

SOUTHWESTERN STUDENT CONFERENCE

PROF. R. O. ALLEN TELLS OF THE NOTED GATHERING IN ARKANSAS LAST SUMMER.

A. & M. QUARTET WAS THERE

"The Southwestern Student Y. M. C. A. Conference held at Monte Ne, Ark, last June, was a great meeting in more respects than one. It was great in the wonderful natural beauty and perfect climate of the place; it was great in the contagious and irresistible feeling of fellowship and brotherhood which permeated the very atmosphere; it was great in the power of the leaders and the messages they brought; it was great by reason of the presence of the Spirit unifying and inspiring everything and everybody. This writer never before experienced anything quite so pleasing, helpful and uplifting. From start to finish, the whole conference was on a mountain top in more senses than one.

"Within the limits of this article, one can scarcely speak of the program of studies and of the different teachers and speakers. It was all a rich bill of fare. Dr. George Truett was there, a tower of strength, an impelling force for righteousness, a great, magnetic, consecrated personality irresistible in his appeal for nobler living. Dr. O. E. Brown, Dr. Traywick, Dr. Henry Israels, and yet others, all men great of mind and heart, were there to lead the study groups and to impress upon the conference high ideals and great purposes. So sane, so worthy, so single was the spirit of the whole conference that rarely did a speaker fall short of a great message.

"Of the special features of the conference, perhaps the twilight service and the morning watch were the most notable. Each evening as the sunset splendor gradually faded from the mountain tops and cool shadows thickened upon the lawn, we sat on the grass under the stars and sang and prayed and bore testimony or listened to the heart-to-heart message of the leader for the evening's devotion. At these quiet hours, sky and hill top seemed almost to touch, while the Divine Presence came down to meet the hearts of men striving upward. The morning watch was the time for personal devotion, the time for communing with one's self, the time for gaining, through contemplation and study, strength and poise for the day. In the cooling freshness of the new day, as the silver-gray of morning melted into pearl and gold, an early riser could have seen here and there a man sitting by the door post of the lodge, book in hand, or with measured tread walking the graveled road across the hill top. Each had his favorite spot and his own way of spending this half hour, but all agreed that the morning watch, begun as an experiment, soon became a privilege and a habit from which a new source of strength was opened.

"The reader must not get the idea that the whole time was spent in study and religious observances. The afternoons were given over to every form of manly sport and exercise. White River with its wonderful palisades and its clear waters was only a mile or two away. Here we fished and went swimming. There were caves to explore, famous orchards



NEW Y. M. C. A. BUILDING AT A. & M.

and vineyards to visit, and long tramps to take over well kept graveled roads—the Ozark Trail is famous—or one might lose himself in miles and miles of primeval woods. The various college sports were well provided for, and there were spirited contests in baseball, volleyball, basketball, tennis and a regular track meet.

"This sketch would be incomplete without some special mention of the Texas A. & M. College delegation and the part they took in the conference. The delegation was in every way a worthy representation of the college, and the A. & M. quartet sang itself into the hearts of the whole conference. No other single feature contributed so much to the success of the convention; no other group of men became so well and so favorably known to the conference. During the whole ten days this quartet sang several times daily; yet they could never quite satisfy their delighted hearers. Case seemed always at his best; and in the open-air auditorium or on the mountain top as we sat in the evening shadows, under the open sky, the wonderful richness and sweetness of his voice filled and thrilled every heart. The other men—Steger, Bresler and Gray—were less only by comparison; and to say they were "less," when each was so excellent, seems too near disparagement. That the A. & M. quartet won golden opinions for themselves and reflected great credit on the institution they represented at Monte Ne, is putting the matter modestly; and that the other delegates—"Red" Allen, Col. Hogue and the rest—did their share in upholding the honor of the A. & M., is just as true. It is but merited recognition to say that Secretary Steger was one of the best loved men in the whole conference. He was everywhere, in a kindly, sympathetic way, whenever a man was needed. He showed himself a leader who men delight to follow. The writer can never forget his own pleasant associations with these A. & M. men at Monte Ne.

"Men, if you want a perfect outing, if you want to know the bonds of fellowship, if you want to find your own best self, if you want the time of your life, try to break into such a conference as the one at Monte Ne was." PROF. R. O. ALLEN.

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