

Referat Lutherska Kansas-Konferensens af Augustana Synoden. Salemsborg, Kansas, 7-11 May 1919. Rock Island, IL: Augustana Book Concerns, 1919.

Kansas Conference, Augustana Synod, 1919

Page 12, Alfred Bergin [Minister, Bethany Church, Lindsborg]

At least one thousand of our young men have been called out to the war. Many of them have already returned, but far from all of them. One district has reported that 169 young men have been called to war, six of them were killed and nine seriously injured. This may be the proportions for the whole conference.

Our people has proven that they are patriotic. Like one they have been loyal both in the city and in rural areas. They have not embraced the war, but they have willingly carried the burden in hope of first a victory and then reaching peace. Our young men have been fighting at Chateau Thierry, St. Mihiel and in the Argonne Forest and they know how it is to fight in a modern war. Those who have come home have not asked to be given a lot of attention, but have returned to their old occupations, but people try to show them their respect and love everywhere.

There are questions in all reports regarding the fact that the war, the plague and the general uneasiness in the world have caused people to visibly bend over with sadness and ask for grace and noticeable mercy, but they seem to handle it with calm and accept the situation.

The National Lutheran Council have accomplished two things so far: A fundraising drive for those suffering around the Lutherans in the provinces around the Baltic Sea, in France and the Baltic states, plus the arrangement with an office in Washington D.C. with the purpose to guard our interests in the capital. Both have already proven to be valuable and promise to be useful in the future.

Page 15, Alfred Bergin

Several of the pastors in the Conference have been serving the government this last year. Pastor Hedström has been army chaplain in the war in Europe. He has returned but still serves as army chaplain. Pastor O.M. Bloom was just installed as chaplain at one of the bases in Texas when they announced the cease-fire so he could return to his congregation. Pastor Hugo Haterius has served at the base near Fort Worth this whole year, but he has been able to serve his own congregation in the same city during this time. Pastor Holmstedt has served as pastor at Camp Funston during the later part of the year and he continues to do that. They witness to the fact that they have faced insurmountable difficulties to serve the young men at the bases the way they would have liked. Some things have been accomplished and the soldiers have appreciated the attention they have received.

Page 16, Alfred Bergin

Women's Home and Foreign Mission Society have assisted with missionwork during the year. They have especially embraced Manhattan and Colorado Springs this year. They have worked hard in all our congregations for our soldiers and for the Red Cross.

Page 25, Committee report, Pastor Hilding Myreen secretary

18. It is an important duty for the conference to remember the patriotism our people, as citizens of the United States, have shown during the victoriously ended world war, which was so important for the bourgeois idea of freedom. Support has gladly been shared and delivered; the women have pietistically done what our government requested; our men have willingly served for all people (humanity?) under our star spangled banner.

As we remember our sons, who have given their lives on the bloody battlefield, the void they have left in the hearts of their parents and in their homes, the conference expresses our deepest sympathy for those who gave what mattered most, and we give thanks to God, who sometimes have kept the right sense of citizenship with us and does not demand more of us for our nation than we can handle.

During these days, when the brave warriors who have survived the war are preparing to come home again, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for what they have done.

Page 35-36, E.P. Olsson

The war years have caused a lot of problems for the higher education institutions. Professors and students have been called to serve the country in duty for the war. The lower number of students has meant less income, which has been noticeable, and the expenses have increased due to the expensive times. The board has tried to lead the institution, based on its responsibility and understanding, as best as it could during these troublesome times.

Page 41-42, Ernst Pihlblad [President, Bethany College, Lindsborg]

We find ourselves at strange times, when no precedents seem to guide the rehabilitation. It has caused many problems.

When it comes to higher education it looks brighter than before.

The war has, like nothing before, hampered the young men in their wrestling with those who had less. This gives us hope that the young people will strive to attend our institutions.

Page 43-44, Ernst Pihlblad

In spite of an active advertisement campaign for the students it was communicated that as long as the war went on they realized that families had other concerns than sending their children to school. The sons had already started to serve in the war, or would soon be called to serve. The girls would have to stay home to help with the duties the sons couldn't do, at least this was what they said.

It would have been even less if not the department of war had announced the "Student Army Training Corps" just as the academic year was about to start. This made it possible for the young men to continue their educations while getting military/weapon trained. Fifty-four young men were enlisted and another 20 are expecting, but then cease fire was called. According to the department of war the contracts granted each man \$1.29/day.