duquoin.—After a continuous service of twenty-five years as secretary of the Main Street Christian Sunday school of this city, a record without precedence here, Thomas W. Miffin, a business man, has tendered his resignation. He will be succeeded by William B. Lee, who has assumed his new duties. Mr. Miffin became secretary of the Sunday school when seventeen years old, and in the quarter of a century since has been absent very few times.

Chicago.—Thomas McCarthy, a sixty-nine year old crossing watchman, gave his life to save two boys, eight and ten years old, from death under a locomotive. The two boys were about to cross in front of a railroad train at a crossing. McCarthy threw himself in front of the train to drive the boys back. The boys jumped out of the way, but the old man was killed instantly.

Duquoin.—The congregation of the First Baptist church of Marion has extended a call to Dr. W. P. Thompson, editor of The Illinois Baptist. Mr. Thompson is called to succeed Rev. G. W. Allison, who recently resigned to accept the pastorate of the First Baptist church of East St. Louis.

Jacksonville.—W. A. Furr, who has been accepted as the Jacksonville public schools for six years, has resigned to accept an appointment of the model school of the Southern Illinois State Normal in Carbondale at a salary of \$2,200.

Marion.—Albert Warren, thirty years old, was sentenced to eleven years in prison, after a jury had returned a verdict finding him guilty of charges brought by his own child, a girl sixteen years old, Walter Warren, Albert's twenty-one-year-old brother, entered a plea of guilty to the same charges and was sentenced to six years. The grand jury, after conducting an inquiry into the killing of Oscar McCoy by Henry Norman three weeks ago, sentenced Norman, as the coroner's jury had done.

How Can God Declare One Righteous Who Is Not Righteous?

By REV. H. W. POPE

Superintendent of the
Monthly Bible Institute, Chicago

TEXT.—Therefore being justified by our Lord Jesus Christ—Romans 1:1.

The word just means to reckon or declare righteous. Forgiveness is a negative term, meaning to put away or remit. Justification is a positive act, and means not simply forgiving the sinner, or letting him off from the punishment which he deserves, but declaring him righteous (Rom. 4:5).

How can God reckon one righteous who is not righteous? This is a fair question and we give face to it. Suppose a merchant in a small town had fallen into debt. He is not a good buyer, he is not accurate in his accounts, and he is shiftless. Suppose a rich uncle who has made a fortune in the same business, and has retired, should pay him a visit. After a few days he says to his nephew: "John, I hear bad reports about you; people say that you are sadly in debt and that your credit is poor. I have had a good year, and I believe I will help you. If you will foot up all your debts I will give you a check for the whole amount."

John accepts his offer and pays off his creditors. As they get out of the store they say to one another: "We are fortunate in getting our money this time, but we will not trust him again. He is the same shiftless John, and he will soon be as badly in debt as ever." Now what has his uncle accomplished for John? He has paid his debts, but he has not restored his credit.

Suppose, on the other hand, that the uncle had said: "John, I have been out of business a few years and I find that I am getting rusty. I like this town and I have about decided to go into partnership with you." John is delighted, of course. The uncle says: "I will put in all my capital and experience, but he will soon be as badly in debt as ever." Now what has his uncle accomplished for John? He has paid his debts, but he has not restored his credit. In the other case he restored his credit by going into partnership with him.

God's law says that the soul which sinneth shall die. When Jesus took our place on the cross and died for our sins, that paid our debt, but it did not restore our credit. It did not make us righteous. Had there been no resurrection of Jesus we could not have been justified, though it is conceivable that we might have been forgiven. But when Jesus rose from the dead and identified himself with us by faith, coming into our heart and taking possession of our life, then he not only paid our debts, but he restored our credit. He made it possible for God to declare us righteous, and we have gone into partnership with a righteous Savior, who has not only kept the law perfectly himself, but who is able to help us to keep it. He is the managing partner, and we simply obey his orders. We have even taken down the old sign, and now we bear his name—Christians.

Martin Luther said: "If any one knocks at the door of my heart and inquires if Martin Luther lives here, I should reply, 'Martin Luther is dead, and Jesus Christ lives here.' " Paul had the same idea. For he said: "I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." For we are dead and your life is in us. We are dead, and your life is in us. If Jesus lived in a holy life in one body he is surely able to do it in another, if that body is yielded to his control. God then can properly and justly reckon his believers righteous because of his union with the righteous Savior who has atoned for his past sins by his death on the cross. He who guarantees his present and future conduct because that life has been committed to his keeping.

If, as he says, he is "able to save unto the uttermost," able to keep us from falling (2nd Pet. 1), and if he guarantees to present us before the presence of God's glory absolutely faultless, surely God can safely reckon us as righteous. The ground of our justification then is not what we are, but whose we are, not our own good works, or our desire to be righteous, but our union with the Lord Jesus, who was "delivered for our iniquities, and was slain for our justification" (Rom. 4:25).

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