

"The Captain of the Lord's host still leads on before His people. And just over beyond is the Promised Land. Let us with renewed zeal, determination, and consecration hold aloft the banner of truth and proclaim with new power that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Indeed, our great objective is to hold aloft the banner of truth. The messenger of the Lord describes the banner in these words: 'God has placed in our hands a banner upon which is inscribed, "Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."' Rev. 14:12. This is a distinct, separating message,—a message that is to give no uncertain sound. It is to lead the people away from the broken cisterns that contain no water, to the unfailing Fountain of the water of life.'—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 150.

"The quadrennial period just closing with this session has been one of great activity on the part of the General Conference and divisional staffs. World War II had just closed before the beginning of this period. Travel had been well-nigh impossible during the war. Great damage and destruction had fallen upon our churches and institutions. Thousands of our people had lost all their possessions and their means for earning a living. . . .

"The church must become more and more spiritual and less and less like the world. Our standards must be lifted higher and higher. Love for the world and the things of the world must be purged out of our individual lives and out of the church, for that glorious church made ready for the coming of the Lord will be without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. . . .

"The army of the Lord is forming for the final march. Just across over there is the Promised Land. There must be no turning back to the ways and practices of the world. By precept and example, by faithfulness to every principle of the truth, we must lead on before the church militant until we have passed over Jordan and the church becomes triumphant. We have as-

sembled here to lay plans for leading the church into just such a victorious experience.

"May I conclude with a personal word. After serving in this office for fourteen years, during times of difficulty, stress, and strain, I have fully decided that I should tell you all that I am not to be considered for further service as president of the General Conference. I heartily thank you all for your prayers and cooperation. I joyfully step aside and join you in praying that the Lord will choose the one He would have to assume the responsibilities of leadership. May God richly bless this delegation as you now take up the work of this session."

(Reprinted from the *Review and Herald*.)

Concerning The General Conference

● MANY special soloists thrilled the General Conference assembly.

● NEGRO artists, brilliant in their performance, were Georgia Laster, Bernice Peterson, and Geraldine Farmer.

● THE La Sierra Collegians, robed in white and blue, and spotlighted from the balcony, presented a group of numbers one evening that showed extraordinary artistry. They concluded their program with "The Holy City" in a beautiful arrangement.

● ELDER W. C. WEBB, of the Southern California Conference, functioned in the song services as one of the leaders.

● A QUARTET composed of Elders W. C. Webb, W. W. Fordham, H. Lindsey, and George Earle rendered very effective numbers.

● A SOLO by W. W. Fordham, "Keep Looking Up," was quite adequate.

● THE Philadelphian church choir under the leadership of Elder J. E. Cox, pastor, occupied the half hour allotted to the song service, Sunday afternoon, July 16. The numbers rendered were well received.

● FRIDAY, July 14, at 3 P.M., G. E. Peters rendered his report in the main auditorium. The estimated attendance at that hour was about six thousand.

● THERE were three special meetings conducted by G. E. Peters in which colored leaders were given opportunity to report concerning their conferences and institutions. These meetings were held July 11, 16, and 20, from 3:30 to 4:45 P.M. It is estimated that the attendance of colored believers and their friends at the session numbered more than a thousand.

● THE display booth of the Colored Department of the General Conference received much favorable comment and attracted large numbers of all groups. L. B. Reynolds collaborated with the department secretary in preparing designs for the booth and was responsible for the artistic exhibit.

Death of L. O. Irons

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Brother L. O. Irons, secretary-treasurer of the Northeastern Conference, who passed away July 15, 1950. Brother Irons served most efficiently in the Northeastern Conference from the time of its organization in 1944 until his death. He carried ministerial license for several years, and with his other responsibilities in the conference served as pastor of our church in Jamaica, New York. The best of care and the best of medical skill were afforded our brother. There were special seasons of prayer and fasting for his recovery. He was anointed, but He who doeth all things well saw fit to call our brother to rest from his labors.

We deeply regret this loss, and realize that he will be greatly missed in our work, but we bow in humble submission to the will of God. Brother Irons fought a good fight, finished his course, and was ready to go.

We extend to Sister Irons and other sorrowing relatives our sincere sympathy.

G. E. P.