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Kentucky's Problems Discussed By States Leading Men In Conference At The University

The State Conference on Kentucky Problems was held at the University of Kentucky March 4 and 5. Three sessions were devoted to the program Tuesday and two Wednesday. "Carry On" was the slogan voiced by the speakers who discussed reconstruction problems confronting the State and means of perpetuating public spirit and co-operation brought about by the war in every section of the Commonwealth. Community organization was declared to be the only practical instrument for solving the problems arising out of the war and insuring to the State in the future the progress and prosperity desired by its citizens.

Education in Kentucky presents by far the greatest problem now before the citizens, and the speakers of Tuesday touched on the blight of illiteracy and the necessity of eliminating it within the next year at any cost. Edwin P. Morrow, of Somerset, in his address on "The Moonlight School" put before the audience the facts concerning illiteracy in the State.

Dr. Archibald Dixon, of Henderson, in his discussion of the "Care of Defectives" said that there would never be progress in the attendance in rural schools as long as present political conditions in the State continued.

The educational bills pending in Congress and the reforms sought by each were enumerated by Professor George Baker, of the University, who outlined all legislation enacted by the Sixty-fifth Congress which pertained to education.

The meeting opened with community singing led by Professor Carl Lampert, director of music at the University, and was called to order by Judge Edward W. Hines, of Louisville, chairman of the Kentucky Council of Defense.

In his opening address before the Kentucky Problems Conference at the University of Kentucky, March 4-5, Judge Edward Hines said:

"Community organization and co-operation alone have made possible the wonderful achievements of the various war agencies which have been such important factors in helping to win the war, and we must find the way to make effective that same spirit of community co-operation for the solution of our peace-time problems.

"During the war the men, women and children of Kentucky have been ready to make almost any sacrifice they were called upon to make for their country, and if we could have throughout this land of ours that same readiness to serve the public in times of peace, we would have an ideal democracy. And while that ideal state is not to be expected at least make an earnest effort to preserve for the solution of our peace-time problems as much as we can of that spirit of public service which has been developed by the war.

"We have asked you, therefore, to come here not only for the objects already named, but that we may counsel together for the purpose of finding the way to keep alive that spirit of public service and to make effective for the solution of the problems which now confront us that spirit of community co-operation which has been such an important factor in the success of the various war activities which have been carried on by our civilian army at home.

"It is for that reason we have given community organization such a large place in the program. But an abstract discussion of community organization would be of little value, and so we have given an opportunity to consider the various elements of community organization, and some of the Kentucky problems in the solution of which community organization and community co-operation may be important factors.

"Education in good citizenship, therefore, is our greatest need, and

one of the things upon which we hope to get light from this conference is how community organization and community co-operation may help to solve this problem."

President F. L. McVey, in his welcoming address to the delegates of the Conference for the consideration of Kentucky Problems Tuesday, March 4, said in substance:

"The specific problem may be divided into four groups, education, public health, industry, efficient government and community organization. The recent disclosures made by the Secretary of War concerning the illiteracy of the men in the United States Army indicate that in America we have a very serious education problem before us. In the United States the percentage of illiteracy is 7.77 and in Kentucky 11 per cent. We must have in our Commonwealth a better school system, more adequate organization and a larger and more sympathetic attitude on the part of local communities towards it. How can a State expect very much in the way of leadership when there are but 220 high schools and only 2,400 seniors annually graduating from these schools? Nor is the result that we get from such education satisfactory. We need greater accuracy of thought, and this requires the establishment on a broader basis than now exists the teaching of the sciences and of the arts in our public schools and more emphasis must be placed upon American government and the history of our government.

"The public health problems assume larger and larger proportions as we become acquainted with them. The revelations of the War Department relative to the physical condition of the army are astounding. Somehow or other we have failed to bring up physically fit citizen. Venereal diseases are far more widespread in their effect upon the public health than was thought. Out of the quota of 75,000 men that were sent from Kentucky to the National Army, the War Department tells us that 3,77 were victims of venereal disease. The question that now confronts us is whether the communities throughout the country are going to take up the challenge that was laid down by the army and whether by a process of education and a proper police system this menace to public morals and public health is going to be renewed."

Arthur W. McMahon, chief of the Federal Age class Section, Council of National Defense, in addressing the delegates at the Conference on Kentucky Problems, said:

"The adjustment of relations between employers and employees, the extension and extensive realization of highway, education in all its phases, sanitation, especially in rural communities, and similar problems are national, irrespective of the governmental units which deal with them.

"The greatest problem incident to the abrupt cessation of hostilities is unemployment, which follows demobilization, but Kentucky is comparatively free from that at the present time. "Reconstruction means the recurrence of old problems. The war has made some of them acute, given the people a new view point on them, and shown the power of organization in solving them. They increasingly require community organization, now indispensable."

