

National Association for the ... Advancement of Colored People.

CHICAGO TO DENVER

IF ever there was any doubt in my mind as to the deep and abiding interest of the great masses of colored people in the cause represented by the N. A. A. C. P. such doubt would have been dispelled by my six weeks' tour during the months of March and April through the West. On that trip I traveled 6,500 miles; spoke at more than 60 mass meetings with audiences totalling over 10,000 persons; and held many conferences and conversations with individual white and colored people. Everywhere I found confidence in the Association, a determination to make its work more effective and its influence more powerful and a widespread interest in the success of the membership drive and the annual conference which is to be held in Kansas City, Kansas, August 29 to September 5.

In some of the cities like St. Louis and Omaha local factional differences had militated against the success of the branches. In the former city a new and enthusiastic interest was aroused in the Association's work when a group of women, representatives of the colored women's clubs of the city, voluntarily took upon itself the task of directing and putting over the drive for membership. On my return to St. Louis I found that these women had stirred the entire city through their energetic and intelligently organized campaign. On the afternoon of Tuesday, April 22, a large parade with 150 automobiles, headed by a band which donated its services preceded three mass meetings at the largest churches in the city. Congressman Dyer spoke at the Union Memorial Church, I spoke at Lane Tabernacle, and Homer L. Phillips at Pleasant Green Baptist Church. All of the meetings were well attended. As a result of the work of these women, aided by the men of the city, a live and active branch will no doubt result which will be able to meet the many problems affecting colored people in St. Louis.

In Kansas City, Kansas, active preparations are being made to entertain the greatest annual conference ever held by the N. A.

A. C. P. Some measure of the enthusiasm for and interest in the work of the Association can be gained from the fact that at a mass meeting held in this city on Sunday, March 25, attended by some six hundred people, 23 persons present became donors of the Association through the payment of \$25 memberships, while 15 others took out \$10 annual memberships; 13 by the payment of \$5 became Blue Certificate members and a number of others took out the minimum membership of \$1.

One of the most striking incidents of the work in Kansas City was the drive conducted in the Sumner High School, which was told of in the May issue of the CRISIS, when everyone of the 410 students became a member of the Junior Branch. On the same day 108 students of Western University in the same city also joined the Association, making a total for the day of 518 paid memberships in the Association. Sumner High School of Kansas City thus holds the record of being the first school to achieve so remarkable a record. Partly because of the splendid interest in the N. A. A. C. P. on the Missouri side and as a result of the example set on the Kansas side, the students of the Lincoln High School in Kansas City, Mo., numbering more than 800 conducted a drive which, up to April 21, had netted 570 paid memberships and the students of that institution are determined to carry on their campaign until everyone of the 800 odd students is a member of the N. A. A. C. P.

One of the most encouraging features of the trip was the interest shown by white people in the work of the Association. In Kansas City, Mo., for example, Mrs. Myra King Whitson took out a \$10 membership, and pledged herself to get ten other white people to join the Association. Later she felt that ten was entirely too small a number and she voluntarily increased her self-imposed quota to fifty. In Denver I had the privilege of talking to a group of white men at a luncheon when opportunity was given to present frankly and without equivocation the facts about the race problem.

In Denver it was refreshing indeed to find a spirit of whole-hearted cooperation existing among the colored leaders of that city instead of the numerous factional differences which have done so much harm in many other cities. It is this sort of cooperation which has made the colored people of Denver so important a factor in the life of that western city.

Everywhere I found the realization strongly entrenched in the breasts of colored people that if the Dyer Bill is to be passed during the coming session of Congress it will require the organizing of greater moral and financial support and greater unity of effort than ever before. At the Fourteenth Annual Conference of the Association in Kansas City, there will be a very large attendance from all of the middle western cities. Every branch in every part of the country should begin now, if it has not already begun, to make its spring membership drive a great success and to send as large a delegation as possible of delegates, members and friends to the Kansas City Conference.

WALTER WHITE.

THE SPINGARN MEDAL

NOMINATIONS for the Spingarn Medal will close on June first. The medal is given through the generosity of J. E. Spingarn, treasurer of the N. A. A. C. P. for a two-fold purpose: first, to call the attention of the American people to the existence of distinguished merit and achievement among American Negroes, and second, to serve as a reward for such achievement, and as a stimulus to the ambition of colored American youth. It is presented annually to "the man or woman of African descent and American citizenship, who shall have made the highest achievement during the preceding year or years in any honorable field of human endeavor," the choice being made by a Committee of Award whose decision is final. The committee is composed of Bishop John Hurst, chairman; John Hope, president of Morehouse College, Atlanta; Oswald Garrison Villard, editor of *The Nation*, New York; Dorothy Canfield Fisher, distinguished novelist; Dr. James H. Dillard, director of the Slater and Jeannes Fund; Honorable Theodore Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, who succeeded Wil-

liam Howard Taft (resigned) on the committee; and Dr. W. E. B. DuBois.

Nominations for the recipient of the medal may be made by anyone and should be made in writing to Walter F. White, secretary of the Spingarn Medal Award Committee, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York City, before June 1. Such recommendations must state in detail the achievement of the person recommended as meriting the Spingarn Medal. The award will be made at the Fourteenth Annual Conference of the N. A. A. C. P. which is to be held at Kansas City, Kansas, August 29 to September 5.

SHREVEPORT

THE first branch to go over the top, exceeding its allotted quota of members in the Spring Drive, is the Shreveport, Louisiana, Branch which had filled its quota of two hundred members on April 15 and announced its intention of continuing to canvass for members.

Another interesting result of the drive thus far has been the revival of the Memphis, Tennessee, branch which had been dormant for a period of two years. The revived branch has elected for its president B. M. Roddy.

Branches throughout the country, especially in the larger cities are responding in splendid fashion to the drive, all apparently realizing that a hard fight is before the N. A. A. C. P., which will begin when Representative Dyer, now touring the middle and far west, reintroduces his anti-lynching bill in the next congress.

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

ONE of the strongest blows yet struck in the fight to have the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill enacted into the law of the land is the tour of middle and far western states undertaken under the auspices of the N. A. A. C. P. by Representative Dyer of Missouri.

Mr. Dyer began his tour in Kansas City, with the following schedule of dates:

Kansas City, Kans. Apr. 27	Tacoma, Wash. May 16
Kansas City, Mo. Apr. 29	Seattle, Wash. May 17
Omaha, Neb. Apr. 30	Spokane, Wash. May 20
Denver, Col. May 2	Minneapolis, Minn. May 24
Los Angeles, Cal. May 6	St. Paul, Minn. May 25
Oakland, Cal. May 10	Chicago, Ill. May 28
San Francisco Cal. May 11	Indianapolis, Ind. May 29
Portland, Ore. May 13	Detroit, Mich. May 30

In announcing his tour, the expenses of which are paid by branches of the N. A. A. C. P., Mr. Dyer praised the work of