

BAHA'I DELEGATES END 26TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Followers of Faith Gather at Temple in Wilmette

Bahais from practically every state in the Union, Canada and the Hawaiian islands gathered for four days, beginning May 31, for their 26th annual convention at foundation hall, Baha'i Temple of Worship, Wilmette, Ill. The 93 delegates who made up the convention represented thousands of followers of the faith.

Sessions of the convention were held morning, afternoon and night. Outstanding among the post convention affairs was a public lecture Sunday afternoon at 3:30 at which Louis Gregory, Portsmouth, N. H., served as chairman and Bishop Brown and Hooper Harris spoke on the Baha'i faith. Mr. Gregory is one of the most illustrious of the adherents and is a widely known and revered teacher of the doctrine. He was the principal speaker June 6 at a noon day lecture on "The New Order—Equality of Men and Women" which was delivered in the reading room, 116 S. Michigan Ave.

Robert S. Abbott, editor and publisher of The Chicago Defender, addressed the delegates and visitors to the convention Sunday afternoon. His talk was one of the highlights of the program. The editor is intensely interested in the Baha'i movement, and is thoroughly in accord with its broad principles as was evidenced by his excellent remarks during the convention.

Started Here in 1912

The recently completed dome of Baha'i Temple of Worship, also called the Universal House of Justice, has attracted vast crowds to view its grandeur. Located upon the shores of Lake Michigan, this "Temple of Light" was built solely from funds contributed by members of the Baha'i faith from all the country of the world. The universal teachings of the non-sectarian, non-political movement known as Baha'i Faith were proclaimed in this country in 1912 and 1913 by Abdul Baha.

The following principles were stressed by the leader: The independent search for truth; the oneness of mankind; the abolition of racial, patriotic religious prejudices; universal peace; an international court of arbitral justice; the harmony of science and religion; economic righteousness and justice; the equality of men and women and the need of an auxiliary language.

"Let There Be No Mistake"
The head of the faith is Shoghi Effendi, the guardian. Says he, "Let there be no mistake."

Followers of the faith talk freely and enthusiastically about the movement. To them the principle of the oneness of mankind is the pivot around which all the teachings of Baha'u'llah revolve.

"The action does not involve an outburst of ignorant emotionalism or

an expression of vague and pious hope," said an adherent, "nor is its appeal merely identified with re-awakening of the spirit of brotherhood and good will among men for the sole aim of fostering harmonious co-operation among individual peoples and nations."

"The implications of the teachings," another said, "are deeper. No prophet of old was ever allowed to advance so great a claim. The primary principle is applicable not only to the individual, but concerns itself fundamentally with the nature of those essential relationships that must bind all the states and nations as members of one human family."

Governed by Assembly

The movement in America is governed by a national spiritual assembly at Washington. Each local assembly has its spiritual assembly that governs the unit. Conventions are always held in Chicago, which is the meeting place for the United States, Canada and U. S. possessions.

A short program followed by a reception was held Monday night at the downtown Chicago headquarters. M. C. Oglesby, a delegate from Boston, Mass., was a speaker, as well as was Mr. Gregory.

Albert Windust, chairman of the local spiritual assembly, was master of ceremonies at the meeting. Among those who spoke, besides Mr. Gregory and Mr. Oglesby, were Miss Agnes Alexander, Honolulu; Mrs. Flora Finch, Seattle, Wash.; Mrs. Georgia Wiles, Tennessee; Dr. Ali Kuli Khan, Washington, D. C., former Persian diplomat, and Miss Sophie Leoding, Timothy Reeves, Mrs. Sarah Walrath and Monroe Ios.

Musical selections were furnished by Miss Lillian Dobbins, pianist; Ernest Walters, Chicago, and Mrs. Maude Goodreauux, Yonkers, N. Y., soloists, and Mrs. Shahnaz Waite, pianist, who played the closing number.

Mrs. Nina Matthisen, 4612 Malden St., a member of the national publicity committee, and Mrs. Elizabeth Edwards are among the most progressive and active members of the local assembly. Mrs. Matthisen's husband, A. F. Matthisen is chairman of the local publicity committee.

The personnel of the national spiritual assembly, which was elected annually at the conventions, is as follows: Allen McDaniel, Washington, D. C., Carl Scheffler, Evanston, Ill., Roy Wilhelm, West Englewood, N. J., Leroy Ios, San Francisco, Calif., George Latimer, Portland, Ore., Horace Schopflocher, Montreal, Can., Mrs. Nellie S. French, Pasadena, Calif., and Alfred E. Lunt, Boston, Mass.