

N. A. A. C. P. CONFAB LARGELY ATTENDED

Cleveland Proves Royal Hostess To Interesting Delegates — Race Prob- lems Discussed.

CLEVELAND, O., July 3.—The 20th annual Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People opened impressively Wednesday evening, June 26, at 8 p. m. at the Mt. Zion Congregational Temple, E. 55th street and Central avenue, with a welcome address by Mayor John D. Marshall and speeches by Mary White Ovington, chairman, N. A. A. C. P. board of directors, and Dr. W. E. Burghardt DuBois, editor, The Crisis.

Promptly at 8 o'clock, the half-hour musical program, that preceded all the evening sessions, was rendered by the Maxwell Quartette, and at 8:30 the meeting was opened. Miss Ovington spoke on "Twenty Years of the N. A. A. C. P.," telling of the struggles of the association to get started. William English Walling, Dr. Chas. F. Thwing, president emeritus, Western Reserve University; John R. Shillady, Villard, Charles Russell, Henry Moscowitz are some of the names she mentioned as being identified with the work in its early stages.

According to Miss Ovington, the first case that the association handled was the case of Pink Franklin of South Carolina. A case of peonage. In 1911, the fight against lynching was started. It was a difficult task to arouse the white

people against the evil of lynching in those days, most of them thinking that rape was the cause of all lynchings. It was also hard to get Negroes interested in the cause; but in 1919 when the migration of the Negro to northern cities started, the Negro became more interested in the work of the association and since that time the work has been more and more under the leadership of Negroes. James Weldon Johnson, she said, was the first colored secretary of the association. Pickens and DuBois were selected to carry on the work and since that time the interest of people all over the country, especially of the Negro, has been greater. She closed her speech with a challenge: "Up to this time most of the support of the N. A. A. C. P. has come from white people; but the time has come when the Negro must support his own organization. Are you going to do it? There is no Negro in these United States who has not the same rights of citizenship as the white man."

DuBois Speaks
 Dr. W. E. B. DuBois followed Miss Ovington with an address on "What the N. A. A. C. P. Has Meant in American Life." He spoke of the effect of the association on the American mind, telling of the struggle to change the mind and attitude of the people toward the Negro and his rights.

Thursday, June 27
 Thursday evening the conference was held at Shiloh Baptist Church, E. 55th street and Scovill avenue. Arthur Spingarn presided. Miss Nannie H. Burroughs, president of the National Training School for Women and Girls, Washington, D. C., was the principal speaker. Her subject was "America—A Democracy With a Millstone About her Neck." "Race prejudice is the millstone about the neck of American democracy. There is more race prejudice in America than there is practical Christianity. The race problem is not the problem of the Negro; but the problem of the American people." The American people, Miss Burroughs said, put color before character. The two most distressing things in America today, according to Miss Burroughs, are: 1. "To see white people satisfied with simply being white, and 2. "To see the millions of Negroes who are satisfied and sightless." She cited cases of prejudice as she has observed them in the South and told of some of the horrors of Jim Crowism and segregation.

Prejudice an Economic Problem—Johnson
 Miss Burroughs was followed by Charles S. Johnson, director, department social service, Fisk University, who spoke on "The Economic Foundation of Race Prejudice." "Race prejudice," said Mr. Johnson, "is class prejudice. Economics play a big part in the racial situation." He attempted to show that race prejudice is not instinctive, but is based on economic conditions. He spoke of the antipathy of the slave holders for the poor whites during slavery days and told of the reaction of the whites toward the Chinese and Japanese when they threatened the economic security of the whites.

Edwin R. Embree, president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, gave a brief talk on "Citizens of a Common Country." He said in part, if the Negro wants to be recognized as an equal of the white man he must not ask for special privileges because of his race.

Pickens Makes Speech
 Friday evening Mrs. Sallie W. Steward, president of the National Association of Colored Women, spoke on "Negro Womanhood," and William Pickens, field secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., made a characteristic speech, citing instances of prejudice in the southern states.

Guests of Art Museum
 Saturday morning the conference was the guests of the Cleveland Museum of Art. Rossiter Howard, assistant director of the museum, presided. Mr. Howard made an address of welcome. Dr. DuBois spoke on "Negro and Art." Louie Vaughn Jones, internationally known violinist of Cleveland, rendered three numbers, and James Weldon Johnson read from his book, "God's Trombones."

Mordecai Johnson Addresses Group
 Sunday afternoon the public auditorium was filled to its capacity to hear Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University and 1929 winner of the Spingarn medal, speak. Mr. Johnson held his audience spellbound and applause could be heard long after he had taken his seat. The other speaker was Congressman Hamilton Fish Jr.
 Monday evening the conference met at St. John A. M. E. church, East 40th and Central avenue. Dr. George W. Lucas, New Orleans, presiding. "The Race Problem in the Children's Court" was the subject of an address by Eleanor Rowland Wembridge, referee of Juvenile Court of Cuyahoga county, Cleveland. Oscar DePriest, member of Congress, also made a speech on "The Constitution and Our Rights."

The closing meeting was held on

Tuesday evening at the music hall, Public Auditorium. Harris E. Davis presiding. The Gilpin Players of Cleveland, Rowena Jelliffe, director, presented "The No 'Count Boy," by Paul Green, before the enthusiastic final conference started. Miss Mary White Ovington made the introductory remarks, telling of the custom and reason of the award of the Spingarn medal. Dr. Charles F. Thwing, president emeritus, Western Reserve University, made an address and presented the medal to Dr. Mordecai Wyatt Johnson amidst the thunderous applause of the audience. Dr. Johnson, recipient of the fifteenth medal award, responded in appropriate words and then Col. J. E. Spingarn held the customary "three minutes' greeting." The meeting closed with the benediction by Rev. Thomas E. McKenny.