## X. ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Fifteenth Annual Conference of the N. A. A. C. P., held in Philadelphia, Pa., June 25-July 1, proved to be one of the greatest and most influential meetings ever held by colored people in America. Upwards of 300 delegates, representing 29 states, including the far West, the South, the middle West and the East, were in attendance.

The year being one of presidential election, politics and political action took a major position in the deliberations of the Conference, but no phase of civic and social life affecting the Negro's welfare was neglected. Especially was the effort made to give the delegates an opportunity to present and discuss the problems affecting colored people in their own localities. Thus, segregation with special reference to education and the school situation in the North was discussed, as was the new form of segregation by agreement among property owners, now before the United States Supreme Court. The question of migration was also thoroughly canvassed, and the Conference made public through the Associated Press and other news distributing agencies not only that the Negro migrant had made good in the North but that it was incumbent upon white labor to welcome him and work with him.

The Conference was opened with Bishop John Hurst of Baltimore presiding, and an address of welcome on behalf of the City of Philadelphia was delivered by the Hon. Charles B. Hall, president of the City Council. Mr. Isadore Martin, president of the Philadelphia Branch of the N. A. A. C. P., delivered an address of welcome on behalf of the Branch. At this meeting a message from President Coolidge was read, concluding with the words: "I cannot too earnestly express my good wishes to your splendid organization and my hopes for the fullest realization of its high purposes."

One of the most stirring events of the Conference was the Sunday mass meeting held in the Metropolitan Opera House, with an attendance estimated at about five thousand. The speakers at this meeting were Dr. John Haynes Holmes; Hon. Theodore E. Burton, representative in Congress from Ohio; and the Association's Secretary. The subject discussed was "The Political Future of The Negro," and through the courtesy of Wanamaker's and Gimbel's the addresses were broadcast over the radio Station WIP.

On June 30 a solemn and impressive ceremony was held at the

cradle of American Independence, Independence Hall. Here the Association's Secretary spoke briefly as follows:

"My dear Friends:

"We are here for a very brief service. As you know, we stand upon historic ground. We are standing in the Cradle of American Liberty. We stand where were set down the highest ideals of democracy ever expressed by the human mind. We stand where was signed the Declaration of Independence. I shall not read that whole document; it is too long. I will simply quote the words which are the heart of the whole instrument:

'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pur-

suit of Happiness.'

"Upon these words is builded the world's greatest experiment in democracy. The ideals which underlie our nation were given to the world from this place; and we feel it proper that we should come here in order to pledge ourselves anew to the fight for the realization, the full realization, of those ideals in the democracy that is practiced as well as the democracy that is preached."

An interesting feature was the session held at Atlantic City on Saturday, June 28. The delegates were taken from Philadelphia to Atlantic City on Saturday morning on a special train, and a mass meeting was held in the afternoon. This meeting was ad-

dressed by the Mayor of Atlantic City.

The concluding session of the Conference, on Tuesday night, July 1st, the Spingarn Medal Night, was given over to the presentation of the Spingarn Medal to a representative of Roland Hayes, the great singer, who was in England, and therefore could not be present in person to receive it. By coincidence, the N. A. A. C. P. received a cable announcing that on the night of the presentation of the medal in Philadelphia, Roland Hayes had been commanded to sing before the King and Queen of England. The medal was presented by Dr. Josiah H. Penniman, President and Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, who hailed Roland Hayes as an artist and a great musician, and said that in practically every field of human endeavor colored people had obtained distinction for themselves as individuals and in behalf of their race. Harry T. Burleigh, distinguished musician, for many years singer at St. George's Church of New York City, recipient of the Spingarn Medal in 1917, and well-known composer, spoke on "The Negro in Music." He also received the medal in behalf of Roland Hayes. Another speaker at this meeting was William Stanley Braithwaite, of Bos-