

The N. A. A. C. P.

ON THE one hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth a call was issued in New York signed by prominent people all over the country for a conference on the status of the colored people.

The first conference met in New York May 31 and June 1, 1909.

The second conference was held in New York May 12-14, 1910.

The second conference organized a permanent body to be known as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The officers of this association are:

National President: Mr. Moorfield Storey, Boston, Mass.

Chairman of the Executive Committee: Mr. Wm. English Walling, New York.

Treasurer: Mr. John E. Milholland, New York.

Disbursing Treasurer: Mr. Oswald Garrison Villard, New York.

Director of Publicity and Research: Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, New York.

Executive Secretary: Miss Frances Blascoer, New York.

The work of the N. A. A. C. P. can be summarized as follows up to the present date:

Four mass meetings and ten other meetings have been held to discuss the status of the colored people and efforts for betterment.

One volume of speeches and 6,000 separate pieces of literature are being distributed.

A bureau of information has been maintained which has corresponded with over 500 persons in all parts of the country.

Six articles have been furnished to magazines and eight to newspapers.

Two investigations into educational conditions are in progress.

Effort has been made in three cases to secure legal redress of grievances.

This Association needs \$10,000 for its year's work. We ask for donations and we especially want members who pay from \$1 to \$25 yearly, according to ability. Anybody may join.

The future plans of the organization include:
The publication of THE CRISIS.

Co-operation with all agencies working for the uplift of colored people.

The holding of mass meetings and conferences.
The issuing of pamphlets at the rate of one every other month or oftener.

The publication of articles in magazines and in the daily press.

The discovering and redress of cases of injustice.

The systematic study of the present conditions among colored people.

The General Committee consists of the officers and the following persons:

*Miss Gertrude Barnum, New York.

*Rev. W. H. Brooks, New York.

Prof. John Dewey, New York.

Miss Maud R. Ingersoll, New York.

Mrs. Florence Kelley, New York.

*Mr. Paul Kennaday, New York.

*Mrs. F. R. Keyser, New York.

Dr. Chas. Lenz, New York.

Mr. Jacob W. Mack, New York.

*Mrs. M. D. MacLean, New York.

Rev. Horace G. Miller, New York.

Mrs. Max Morgenthau, Jr., New York.

Mr. James F. Morton, Jr., New York.

Mr. Henry Moskowitz, New York.

Miss Leonora O'Reilly, New York.

*Rev. A. Clayton Powell, New York.

*Mr. Charles Edward Russell, New York.

Mr. Jacob H. Schiff, New York.

Prof. E. R. A. Seligman, New York.

*Rev. Joseph Silverman, New York.

*Mrs. Anna Garlin Spencer, New York.

Mrs. Henry Villard, New York.

Miss Lillian D. Wald, New York.

*Bishop Alexander Walters, New York.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, New York.

Rev. Jas. E. Haynes, D.D., Brooklyn, N. Y.

*Rev. John Haynes Holmes, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Miss M. R. Lyons, Brooklyn, N. Y.

*Miss M. W. Ovington, Brooklyn, N. Y.

*Dr. O. M. Waller, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mrs. M. H. Talbert, Buffalo, N. Y.

Hon. Thos. M. Osborne, Auburn, N. Y.

*Mr. W. L. Bulkley, Ridgewood, N. J.

Mr. George W. Crawford, New Haven, Conn.

Miss Maria Baldwin, Boston, Mass.

Mr. Francis J. Garrison, Boston, Mass.

Mr. Archibald H. Grimke, Boston, Mass.

*Mr. Albert E. Pillbury, Boston, Mass.

Mr. Wm. Munroe Trotter, Boston, Mass.

Dr. Horace Bumstead, Brookline, Mass.

Miss Elizabeth C. Carter, New Bedford, Mass.

Pres. Chas. T. Thwing, Cleveland, O.

Mr. Chas. W. Chesnut, Cleveland, O.

*Executive Committee.

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Athens and Brownsville

By Moorfield Storey

(Extract from speech before the Second National Negro Conference.)

WHITE SOLDIERS AT ATHENS.

We cannot perhaps wonder that ordinary citizens make race distinctions when they are made by the President of the United States. In the autumn of 1904, at Athens, Ohio, soldiers belonging to the 14th Battery of Artillery in the regular army attempted to break open the jail in order to rescue a comrade who had been arrested for some offense. In the attempt they killed one militiaman and wounded at least two others. I quote from a letter written by General Grosvenor, the Republican Congressman from the district, to Mr. Taft, then Secretary of War, thus summing up the facts:

"Fifty to seventy men marched into the most public street in a village like this in the early hours of a pleasant summer evening, and without the slightest provocation, meeting the provost guard, fired from 50 to 75 shots from loaded weapons, killing one, wounding two, and hitting a citizen, and firing into the corridors and walls of a building, and yet all this has been obliterated as though the waves of the ocean had swept through sand. And not only that, but the Government officials—a representative of the War Department bearing a commission, and a Deputy United States District Attorney—appeared in the town and manipulated the preliminary examination of witnesses and boldly denounced the prosecution. And we are powerless, and the blood of Clark, a fine young man * * * will go unavenged because of the interference of the United States through its officials."

One soldier was sentenced to a year in the penitentiary and another was fined. There was no other punishment. The action of the War Department was taken by order of the Acting Secretary, and from the letter written by Secretary Taft in reply to General Grosvenor, the following extract is made:

"I should think it doubtful policy on the part of the Government to direct its officers to defend enlisted men against acts which, as charged, are

certainly offences against the state, unless there is some ground to presume that the acts are in the discharge of lawful duties of the enlisted men. The action of the Acting Secretary of War, however, was based on the helplessness of the men, and the necessity that no matter how guilty a man is he is entitled to be defended by counsel. It probably would have been wiser had application been made to court for the assignment of counsel. Still, an enlisted man is more or less a ward of the Government, and if the Government steps in merely to see that he is tried according to law, it seems to me that it is an exercise of a discretion which the Government has."

Here the facts were clear, but the guilty men were white.

NEGRO SOLDIERS AT BROWNSVILLE.

Two years later it is charged that some soldiers of the 25th Infantry fired into the town of Brownsville, Texas. No evidence fixing the guilt upon any one has ever been found, and though investigation has been had, it remains doubtful whether any of the soldiers, and if so, who fired the shots. The whole battalion has for years maintained its innocence. Yet the colored soldiers, each presumably innocent, were discharged without trial, and the act has since persistently and violently been defended by its author. Theodore Roosevelt was President in 1904, as well as in 1906. Why did he not apply the same rule in both cases? He who from an eminence some distance off saw the colored troops charge and carry San Juan Hill, knew that they could fight and die as well as their white comrades. What became of Mr. Taft's doctrine, "That no matter how guilty a man is, he is entitled to be defended by counsel." Why were the Brownsville soldiers not "wards of the Government," as well as the soldiers who fired on Athens? The soldiers of Brownsville were colored.

(Continued from opposite page.)

Pres. King, Oberlin, O.

Pres. W. S. Scarborough, Wilberforce, O.

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*Dr. C. E. Bentley, Chicago, Ill.

Miss Sophronisba Brockenridge, Chicago, Ill.

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*Mrs. Celia Parker Woolley, Chicago, Ill.

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*Executive Committee.