

THE VIRGINIA YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE.

Rev. Wesley Baker, Synod's Supt.
S. S. and Y. P. Work.

The first Young People's Conference of the Synod of Virginia has passed into history! For many months numbers of us have been looking forward with high hopes and eager expectations to the time when we would meet together in a distinctive conference of our own. It was our good fortune to be able to meet in one of the most famous and historic seats of learning in the country—the University of Virginia, at Charlottesville. It was here that Woodrow Wilson received part of his early education, and his name appears first in the recently published list of prominent alumni. In recognition to this, early in the conference, the following telegram was sent to him: "Woodrow Wilson, Washington, D. C.: The two

dent Secretary, who shall perform the duties usual to these offices and who shall represent the Student Council on the Administrative Council.

4. There shall be a Student Council, which shall be composed of the Student President (who shall preside at this council), the Student Secretary and the chiefs of all the clans. This council shall consider all matters pertaining to the general welfare of the conference membership.

5. There shall be an Administrative Council, which shall be composed of the Conference Manager, the Conference Y. P. Director, the two Chief Counsellors, the Student President and the Student Secretary. This council shall have general supervision of the conference and shall receive and give direction concerning all matters presented to it from the Student Council.

Points in the Honor System.

Points Given Daily:

5 Best attendance at massed ath-

letic's values and forming of new ideals, new resolutions and determination; while to scores of others it meant a fresh vision of the world's needs which led to a definite and unreserved committal of their lives to Jesus Christ for whole-hearted service in His kingdom. Their own "Findings Committee" gave expression to this in the following language:

"We, the members of the First Young People's Conference of the Synod of Virginia, meeting at the University of Virginia, June 11-18, 1921, do hereby offer the following resolutions:

1. Resolved, that every church should offer to all of its young people a chance to grow as Jesus grew—that is in the four-fold way—body, heart, mind and soul.—Luke 2:52.

2. Resolved, that to plan and put in operation such a four-fold program, will require a definite committee or council in each local church.

had charge of the vesper services each evening.

The Bible classes were taught by Dr. C. R. Erdman, president of Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N. J., and Mrs. S. H. Askew, of Atlanta, Ga. Dr. Erdman also delivered a deeply spiritual message on Sunday morning. After the Bible Hour each day four classes were taught by Rev. J. W. Allen, a missionary to Africa, on Foreign Missions; Miss Eleanor H. Berry, on Home Missions; Miss Elizabeth McE. Shields, of Richmond, Va., on Sunday School Work, and by Rev. N. N. Fleming, of Pinetops, N. C., on the book, "Making Life Count."

The daily conference period was in the hands of the young people. The Presbyterian Young People's League held its regular meetings at this time, and the sessions were in the charge of the officers: R. E. McClure, of Wilmington, president, and Miss Rachel Beall, of Durham, secretary-treasurer.



Virginia Young People at the University.

hundred Presbyterian young people, meeting at the University of Virginia, send to her greatest son love and confidence." With characteristic thoughtfulness and fine courtesy Mr. Wilson replied, "Your message cheered me very much and is highly appreciated."

What a rare privilege and what a splendid opportunity to attend such a fine conference! Some one has recently said, "The Summer Conference for Christian Young People is really a stroke of genius. It is a masterpiece of constructive Christian leadership. It is an acquisition for which the Church may sincerely thank God, for its evolution has evidently been guided by His Spirit. It is a bit of intensive Christian education so skillfully devised and so delicately adapted to the spiritual susceptibilities of the young people that its results are all out of proportion to the investment of time and effort."

It is impossible to speak of all the attractive features of the conference, but special mention should be made of the scheme of organization or the way in which the students were divided into groups for the purpose of securing their full participation and co-operation in carrying out the ideals of the conference. The following is the plan adopted:

The Organization of the Conference.

1. The conference membership shall be divided into six groups. These groups shall be called clans with names as follows: Cameron, Campbell, Graham, McGregor, McPherson and McTavish. Each clan shall have its own distinctive color, which shall be worn at all times by the members. These colors shall be as follows: Cameron, purple; Campbell, rose; Graham, green; McGregor, blue; McPherson, lavender, and McTavish, gold.

2. Each clan shall have a chief, elected from the clan and by the clan. Each clan shall have a counsellor (an adult), who shall be appointed by the conference manager. There shall also be two chief counsellors appointed by the conference manager.

3. The conference membership shall elect a Student President and a Stu-

athletics.

