

Daily Democrat

F. P. NUTTING
Lessee

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THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1916.

THE METHODISTS.

The coming general conference of the M. E. church at Saratoga, N. Y., to convene May 1 and last for four weeks, which will be attended by a couple of Albany people, one as a delegate, is of general interest.

This delegated body of over eight hundred ministers and laymen in equal numbers meets every four years to review the work of the church and to revise and add to its legislation. The General Conference is made up of delegates from the one hundred and thirty-three Annual Conferences, the Annual Conference being the working unit of Methodism.

The first General Conference of American Methodism was held in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1792, at which all preachers in full membership of an Annual Conference were eligible. The first delegated General Conference was held in New York City, May 1-22, 1812. At this Conference the first Episcopal address, an utterance which has become of increasing importance, was delivered. This Episcopal address is now accepted as the official declaration of the church on important theological, administrative, and social problems. At the General Conference held in New York City in 1844, the agitation over slave-holding became so acute as to result in plans for separation between that section of the church in the North and the section in the South. The Methodist Episcopal church, South, was organized in Louisville, Kentucky, May 1, 1845.

Methodism began in America with the arrival of Philip Embury and Barbara Heck, Irish immigrants, who were enthusiastic in the propaganda of their faith. John Wesley, who was the founder of Methodism in England, remained at the head of American Methodism until the Revolutionary War severed relationships between England and the United States. All of the preachers with the exception of Francis Asbury returned across the sea, whereupon, September 1, 1784, John Wesley ordained Dr. Thomas Coke to be superintendent or bishop of the Methodist societies of the United States of America. There are now twenty bishops and seven missionary bishops serving the Methodist Episcopal church throughout the world. The former are elected by General Conference and located for periods of four years each in cities which are designated Episcopal residences. The latter are elected by General Conference for continuous service in specific fields.

The Methodist Episcopal church was organized at Baltimore, Maryland, at the so-called Christmas Conference, December 24, 1784, to January 2, 1785. At that time there were 104 preachers and 18,000 communicants. There are now over 15,000 preachers and 4,033,123 members. In the early days of the Methodist church the salary of a preacher was \$64. If married, he received the similar amount for his wife, with \$16 for each child under six and \$22 for each child between six and eleven years.

Among the important matters that will come before the General Conference at Saratoga Springs are the questions concerning organic union with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which has been under discussion with both of these important branches of Methodism for some time; the question whether the church shall elect Bishops for races and languages; the election of bishops to take the places of those who have died during the last four years and those who will retire from active service automatically by reason of this session being nearest to their seventy-third birthday; the election of editors for the church press, which includes the Methodist Review, the numerous weekly Christian Advocates, the Epworth Herald, and the Sunday School publications of the church; the election of corresponding secretaries for

such church boards as the board of foreign missions, the board of home missions and church extension, the Freedmen's Aid Society, the board of education, the board of Sunday Schools, etc.; the election of publishing agents of the Methodist Book Concern, etc.

MISFITS

The name of the Portland Beavers should be changed to Mud Turtles.

They should send for Doug Hamilton to pitch for them.

The manner in which prohibition is affecting Washington is shown in the Pacific Telephone's record at Tacoma since the first of the year. 35 stations were added in January and 34 in February. It was thought March would surpass this, the record not yet being made up. Before the company were fearful of the results.

Some one says there was more business in Albany twenty years ago than now. Let's see.

Twenty years ago the deposits of the First National Bank were \$207,000, with total resources of \$324,000. Now they are approximately three times that. Those of the Cusick bank have also increased that much and we have two more banks. Then the post office receipts were between \$8,000 and \$9,000. Now almost three times as much. These are splendid indications of the business of a city. Things are quiet just now, but isn't it probable that the total business of

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the city from all sources is two or three times that of twenty years ago.

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Are you cheated of your right? Laugh it off.
Don't make tragedy of trifles. Don't shoot butterflies with rifles—Laugh it off.

Does your work get into kinks? Laugh it off.
Are you near all sorts of brinks? Laugh it off.
If it's sanity your affair. There's no receipt like laughter—Laugh it off.

Speaking of education: Students do well to go just as far as they can. The best college education is none too good. It means success in life, when backed by judgment.

So far as morals and religion are concerned, though, it is very doubtful if it conduces to the advancement of either.

There is a big screw loose in institutions of learning that do not seek to build up character as well as intellect.

The crying need of the day is character, and the highest type of character is the real Christian character.

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