

Fraternization News

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NOTES AND NEWS



Frank E. Noyes

A sincere fraternal spirit marked the Buffalo convention; at Niagara Falls, the characteristic of the gathering seemed to be enthusiasm for Fraternization. The conventions have come to stay!

To Canadians, Boston cannot seem very far off when, even before the convention broke up, plans for making the trip were already being discussed. One group proposed an "On to Boston Fund"; others were planning to make the journey by automobile. (They found it could be done cheaply.) One American, living near the Falls, said he already had three car-loads of people lined up. In Toronto, next morning, talk of chartering a Pullman was under way.

Sincere Commentary

These post-convention activities are, perhaps, the sincerest commentary on the success of the Niagara Falls gathering. Like *Oliver Twist*, students are asking for more.

The early work of Mr. Robert A. Hughes and the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Marks merit recognition. The work they accomplished can be appreciated best by those who have organized gatherings of this nature. There are a hundred and one things to attend to, and all demand time, thought and energy.

Mr. Schoonmaker was an A1 chairman, and under his able guidance everything went off smoothly. Mr. Dustan, the treasurer, put in a lot of essential work, which did not appear on the surface. But the convention would not have been the success it was had it not been for the co-operation of many, some of whose names appear in the resolution on page 2, and the spirit of those present. Everyone who attended helped to make Niagara Falls memorable.

The News Carries On

The collections defrayed the costs of the convention, including a deficit for the *News*. But we cannot continue to publish without funds, and the Convention Officers join with the Editor in an appeal for cash donations. If you approve of the *News* and its purpose, will you please support it, sending contributions to Cecil Williams, 49 East 7th Street, Hamilton, Ont.? We need and will welcome your aid.

Many enquiries were made at the convention for copies of the *Bhagavad Gita* (Albert E. S. Smythe edition) which, through an unfortunate combination of circumstances, was not represented on the book stall. These can be had from the Blavatsky Institute, 52 Isabella Street, Toronto. Fabric, 50c; paper, 30c.

Officers and Resolutions

The Convention Officers elected on Saturday morning, June 12, were: Oliver J. Schoonmaker, Boston, chairman; N. W. J. Haydon, Toronto, vice-chairman; M. E. Dustan, Toronto, treasurer; Mrs. Cecil Williams, Hamilton, secretary. J. Emory Clapp, Boston, was elected temporary chairman.

The Resolutions Committee, appointed by the chairman, consisted of: G. Cardinal LeGros, Detroit (chairman); Mrs. Ruth Somers, Toronto; Mrs. H. Huebner, Toledo; J. Emory Clapp, Boston; N. T. Hawkins, Allison Park, Pa.; Lawrence Merkel, Brooklyn, New York; Robert Marks, Toronto, and Cecil Williams, Hamilton, with the chairman and secretary, ex-officio.

Seven Recommendations

The Resolutions Committee brought in seven recommendations, which, after discussion and amendment in one or two instances, were all unanimously adopted, as follows:

1. That the place of the 1938 Convention be Boston, Mass.
2. That the Convention Committee for 1938 consist of Oliver J. Schoonmaker, Boston (chairman); Miss Emma Mills, Boston, and Robert Marks, Toronto, with power to add. (The old international committee and convention sub-committee were merged.)
3. That the date of the Convention be selected by the Convention Committee. (The month of June is, however, indicated.)
4. That *Fraternization News* be continued under the editorship of Cecil Williams, five issues to be published during the year, in the months of July, October, January, May and June.
5. That the title of the 1938 convention be The Sixth North American Theosophical Fraternization Convention.

Votes of Thanks

6. That votes of thanks be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Marks, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Warren Nelson, Hamilton (for printing), Miss Laura G. Kelsey and assistants, Buffalo (for music), Miss Ruby Wellbourne, B. S. Ames, Miss Hyde and Mrs. L. Boddy, Toronto (for mimeographing addresses), Harry Potter, Hamilton (for reading addresses), Miss Millie Hall, Hamilton, and Miss Wellbourne (for readings), Mr. Cowan, editor of *Niagara Falls Review*, Miss Winnifred Stokes, Niagara Falls, and Ronald V. Garratt, Welland (for publicity), the ladies' committee, all speakers and chairmen, and all others helping to make the convention a success.

7. That the convention stands definitely in favour of all movements making for real world peace.

The following took the chair at the dual sessions: N. T. Hawkins, Allison Park, Pa.; Ebenezer Thomas, Buffalo; Mrs. Kathleen Marks, Toronto; Miss Amy Putnam, Hamilton; Walter Hick, Hamilton; George Kinman, Toronto; Lt.-Col. E. L. Thomson, Toronto, and Lawrence Merkel, Brooklyn, N.Y. F. E. Noyes, Columbus, O., introduced Dr. Kuhn to the convention.