5 To every clan, some of whose members take a three-mile hike.

10 Conduct, proper observance of conference rules.

1. Quiet hour, 2 P. M. to 3 P. M.

2. Lights out and quiet after 10.

3. No visiting in city except as provided by rule.

4. Colors to be worn at all times.

30 Group co-operation.

5. Attendance at conference meetings.

5. Punctuality at conference meetings, meals, etc.

20. Willing co-operation in promoting conference ideals.

Points Given at Close of Conference:

10 Best yell on stunt night (content delivery).

10 Best conference song (music content).

10 Best stunt.

20 Best athletic record: Tennis, volleyball, baseball, etc.

It was with considerable trepidation that this experiment was launched, but before the week was half over both faculty and students pronounced it a decided success.

Regarding the attendance, to say that we had present 188 young people and 17 members of the faculty, or 205 in all, is to tell only part of the story. The faculty was composed of a group of leaders, par excellence, and the 188 young people were just that many vibrant, enthusiastic, choice young men and women, potential in leadership and religious usefulness. They came from all parts of the Synod and represented the various Presbyteries as follows: East Hanover, 37; Lexington, 60; Montgomery, 40; Norfolk, 5; Potomac, 3; Roanoke, 24; West Hanover, 8, and Winchester, 11.

Now what has this conference, with its program of study, play and worship, meant to these young people? What have they been able to carry back home with them? What will it mean to the churches from which they came? To some the conference has meant the beginning of lasting friendships, to others a new appraisal of

3. Resolved, that this council or committee should be representative, including young people and adults.

4. Resolved, that it is the duty of the young people who attended this conference not only to see that these resolutions are forcefully presented to their local churches, but also to do all in their power to have them really carried out.

Findings Committee,
Young People's Conference,
John Wyse, President.
Janet Funkhouser, Secretary.

N. C. YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE.

The third annual conference of the Presbyterian Young People of North Carolina was held at Peace Institute, Raleigh, May 31st-June 7th, with about one hundred and sixty enthusiastic delegates. Representation by Presbyteries showed that Fayetteville Presbytery had the largest registration. Several schools and colleges had good delegations also.

These conferences have been held in previous years at Queen's College, Charlotte, and Flora Macdonald College, Red Springs. They are conducted by the Synod of North Carolina, with the Woman's Synodical Auxiliary co-operating, for the purpose of unifying the Young People's Work and centering the thought and activity for a week of intensive training in the principles and activities of the Southern Presbyterian Church. Rev. J. G. Garth, of Charlotte, is Executive Secretary of the Board of Directors that controls the conference. Miss Mamie McElwee, of Statesville, is Assistant Executive Secretary, and these two are the moving spirits behind the conference.

An exceedingly able faculty was gathered to lead the classes and to inspire the youth of the conference to higher and nobler things. Rev. W. T. Thompson, D. D., Professor of Religious Education, of Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va., was platform manager, and delivered two splendid addresses at the opening of the conference. Dr. Thompson also

The League is a movement started in the Synod of North Carolina to provide some organization that would affiliate all existing organizations and not supplant any. It is not a form of local organization either in principle or practice. It is doing a good work for the purpose for which it was formed. Mrs. E. C. Cronk, of Richmond, Va., editor of the Best Methods Department of the Missionary Review of the World, added much to the interest of the conference period with her splendid suggestions on the two days she was present.

The afternoons were given up to recreation, and varied programs were followed, including a visit to the places of interest around Raleigh, led by Colonel Fred A. Olds, the transportation furnished by the Vanguard Bible Class of the First Presbyterian church. Hikes, stunts and games added to the variety, all of which was thoroughly enjoyed by the delegates.

The evening services were given to inspirational addresses, to which the public was invited. Rev. W. T. Thompson, of Richmond; Rev. A. W. Crawford, of Greensboro; Rev. J. W. Allen, of the African Mission; Rev. E. V. Tadlock, of the mission work in the mountains of Kentucky, and Rev. C. F. Myers, D. D., of Greensboro, were the speakers at the evening services. Rev. R. C. Long, of Gastonia, conducted the music.

The whole conference showed an attendance of nearly two hundred persons, including delegates and workers. The spirit of the conference was fine, and the delegates went home ready for new work and full of enthusiasm. Definite resolutions were adopted that embodied the policies of the young people for the coming year. The place of the next annual conference has not been decided, but will be fully advertised when decided upon.

R. E. McClure.

If you would keep your friend, approach him with a telescope, never with a microscope.—Anon.