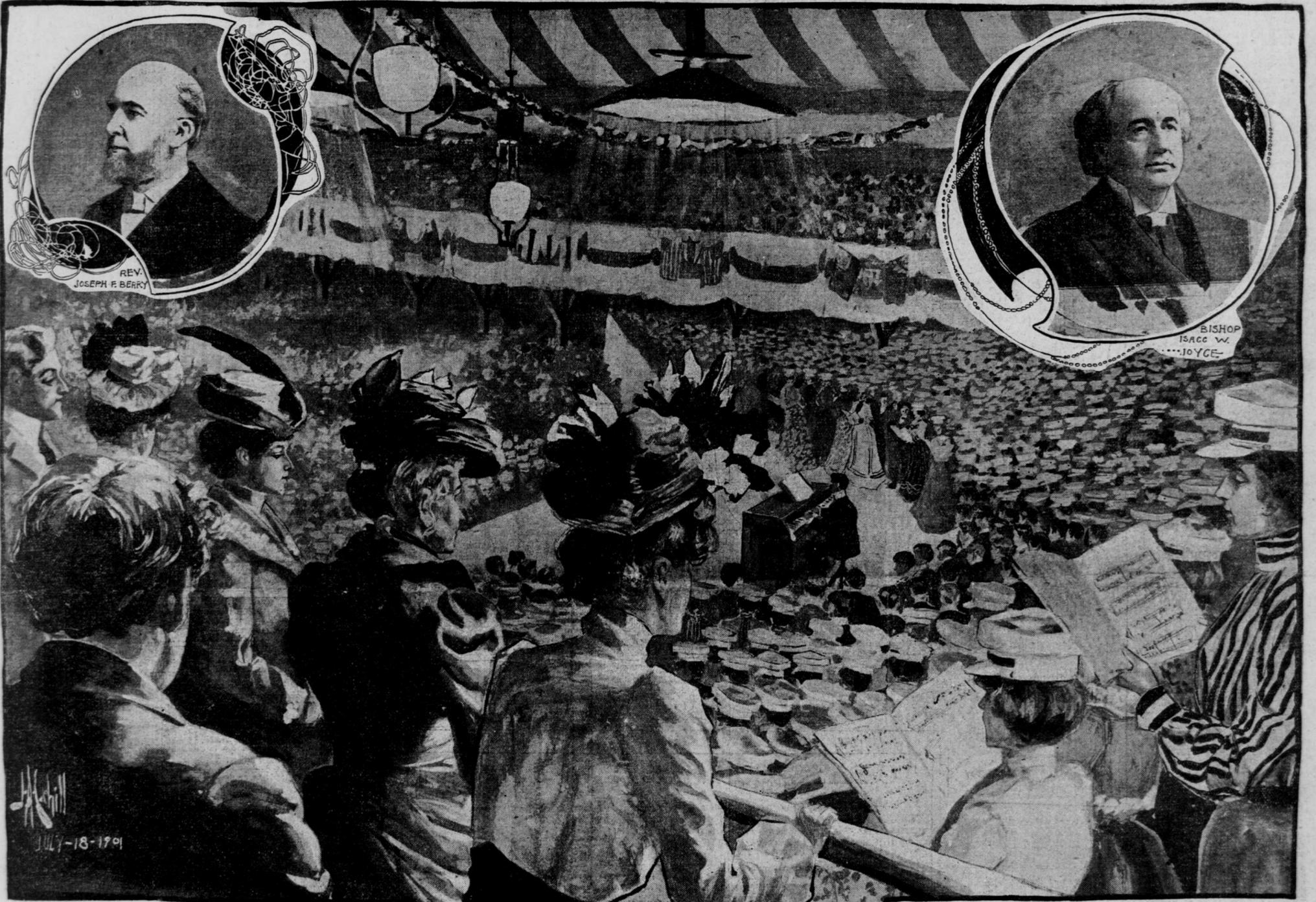


GREAT EPWORTH LEAGUE CONVENTION FORMALLY OPENS ITS SESSIONS WITH ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING AT PAVILION



LEAGUE SPECIALS HAVE ALL ARRIVED

Duties of the Reception Committee Having Been Discharged Zealous Aids Are Withdrawn From Ferry

WITH the arrival of the last league special train yesterday morning the convention workers settled down earnestly to the performance of the tasks allotted them. By noon all save a few stragglers had arrived in the city and the four days' sessions of the convention were duly inaugurated.

The first specials to arrive yesterday reached the Oakland mole at 6 a. m. They brought about 150 delegates, all being from the Middle West. An hour later another party of seventy-nine Epworth workers came in. At 11 o'clock the Oregon train brought in ninety-two leaguers from the north, Sacramento and other California points. They were accorded the usual greeting by the Oakland detail of the reception committee and sent across the bay with loud huzzas. This was the last large party to arrive via Oakland during the day.

At the Third and Townsend streets depot three parties, numbering in all some 150 delegates, came in from the southern part of the State. A few of these were from Texas. Miss Sorralis, who was in charge of the reception detail at that point, called in her assistants at 3 o'clock, no further arrivals of note being expected after that hour.

At noon Chairman Waste of the reception committee called in all members of the detail at the ferries, with the exception of two or three, who were to remain on duty until nightfall, in anticipation of

being of service to belated leaguers who might be destitute of information. The street railway companies generously accorded all persons wearing the conventional league reception cap free transportation to all parts of the city.

Police Render Good Service.