Speakers on the program for the Kentucky Problems Conference, March 5, were: Dr. Arthur N. McCormack, of Bowling Green; Miss Elizabeth Breckinridge, Louisville Normal School; Charles F. Huhlein, of Louisville; Dr. C. S. Gardner, of the Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; Dr. A. J. Ganvoort, of the Cincinnati College of Music; Elwood Steele, of the Louisville Conference of Social Workers; James E. Rogers, War Camp Community Service, New York

City; Mat S. Cohen, Frankfort; Surgeon L. L. Lumsden, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington; Miss V. Lorimer, director of Lake Division American Red Cross Department of Nursing; Arthur W. McMahon, Chief of the Federal Agencies Section, Council of National Defense, and Mrs. Helm Bruce, chairman Kentucky Division Women's Committee, Council of National Defense. The conference was concluded Wednesday afternoon.

In his plea for better health conditions in the State Dr. McCormack said in part:

"Kentucky's health problem may be discussed under three heads: (1) Invoice of health conditions so as we may know which need remedying. (2) Invoice of health agencies so necessary additions may be estimated and provided for. (3) What is to be done now?

"In Kentucky we have about 30,000 deaths each year and a few more than 60,000 births. Of the deaths not only are practically 14,000 each year from diseases which we now know how to prevent, but the enormous sick rate of which these 14,000 deaths are the ultimate and tangible result would likewise have been entirely prevented had modern sanitary knowledge been applied by the people themselves at the right time.

"Wherever English is spoken during 1918, which has been an average year so far as sickness and death have been concerned, preventable illness has cost the people of Kentucky in unnecessary doctors', druggists' and nurses' bills and loss of time from work, \$76,549,828. During the same time, in its dead citizens, valued by economists purely as machines at \$1,700 each, that the Commonwealth has lost \$41,211,400 in the unnecessary premature and preventable deaths that have occurred. As badly as the State needs many things, it is wasting the enormous equivalent in human flesh and blood of \$117,761,228 a year in wholly unnecessary sickness and death, at least three-fourths of which is readily preventable and should and can be prevented within ten years."

The following persons registered at the University for the Kentucky Problems Conference, held Tuesday and Wednesday, March 4 and 5:

L. C. Bosley, Danville city schools; Oscar B. Falles, Boyle county schools; Arthur W. McMahon, Washington, D. C.; Miss Lida Hafford, Miss Jessie C. Yancey, Frankfort; Miss Stiles, Frankfort; Judge Edward W. Hines, Louisville; Mrs. Helm Bruce, State Woman's Chairman, Council of National Defense, Louisville; Miss Annie S. Anderson, Louisville; Miss Ollie Mae Arick, Cleveland; Miss Alexina E. Booth, Louisville; E. T. McBarney, Newport; Owsley Brown, Louisville; S. R. Collins, West Liberty; George S. Cotman, Winchester; Everett Dix, Berea; Daniel Durbin, Cynthiaia; S. S. Elam, Lexington; Oscar B. Falles, Danville; J. A. Frang, Russell; Miss Lida E. Gardner, Carlisle; Mrs. R. H. Graham, Louisville; Mrs. Julia R. Gunn, Lexington; B. N. Harrison, Williamstown; W. O. Hopper, Mt. Sterling; D. Johnson, Clinton; C. A. Leonard, Jackson; J. W. Ramey, Russell; Mrs. H. G. Reynolds, Paducah; James Edward Rogers, Newport; George E. Stephens, Louisville; Leila Mae Stiles, Frankfort; R. C. Stoll, Lexington; Edward W. Taylor, Frankfort; Mrs. George W. Taylor, Carlisle; Miss Rebel Withers, Lexington; H. H. Wood, Wildie; H. H. Young, Morehead; L. F. Zerfoss, Lexington; R. A. Smithers, Wisemanstown; Mrs. T. B. Pearson, Nicholasville; Mrs. Samuel Halley, Lexington; Mrs. Amelia C. Craig, Danville; Mrs. S. E. Rue, Danville; Miss Amanda O. Eades, Danville; W. H. Roberts, Danville; Mrs. H. C. Blackburn, Georgetown; Mrs. W. H. Coffman, Georgetown; Thomas Cooper, Mrs. B. B. McIntee, Otis Kercher, D. D. Slade, J. Virgil Chappman, S. D. Averted and O. M. Slapp, Lexington; Ed J. McDermott, Theo P. Caldwell, Charles F. Huhlein, and R. C. Ballard Thurston, Louisville; John L. Graham, Owensboro; J. W. Ireland

Christian Association Workers Thresh Out Interesting Questions

The conference of Christian association workers and students, held at the University of Kentucky, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 28, March 1 and 2, was attended by forty faculty members and 120 student delegates from colleges and universities of the State. Among the prominent speakers who addressed the delegates were Dr. O. E. Brown, of Vanderbilt University faculty, now Y secretary at Camp Oglethorpe, Georgia; J. Lovell Murray, New York, educational secretary of the Student Volunteer Movement; W. H. Tinker, Y. M. C. A. secretary of the south; H. L. Seamons, State student secretary of Ohio; Dr. A. W. Fortune, of Transylvania and President McVey.

