

Journal of the Alabama Conference of the Meth- odist Episcopal Church South

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

*Held at First Church, Opelika, Alabama
November 14-19, 1923*

BISHOP WARREN A. CANDLER
President

A. J. LAMAR
Secretary

E. L. CRAWFORD, C. H. MOTLEY, E. A. CHILDS
Assistant Secretaries

H. T. STROUT
Statistical Secretary

H. M. ANDREWS, R. P. COCHRAN, C. P. ROBERTS, D. M. PEARSON
Assistant Statistical Secretaries

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LAMAR & BARTON, AGENTS

FIFTH DAY—MEMORIAL SERVICE.

OPELIKA, ALABAMA, November 18, 1923.

Opening.—The Conference met in Memorial Session this day at 3 P.M., Dr. W. M. Cox in the chair by appointment of Bishop Candler.

Devotional.—W. M. Cox called the Conference to order and announced Hymn No. 334, after the singing of which R. A. Moody led in prayer. Hymn No. 315 was sung.

Minutes.—On motion, the reading of the minutes of the session of Saturday afternoon was postponed until the morning session tomorrow.

Monday's Session.—On motion, it was decided that when we adjourn it be to meet at 8:30 A.M., Monday, instead of 9 A.M., the stated hour.

Died.—Dr. Cox called Question 14. What preachers have died during the year? *Answer.* D. J. Hartzog, L. P. Lathram, and O. C. McGehee.

Memoirs.—J. P. Roberts read the memoir of D. J. Hartzog; H. H. McNeill, the memoir of L. P. Lathram, and W. M. Cox that of O. C. McGehee. Many members of the Conference paid loving tribute to the memory of our loved departed brethren. On motion, the report of the Committee on Memoirs was adopted.

Adjournment.—Hymn No. 393 was sung and the Conference adjourned with the benediction by W. M. Cox.

REV. D. J. HARTZOG.—Daniel James Hartzog was born February 4, 1845, at Lodi, Barbour County, Alabama, and died April 22, 1923, at Pensacola, Florida. He joined the Methodist Church at Adams Chapel, Eufaula Circuit June 25, 1886, and was licensed to preach in the following September. Continuing as a local preacher for a little more than a year, he joined the Annual Conference and became an itinerant in December, 1887, was ordained deacon at Greenville, Alabama, December 8, 1889, by Bishop W. W. Duncan, ordained elder December 17, 1892, at Opelika, Alabama, by Bishop R. K. Hargrove. During his itinerancy Brother Hartzog served faithfully the following charges: Cahaba River Mission, Womack Hill, Echo, Pond Town (now Hartford Circuit), Gordon, Big Creek, Santa Rosa Mission, Red Level, Salem, Pushmataha. Because of impaired health brought on largely by his many hardships and strenuous labors he was forced to take the superannuate relation in 1912, but, before his death he served as a "supply" on the Loxley Mission, Sepulga Circuit, and Muscogee Mission. On July 22, 1883, Brother Hartzog took the sacred vows at the marriage altar with Miss Mary Eleanor Barrow. To this happy couple God gave three daughters and one son, who survive him. They are Mrs. R. H. Bryars, Stockton, Alabama; Mrs. Aug Bastian, Pincher Creek, Alberta, Canada; Mrs. A. A. Bobo, Pensacola, Florida; and W. B. Hartzog, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He is also survived by one sister, Mrs. M. Hicks, of Homa, Florida. Brother Hartzog "sought to know nothing

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among men save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." His ministry was marked by many good works. He was a congenial friend and companion to young people, especially young men. He was in his greatest delight when instructing them in the way of life. The precious memory of his life is like ointment poured forth to the men and women who were touched by this man of God in their young days. It is said that he has started more men in the ministry than any other preacher in the Alabama Conference of the present generation. He was specially interested in young preachers, and his advice to them was wholesome and much sought for. His last testimony was: "I have tried to be faithful; I have tried to be true; I have kept the faith; if God wants me, I am ready to go." His greatest concern at the last was for others. His was an unselfish spirit. He thanked God that others had gifts that he had not; that others of his fellows had reached better fields of labor than he. Surely, this one-time valiant soldier of the cross, who braved the storms of life with an undying faith and zeal, has entered into that glorified realm above and is basking in the sunlight of heaven, awaiting the coming of the faithful wife and precious children, whom he loved on earth. May our God who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb comfort the hearts of the loved ones and friends of this prince among men, and may they be so filled with his love that they will enter into that sacred rest with all of the "ransomed of the Lord," when their journey on earth has been run. W. H. MCNEAL, H. M. ELLIS, J. W. FRAZER.

LESLIE PRITCHETT LATHRAM.—Leslie Pritchett Lathram, born March 3, 1865, at Hayneville, Ala., went with his parents to Powelton, Fla., in 1867. Here he was reared to manhood. He was received into the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, when only eight years old. So remarkable was the boy's earnest piety, gifts, and graces that the Quarterly Conference did not hesitate to license him to preach at the early age of fifteen. For five years he was an acceptable local preacher, and in 1885 he was admitted into the Alabama Conference on trial. He was ambitious to equip himself for his Master's work; therefore he advanced from class to class in due course with credit. December, 1887, he took to himself a wife, Vida May Hill, who was in every way fit for him and his holy work. In her his heart confided, and their walk together was beautiful to the end. He inherited the sterling qualities of his godly parents, and was universally regarded as God's man with a message to mankind. This message he proclaimed with all earnestness and lived in all fidelity. Than Leslie Lathram no man more noble, more loyal, ever walked in our midst; none more firmly held the confidence of all who knew him. In his childhood, truth and honor crowned him. His boyhood friends testify that they never knew him to do a little thing. In bigness of soul, in tenderness of heart, in cleanness of life, in valorous deeds, none excelled him. He was a man of great faith and a far-flung horizon. His religion was no conjecture, but a very deep and clear experience. He never lived in the twilight zone of religious belief. He believed, and his belief was of the positive type. Herein lay his power to command the trust of men. Nor was his faith the credulity of an uncritical mind. While deprived of a collegiate education, his high order of mind had been schooled by discriminating attention to what he heard and read. He read the greatest books, the latest books, and was not unfamiliar with biblical criticisms. His experience in Christ Jesus was so definite and so rich that he could not be blown about by every wind purporting to come from the caverns of "scholarship." He had great deference to scholarship and delighted in it till it contravened the judgment of the last and highest tribunal, experience. (Let me