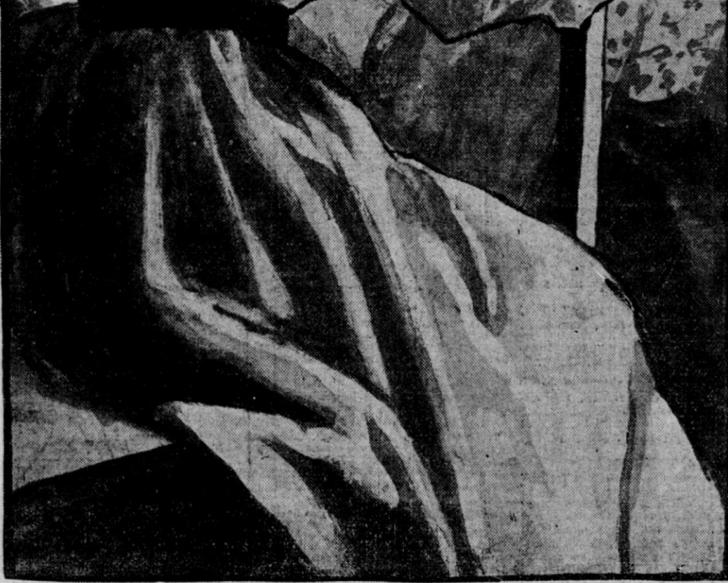
The members of the reception committee at the ferries as well as at the Townsend-street depot are destitute of expressing their thanks to the police and other public officials for courtesies extended them during the trying hours of the past three days. The police especially assisted the committees in every possible way and their efforts are highly appreciated.

All persons who expect the arrival of friends from the East and who are desirous of hearing from them are directed to call at the registration booth at the Pavilion for information. A complete register of all the league arrivals will be issued probably to-morrow. Chairman Kingsbury is rushing that work with a large force of assistants. Last night nearly 13,000 visitors from all parts of the Union had registered their names.

Streets Crowded With Leaguers.

The effect of the influx of leaguers into San Francisco is noticeable in the congested state of travel along the principal thoroughfares. Market street was crowded yesterday with leaguers, all of whom announced their affiliation by wearing the Epworth badge, together with ribbons bearing the names of their respective

OPENING SCENE AT MECHANICS' PAVILION OF THE GREAT EPWORTH LEAGUE CONVENTION YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AND PORTRAITS OF BISHOP JOYCE AND SECRETARY BERRY. THE IMMENSE GATHERING WAS ONE OF THE MOST NOTABLE EVER HELD IN THE VAST STRUCTURE.



States. Especially in the vicinity of the Pavilion is their presence felt, and the merchants in the neighborhood are reaping a harvest in consequence.

The events of the opening day of the great convention were the praise services at the principal churches in the morning, the missionary meeting in the art gallery of the Pavilion at 1:30 o'clock, and the formal opening in the main hall of the Pavilion at 2:30 o'clock. The vast edifice was crowded to the doors and a marked interest in the proceedings was manifested.

Mail at the Pavilion.

The accumulation of mail matter at the Pavilion is enormous. The mail force, consisting of J. G. Daub, Frank Isaacs and J. F. Mayer, finds its hands full in delivering mail matter. The arrivals Wednesday were so numerous and the demand for mail so lively in consequence that for

a time there was a blockade. The force was equal to the emergency, however, and all applicants were served to the satisfaction of those concerned.

The visiting leaguers have been notified that all their mail will be held at the Pavilion for delivery until the close of the convention. All those who expect mail to reach the city after their departure are requested to leave their names and addresses so that it may be forwarded to their homes.

OPENING SESSION OF CONVENTION

Delegates Are Eloquent Welcome by Governor Henry T. Gage, Mayor J. D. Phelan and Bishop Hamilton

THE Epworth League Convention formally opened its deliberations at the Pavilion at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The opening was an auspicious one and the spectacle, because of its varied aspects, was one which will long be remembered by the 10,000 people who thronged the immense structure at that hour.

It was a remarkable gathering, not excelled even by the Christian Endeavor meeting of '97, which greeted Chairman Thomas Filben of the general committee when, at 2:30 o'clock, he arose and formally called the convention to order. Before him, massed in solid phalanxes, were 5000 leaguers, representing almost every State in the Union, and among them many distinguished workers in the cause of Christ. All wore the league badge and here and there pennants of red, white and orange fluttered merrily. Above was a canopy of the Stars and Stripes, from which hung festoons of ferns and roses, from the center of each of which massive bouquets of flowers were suspended. The gallery rails were similarly adorned, the distinguishing feature being the league shield, bearing the letters "E. L." and two American flags, hiding the base of the roof arches.

Many Ministers on Stand.

The speaker's stand was crowded with visiting ministers, all Epworth workers from all parts of the Union. These were

ranged directly beneath the grand chorus and on either side of the console. The vocalists were massed in the rear between the divided organ to a height considerably above the level of the gallery floor. The sounding board bore in letters of flaming crimson the inscription "1901—Our Chief Aim Missions—1901." The ladies comprising the chorus appeared for the greater part in white gowns, and with their handkerchiefs, which were freely used in greeting the State and city executives, as well as the chairmen of the general and music committees, presented a charming sight.

When Chairman Filben of the general committee and W. H. Waste, chairman of the reception committee, appeared on the platform in advance of Governor Gage, there was a salvo of applause and wild waving of snowy handkerchiefs, in which the entire audience joined.

Church Dignitaries Appear.

The Governor bowed his acknowledgments and took his seat behind the rostrum. A moment later Mayor Phelan appeared. In succession appeared Bishop I. W. Joyce, president of the Epworth League; Bishop John W. Hamilton of this city and the several ministers who were to officiate at the exercises. All were greeted with characteristic warmth by the assembled thousands.

The proceedings began with the singing