

# CHICAGO MINISTERS TO DENOUNCE LYNCHING

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Have Asked the Various Ministers to Take as Their Subject, Sunday, April 28, "The Lynching Evil in This Country"—Local Committee Making Strenuous Efforts to Make Annual Meeting an Overwhelming Success.

## SEEK AID OF PRESS AND PULPIT.

Opening Session to Be Held at the New Sinai Temple—Abdul Baha, the Venerable Head of the Baha Order, to Be Among the Speakers—Seeks to Teach All Nations That They Can and Should Live in Harmony and Mutual Respect—Will Wear His Picturesque Robes and Turban.

All the ministers of Chicago have been individually appealed to to preach on Sunday, April 28, upon the subject of "The Lynching Evil in This Country."

This request has gone to them from the local committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which begins its fourth annual conference in Chicago upon that day. Thousands of pamphlets dealing with the lynching evil, especially with its sporadic appearance in northern states like Illinois and Pennsylvania, have been sent to the clergy for their guidance. This literature seems to have made a deep impression upon many of them who have responded earnestly to the plea for co-operation.

"The continuance of lynching," one minister wrote the committee, "seems to me a challenge to Christianity. I should certainly feel that I was derelict in my duty if I did not emphasize for my people the deep lesson of shame which this holds for us all."

Similar material has been sent to the daily newspapers, not only of Chicago but of many other cities, in order to strengthen public sentiment against further spread of this national shame.

This part of the work for the forthcoming conference has been in the charge of Mr. T. W. Allinson of the Henry Booth house, Dr. C. E. Bentley and other members of the local committee, which includes Miss Jane Addams, Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett, Mrs. Cella Parker Wooley, Mr. Louis F. Post, Miss Sophonisba Breckenridge, Mr. Willoughby Walling, Judge E. O. Brown and others.

One of the most striking features of the opening session of the conference, held at the new Sinai Temple on Sunday evening, will be the appearance of the venerable Abdul Baha, head of the Baha order, which is now spreading, with its tenets of brotherly love and inter-racial harmony, around the world. The Baha cult comes originally from Persia and embraces people of all religions and races, Christians, Mohammedans, Jews and others. It is said that Abdul Baha made a profound impression in London last year when he appeared at the great Universal Congress of Races.

Abdul Baha insists that he is not seeking converts to a special religion but is merely preaching to the followers of all faiths, creeds and colors that they can, and should, live in harmony and mutual respect. He is strenuously opposed to race discrimination and oppression.

Dressed in his picturesque robes and turban, Abdul Baha will appear for a few minutes at the Sunday night meeting and address the audience briefly. The other speakers that night will be Mr. Oswald Garrison Villard, editor of the New York Evening Post and the grandson of William Lloyd Garrison, the abolitionist; Dr. Emil G. Hirsch, and Prof. William Pickens of Talladega, Ala., one of the most eloquent colored speakers in the country. Miss Jane Addams will preside at that meeting.

On Monday and Tuesday, morning, afternoon and evening, the sessions will be held at Handel hall, Randolph street, near Wabash avenue. All sessions, it is announced, will be open to the public without charge.