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MIAMI'S CENTENNIAL

Hundredth Birthday Celebration
Plans of an Ohio University.

NO LACK OF NOTABLE VISITORS

President Taft Expected to Take Prominent Part in the Exercises. Largest Gathering of Miami Men in the University's History Looked For. Elaborate Program Arranged.

Miami university, one of Ohio's three state supported colleges, but the first in age, tradition and in the distinction of her graduates, will be a hundred years old in June. Already plans are matured for a centennial celebration at Oxford that will attract nation wide attention. It is practically certain that the president of the United States will be among the guests, and if Mr. Taft is present he will undoubtedly speak.

The first invitation issued for the event was taken to the president by a representative of the college. Mr. Taft expressed a strong desire to come and informed the committee that he would do so if congress adjourned before June 16, the day of the chief exercises.

But whether the president of the United States is present or absent there will be no lack of notable visitors. The centennial committee has hopes to receive a definite acceptance from White-law Reid, class of 1856, now ambassador to the court of St. James. Mr. Reid delivered the principal address on the occasion of the celebration of the college's diamond jubilee, and he has informed the committee that he will take part in the centennial if possible.

The centennial address, the chief speech of the celebration, will be delivered on the morning of Wednesday, June 16, by Dr. Henry Mitchell MacCracken, chancellor of the University of the City of New York, a member of the class of 1857. Another well known New Yorker who is expected to take part in the exercises is Dr. John Shaw Billings, director of the New York public libraries, who was also a member of the class of 1857.

The program of speeches will be extensive. George E. Wendlin of Washington, of the class of 1865, will deliver the address to the literary societies. The presidents of many colleges will be heard. Albert Hill of the University of Missouri will speak for the colleges of the west, President E. W. Scott of the University of New York for the east, President F. W. Hinnett of Central university for the south. Dr. Guy Potter Benton, president of the university, will preside at all the events, and all of the living presidents of Miami are expected to be present. Governor Judson Harmon of Ohio will be among the speakers.

The most interesting figure at the celebration, if he is able to carry out his present purpose to attend, will be the Rev. Dr. Charles McCaughan of Winterset, Ia., the oldest living Miami graduate. Dr. McCaughan is a United Presbyterian minister. He is ninety-five years old and is a graduate of the class of '37. He attended the Miami commencement last June, stopping on his way home from the United Presbyterian general assembly at Pittsburg. He preached regularly until his ninety-third year. His health has been vigorous all through his life, but during the past winter he has fallen somewhat, and some anxiety is felt lest he may be unable to attend.

The centennial will be held this year as a feature of commencement week and, according to the outlined plans, will include several days in its various features. Dr. Albery H. Upham of the university is the chairman of the committee, and B. S. Bartlow of Hamilton is its secretary. The program will include these features:

Saturday, June 12.—Students' night. Historical pageants, torchlight parade, singing on the campus.

Sunday, June 13.—Baccalaureate sermon at half past 10 a. m., annual sermon before Christian associations at half past 7 p. m.

Monday, June 14.—Annual oratorical contests, reunion of alumni of Normal college, annual senior dramatics.

Tuesday, June 15.—Commencement of Teachers' college class day program, campus concert, class day play.

Wednesday, June 16.—Centennial ceremonies, academic procession, centennial address, congratulatory addresses by representatives of state and national governments and of colleges, addresses by former presidents of the university, responses, centennial ode. Alumni dinner at 1 p. m. Roll call of classes. Business session. Responses by representatives of each administration of the university. Class reunions at 5 p. m. Reunions of the literary clubs. Reunions of the Greek fraternities.

Thursday, June 17.—Annual commencement exercises.

According to the expectation of the members of the centennial committee, there will be the largest gathering of Miami men in the history of the school. It is believed that at least 2,500 graduates and former students will assemble at Oxford from all parts of the United States and the world. Preparations have been made to house the visitors in the college dormitories and in a village of tents to be erected on the campus. If the weather is fine the visitors will have a touch of camp life amid academic surroundings.

Miami university is only six years younger than the state of Ohio, and, in fact, her beginning dates back beyond that of the state. When congress in 1792 granted an enormous tract of the wilderness lying between the two Miami rivers and extending as far north as Dayton to John Cleves Symmes, it was provided in the grant that a tract was to be set aside for the purposes of education. This was the real beginning of the university.

The university is now larger than ever before in its history and growing rapidly.

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