

## THE FIRST STEP FOR THE EQUALITY OF MAN.

Not since the remarkable series of conferences at the World's Fair has Chicago seen such a significant and successful convention as that of the N. A. A. C. P., which was held in this city during the current week. It is safe to go even further than this and say that never in this country has a conference concerning the welfare of the American Negro been attended by such brilliant results or been participated in by people of such power and attainment. All lines of creed, race and class seemed forgotten and men and women as such before the world; and that an amount of enthusiasm has been aroused in the people of Chicago and vicinity which far exceeds the hopes of the most optimistic.

Too much praise cannot be given the local committee whose magnificent work has brought about these fine results. To Jane Addams, that noble woman whose Hull House was the gracious spot of welcome and good cheer; to Mr. Hallinan, whose fine work made the press service the best the association has had in the whole course of its existence; to Mr. Allinson, who, as secretary and treasurer, did yeoman's service; to Mrs. Barnett, whose clear head and fine race loyalty pulled together for a desired end. There were Russell and Dubois, workers and sociologists; Dr. Hirsch, Bishop Lee and Abdul Baha—Jew, Negro and Persian. Labor was represented in the person of John Walker, president of the United Mine Workers of Illinois, and on the same platform capital took the form of a Rosenthal, McCormick and Emerson Blaine.

No better material could have been brought together, and with such workers it is no wonder that the convention has attained a wonderful success. That the purposes and objects and achievements of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have been clearly put, made it possible for the folk song of the Negro to be heard, and to Miss Breckenridge, that tireless worker in many good causes. But most of all the man who made that strong, comprehensive program, and who was able to gather together from all parts of the country such men and women, deserves the commendation of his fellow Chicagoans. Only one who held the respect and friendship of the best in both races could have had the influence necessary for this work, and in Dr. C. E. Bentley, the N. A. A. C. P. could have made no better choice.

The success of the convention has taken very tangible shape. Not only were the meetings crowded to overflowing from the first night in beautiful Sinai temple, when, in spite of wind and rain, more than 1,500 were present; through every session in Handel hall, where nightly crowds were turned away and the doors closed before 8 o'clock. But the membership of the association has been increased by hundreds and a goodly sum has been gathered for the help of the propaganda. The local committee will shortly take steps to make a strong state organization in Illinois.