CARD OF THANKS

As organizers of the 1937 Convention we wish to cordially thank the many friends who gave their time and talents to making it the success it was. These conventions are a definite and concrete move "Forward to Blavatsky" as Dr. Stokes has it.—R.M. & R.A.H.

An American's Reactions

I was very much pleased with the fraternal attitude of all present at the recent Theosophical Students Convention at Niagara Falls. The very friendliest feelings prevailed at every moment of the time that I had the privilege of spending with my fellow Theosophists. From my observation, it seems to me that whether they know it or not, Theosophists know each other.

In this respect they are unlike the ordinary rank and file of mankind. No matter what their affiliation, they seem to be marching along toward a better understanding of life as it applies to mankind at this particular time when the fifth sub-race is in full swing. It is natural that scientific research should be very much to the fore. It is our bounden duty to improve our mental attitudes and bring forth brain consciousness of a worthwhile nature.

The remarkable array of splendid papers and discourses showed that the speakers are studying those things which are for the improvement of the mind, the intellectual parts of our system of thought. But this alone is not sufficient, and the evidences of intuition foreshadowed that certain change of attitude which will necessarily come with the development of the sixth sub-race.

Those Present Pleased

It was quite evident that those present were pleased with the entire proceedings and that those on the program participated in a very able manner.

It was a wonderful idea to hold the meeting so close to Niagara Falls, where the great power of the Falls can impart strength, power and earnestness of purpose. The courtesy of those who had automobiles with them, and who so generously enabled the visitors to observe this great wonder of nature at night from various vantage points, as man does his puny best to add to the work of the great Architect of the universe, was indeed appreciated. The awe-inspiring sight of the Falls at night will ever linger in my memory, and there can be no question but that similar feelings were evoked in all who gathered on the front porch of the Fox Head Inn for the sight-seeing expedition.

Unobtrusive Touch

One distinctive and unobtrusive touch was provided in the registration badges. No mention was made of the particular group to which any visitor belonged, but merely the name and the city of residence. This did much to prevent the forming of any possible barriers among those present.

This was my first experience at a Theosophical Students Convention, but it will most assuredly not be the last, and I am eagerly looking forward to next year's gathering. Furthermore, I shall not come alone another time.

Great credit is due to those who had the vision and the practical ability to institute and carry forward this splendid plan. Judging from the beautiful manner in which everything was conducted and enjoyed, it did not seem that brotherhood was a wistful idea, to be realized in some far off and distant future, but a living, pulsating actuality in our very midst.

It is good for brethren to dwell together in amity.

FRANK E. NOYES.

As Seen By Canadian

The recent "get-together" was a tremendous success. But you who were present do not have to be told that, because it was from you we received the impression. One feels that the spontaneous demonstration of fraternal good-will sprang from the hearts of honest people who desire to apply their Theosophy in "this war-mad world"—which reminds us that Dr. E. G. Mitchell, of Boston, gave one of the most stirring and practical addresses. And one wonders why the program did not include a more representative number of her sex. All the lectures and student talks, however, tended toward practical Theosophy. The keynote of the entire convention was STRAIGHT THEOSOPHY.

Naturally, efficient organizing contributed largely to the success of the occasion. The opinion was expressed by many that the twenty-minute discussion following the student talks was exceedingly helpful, and that the ten-minute get-together gave an opportunity for exchange of ideas pertaining, usually, to the last "talk". Much was learned from our American friends regarding the special provision they make for their young people, and out of the general discussion arose valuable suggestions for propaganda work.

One of the Fruits

Here is some news that may be of interest: Last winter a woman living in Niagara Falls heard a Theosophical radio broadcast from Toronto. She immediately wrote to the present writer asking—"Is Theosophy practical?" We corresponded regularly. Then she and several friends attended the Convention lectures. They were so impressed that they are forming themselves into a group for the purpose of studying the Secret Doctrine, topically.

This is our outstanding reaction to the recent and best Convention of all: At the Fox Head Inn was gathered a group of sane students, talking not vaguely about Cosmic Consciousness, nor going about in a metaphysical fog. Rather, it was an assembly of well-balanced men and women facing the problems of life, using each experience as a step to mount to greater heights with no intention of lingering on any.—"Forward with Blavatsky." It was glorious!

Be seeing you all in Boston.

RUTH SOMERS.

Fraternization News is the organ of no society, but represents the desire of Theosophical Students, belonging to any Theosophical Society or to none, to give expression to the teaching of Universal Brotherhood. The *News* is circulated free, and consequently relies for its existence upon voluntary contributions from supporters of Fraternization, which are welcomed. Suitable literary contributions and monetary donations should be sent to the Editor, Cecil Williams, 49 East 7th Street, Hamilton, Ont. The Convention Committee, elected at Niagara Falls, Ont., consists of Oliver J. Schoonmaker, 87 Kilby Street, Boston, Mass.; Miss Emma Mills, 166 Salem Street, Malden, Mass., and Robert Marks, 875 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ont. The next North American Theosophical Fraternization Convention will be held in Boston, in June, 1938.