The conference was under the direction of Karl Zerfoss, former student of the University, now State Student Y. M. C. A. secretary, who worked hard and earnestly for the success of the conference.

The first meeting was held Friday evening in the Y. M. C. A. rooms and 114 persons were present and were welcomed by President McVey, who said that he greeted them in the spirit of realization that such bodies would solve the world's problems in years to come. Dr. Benjamin Bush, of the Presbyterian church, Lexington, led the devotional exercises; E. F. Dabney, junior in the College of Law, was made student chairman of the conference and A. E. Morrison, of Centre College, was elected recording secretary.

Saturday morning the faculty and students met for devotional exercises, led by Dr. Henry Meiers, of Centre College. Addresses were made by Dr. A. W. Fortune on "Bible Study"; President McVey on "Social Service"; and by Dr. L. Brown on "The Obligations of Students to Carry On."

After the devotional exercises the faculty members adjourned for a spe-

cial program and the student delegates formed into groups for the discussion of various subjects. R. F. Sellers, Y. M. C. A. secretary at Berea College, took charge of the groups of college Y. M. C. A. presidents; Doctor Murray took charge of those interested in the student volunteer movement; Mr. Seamons discussed social service with a group and Mr. Tinker directed the work of Bible students.

Dean C. R. Melcher presided at the faculty conference. The speakers were Judge Lyman Chalkley, College of Law, University of Kentucky; Dr. John L. Hill, Georgetown College; Dr. George Ragland, Transylvania College; Dr. J. B. Mead, Berea College and Dr. A. B. Croner, Transylvania. At noon the members had luncheon in the cafeteria of the University and Dr. Brown and Mr. Tinker addressed the conference.

Saturday afternoon the Reverend R. R. Murphy, of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, of Louisville, led the devotional exercises at the student meeting. Dr. Murray spoke on "The Practical Problems of Missions in the Colleges," and secretary R. W. Owen, Mr. Tinker and Mr. Seamons on "The Collection of War Work Pledges." The work of the annual Blue Ridge conference was presented by Mr. Tinker and Dr. Brown.

Mr. Seamons had charge of the devotional service in the evening when Dr. Murray was the principal speaker. Preceding the address there was a song service by a group of University girls and a violin solo by Professor Lampert. After the address a reception was given in the recreation room at Patterson Hall by Patterson and Maxwell Hall girls.

Dr. J. Ernest Thacker spoke Sunday afternoon in the chapel of the University on the subject "There is no Fault in Him." This address closed the conference.

WAR PROBLEMS FORUM OPENED BY THE Y. M. C. A.

A free course of lectures and discussions has been arranged for the faculty, students and patrons of the University of Kentucky by R. W. Owens, Y. M. C. A. secretary. The series is entitled "A Forum of War Problems." The topics and leaders are:

Thursday, March 6—"China at the Peace Conference," Judge Lyman Chalkley.

Thursday, March 13—"Russia and Bolshevism," Professor Arthur W. Calhoun.

Thursday, March 20—"A League of Nations," Dr. Frank L. McVey.

Thursday, March 27—"Palestine and Its Problems," Dr. Benjamin J. Bush.

Thursday, April 3—"Democracy and Industry," Dr. Edward Weist.

Thursday, April 10—"Belgium Before and After the War," Victor Bogaert.

Thursday, April 17—"Mexican Problem and a World Peace," Professor William E. Butt.

Thursday, April 24—"Some Features of Our War Labor Problem," Dr. Edward J. Tutthill.

MAJOR BYARS TAKES UP WORK AT UNIVERSITY

Major David O. Byars, recently appointed professor of military science at University of Kentucky, arrived in Lexington March 6 and took up his duties at once. He was introduced to the student body at chapel exercises Friday, March 7.

Major Byars was a former student at the University, is a graduate of West Point and comes to Kentucky from Washington, where he was a member of the staff of the Inspector General.

STROLLERS TAKE IN TWENTY-SIX MEMBERS

Twenty-six students of the University of Kentucky have been received as members of the Strollers, the student organization of the University. The Strollers play committee is busy considering a suitable play to be presented by the organization this year.

The new members are: Euryne E. Bell, Margaret Smith, Lougenia Billings, Angie Hill, Duane K. Rogers, Frances Marsh, Loraine West, Margaret Harbison, Nancy Smock, Carlisle Chenault, Anna Nelson, Belle Sale, J. Burton Prewitt, Mary Heron, Ella Brown, W. J. Moore, Mary Elizabeth Davis, J. Donald Dinning, Evelyn Thomas, Henrietta Bedford, Elizabeth Robinson, Mary Elizabeth James, Aleine Fratman, Viola Clarence Swearingen, Mina Frances White, Fannie Heller.