

BAHAIS END 28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Bahais from more than 40 states and the dominion of Canada gathered last week at the shrine in Wilmette, Ill., for the three-day session of the 28th annual conference. The conference proper closed Saturday, but delegates and officers wound up their business Monday night at a meeting at the downtown headquarters, 116 S. Michigan avenue. People from all sections of the country are rapidly accepting the teachings promulgated by the Baha'i movement, which urges the oneness of mankind and the fatherhood of God. From the deep

South, where for years the people have been steeped in prejudice, the faith is taking hold, and ancient prejudices are being wiped away as a better understanding of the purpose of life is unfolded by the doctrine of the Baha'is. Southerners, tired of the cruelty and inhumaneness practiced by their fellowmen, are shaking off the shackles from their mind and are joining the forces for a universal brotherhood of man. This remarkable photograph was taken on the steps of the Wilmette shrine.

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL BAHAI CONVENTION CLOSURES

By VERA B. SLAUGHTER

The twenty-eighth annual Baha'i convention closed with a public conference Sunday on the subject of "Baha'u'llah's Message to a Chaotic Age." The principal speaker was Mrs. Dorothy Baker of Lima, Ohio, who spoke on the "Assurance for the Afflicted Heart." "That which the Lord hath ordained as the sovereign remedy and mightiest instrument for the healing of all the world is the union of all its peoples in one universal Cause, one common Faith," Baha'u'llah.

Mrs. Baker pointed out the principles of the Baha'i Faith, among which are "Unfettered search after truth, and the abandonment of all superstition and prejudice. The Oneness of Mankind; all are 'leaves of one tree, flowers in one garden.' Religion must be a cause of love and harmony, else it is no religion. All religions are one in their fundamental principles.

"Universal peace: The establishment of a Universal League of Nations, of International Arbitration and an International Parliament. Abolition of extremes of poverty and wealth: Care for the needy. Work for all: No idle rich and no idle poor. 'Work in the spirit of service is worship.' Recognition of the Unity of God and obedience to His Revealed Commands, as revealed through His Divine Manifestations."

Albert Windust was the chairman of the meeting and introduced the next speaker who was Mountford Mills of New York, who spoke on "Order for a Troubled World." "That which the Lord hath ordained as the sovereign remedy and mightiest instrument for the healing of all the world is the union of all its peoples in one universal Cause, one common Faith," Baha'u'llah. Mr. Mills brought out the fact that all through the ages many prophets have brought to the people essentially the same teachings of God. Moses, Zoroaster, Mohammed, Jesus, etc., are all from the same source of inspiration, and each one had his essential message to the people of his particular period. From time to time the capacity for understanding in the general masses of people becomes more and more receptive, hence a new religion with a new name is brought forth.

Each promised that one would come to bring unity into the world.

The new Baha'i Temple is on Sheridan Road in Wilmette, a combination of the Byzantine, Greek and Asiatic architecture, a beautifully constructed nonagon building symbolic of the figure nine, which is the perfection of all things. When completed the structure will have nine entrances, nine walks, nine fountains and nine ante-prayer rooms.

The building will be illuminated all night. This will throw out reflections across the river and can be seen throughout as a symbol of the spiritual light to mankind. The sun's rays can penetrate the utmost recesses of the tower through the dome and windows, and the electrical glamour may be seen from all surrounding territories as a symbol of welcome to the Baha'i Faith.

A new era in religion is always initiated by a prophet or mediator, who is the bearer of the New Divine Message to His fellowmen. Baha'u'llah comes as the prophet of the New Era on which humanity is now entering. As such he is not a rival, much less is he an enemy, to Christ or any previous Divine Messenger or Manifestation. On the contrary, he fulfills their promises and consummates their work.

The temple constructed in Illinois is the second of its kind in the world, the other one being in Russia, but because of the discord and existing conditions there, it for the present is dormant.

Within the assembly hall no music will be heard. The hall is reserved for prayer, readings of teachers, and chanting.

Louis G. Gregory, a resident of Elliott, Me., is one of our Race to have extended knowledge of the Baha'i faith, one of its teachers, who has traveled extensively. At present, his wife, a co-worker is in Jugo-Slavia. She is the master of several languages and finds it easy to convey the teachings throughout most of the countries.

The Baha'i is widespread in the Orient and Europe and is gaining wide recognition in this country as the salvation toward harmony of mankind and peace between all races; the living in perfect unity toward one's fellowman.

On Saturday, 400 Baha'is and those in sympathy with the movement celebrated the feast of Ridhwan, at which time Louis Gregory spoke. The members of the New Spiritual Assembly are Mountford Mills of New York, chairman; Carl Scheffler of Evanston, vice chairman; Roy Wilhelm, treasurer; George O. Latimer, Portland, Ore.; Leroy Ios of San Francisco; Alfred E. Lunt of Boston and Mrs. Nellie S. French of Pasadena. Louis Gregory was on the committee from 1922 to 1924 and again served from 1927 to 1932. The officers and members are elected by delegates.

The Baha'i Faith extends throughout most of the countries in the world. Their concentration at this meeting has been the actual leadership of the Faith with special effort to take it in the states where there are no circles, also Canada.

According to the International Head of the Cause, the most essential need of the hour is for the Republics of the North and South America to unite in a new order, based upon the principle of oneness of mankind, in which other nations can join later, until eventually the whole world is united in one universal society.

To the American Baha'is this message seems to indicate that the real foundation of peace and security must be laid in the cooperation of North and South America, and that Europe today affords no adequate basis for security.

The period between 1936 and 1944, the hundredth anniversary of the rise of the Baha'i Faith is one of extreme peril to humanity, the Baha'is believe. By 1944, they assert, the Teachings of Baha'u'llah will have secured widespread acceptance among the peoples of the Western World.

The Baha'i movement of Chicago is located at 116 South Michigan avenue, where literature and teachings may be obtained.