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The Dallas Express

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DR. EMMETT SCOTT DENIES SENATOR HARRISON'S GRAFT CHARGES.

VIGOROUSLY CHALLENGES SENATOR PAT HARRISON'S CHARGES IN LIBERIAN LOAN MATTER; BLAMES NEGRO POLITICAL LEADER.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—Dr. Emmett J. Scott, in order to have his denial of the unfounded charges made on the floor of the United States Senate by Senator Pat Harrison, has sent the following letter to Senator Charles Curtis of Kansas, in charge of the Liberian Loan bill, for insertion in the Congressional Record:

Washington, D. C., Nov. 27, 1922. Hon. Charles Curtis, United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Curtis: On the floor of the United States Senate, Friday, November 24, the junior Senator from Mississippi, Mr. Pat Harrison, in the course of his remarks opposing the passage of the Liberian Loan Bill, said:

"It is pretty generally understood, I think, that certain persons have a contract with the government of Liberia that in the event this loan is made they are to receive a fee, or commission, of 659,000. It is not a secret that the five persons who have this contract with the government of Liberia are members of the colored race. They have been very conspicuous around the corridors of the Capitol buttonholing Senators and using every influence in order to obtain the passage of the legislation."

In the further course of the Senator's statement naming the five persons, he mentioned the five persons, who are to receive a fee, or commission, from the Liberian Loan Bill is passed:

No matter by whom inspired, no matter through whom the information reached the Senator, I wish most emphatically to deny the truthfulness of these charges.

I have no claim against the Liberian government.

I have no contract of any kind or character whatsoever with the Liberian government, or with any agent or official of the Liberian government.

I am to receive no fee of any character from the Liberian government.

I do, of course, favor the passage of the Liberian Loan bill. I think most thoughtful colored Americans favor it. I hope a majority of the Senate members will. Only a small coterie of colored politicians upon whom the Senator doubtless depended for information in this matter, do not favor it. I shall not

undertake to characterize their motives.

My interest in Liberia dates back to 1909, when I went to Liberia by appointment of President H. Taft, as a member of the American commission to Liberia. It was through the efforts of this commission that Liberia's difficulties at that time were adjusted and its debts refunded. My interest was also shown in 1918, when I was one of a group of persons who met President Wilson at the White House for a discussion of this Liberian credit, the meeting having been arranged by Major Robert R. Moton, the principal of Tuskegee Institute, who enjoyed the confidence and good will of the former president. In this group at the time also were Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones, secretary of the Phelps-Stokes fund, and Dr. James H. Dillard, president of the John F. Slater and Anna T. Jeanes funds, both white men of high character and devoted to the best interests of white and colored people alike.

Also, in 1919, when President-elect King of Liberia came to America, and again in 1921, when he came as President of the Republic of Liberia, I was personally requested by officials of the State Department to co-operate with them in working out plans for the entertainment of these guests of the United States. I did so.

For years I have been deeply interested in the welfare of Liberia. I do not receive money from anyone by a genuine interest in the struggles of the little republic on the west coast of Africa. I have never at any time sustained to the Liberian Government or Liberian officials any relationship based upon contracts or understandings to the effect that I am to receive money from the Liberian Government.

It is, therefore, exceedingly unfair for the junior Senator from Mississippi to publicly make a statement manifestly intended to unfavorably reflect upon me when he could most easily have been directly and correctly informed as to the facts in the matter.

It is also most unfair to the junior Senator from Mississippi for him to have been made the dupe of certain Negro politicians from his own State who are seeking to feed personal grudges rather than to furnish the truth, and whose false representations have caused the Senator to make statements on the floor of the Senate which he himself confesses he is unable to prove. Sincerely yours,

(Signed) EMMETT J. SCOTT.

PRETTY LASS IS LURED FROM HOME TO CHICAGO VICE NEST.

MAJOR R. R. WRIGHT DENIES CHARGES DALLAS NEEDS NEGRO BANK.

For nearly the entire week the city of Dallas has been pleased to extend its hospitality to Major R. R. Wright, President and founder of the Citizens and Southern Bank and Trust Company of Philadelphia. Major Wright was principal speaker on three occasions while in the city but his special message "A New Program for a New Day" was delivered Friday night before a highly receptive audience at St. James A. M. E. Temple.

Major Wright on this occasion very fittingly introduced by Prof. C. F. Carr, principal of the Booker Washington High School, Prof. Carr told of the fame of Major Wright due to his "tell them we're rising" episode and of his high success during succeeding years as a financier and executive.

Major Wright in beginning his remarks complimented the church and spoke of its erection as being indicative of enlarged vision on the part of the pastor and members. He compared present day worship to that of the days when as he said "we cut down trees and made arbors which were our earliest tabernacles." "Yes, times have changed," he declared. "It seems but as yesterday when my master called my mother into the dining room of the 'big house,' which by the way I now own, and addressed her thus: 'Harriet, Abraham Lincoln

(Continued on page 2)

RESIDENTS PROTEST BAPTIST MEETING IN THEATRE.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 21.—A threatened boycott of all St. Louis theaters showing Famous Players-Lasky motion pictures were embodied in a hurried effort by residents in the district of the Kings Theater, 822 North Kingshighway, to prevent the convention of the National Baptist Association, composed of Negroes from being held at the theater.

The Kingshighway Protective Association, the Cabanne District Improvement Association and the Fountain Park District Improvement Association at a meeting at 822 North Kingshighway, a resolution was passed protesting against the use of the theater by Negroes and authorizing this telegram:

"We, the Kingshighway Protective Association, representing more than 1000 families in the Kings Theater District, protest against the use of that theater by a Negro convention to be held beginning December 6, knowing it will be injurious to this community.

"If this convention is held as proposed, we pledge ourselves to ask the citizens of St. Louis to refuse to patronize the Kings Theater, Missouri Theater or any place of amusement showing films produced by your corporation. The Cabanne District Improvement Association and the Fountain District Improvement Association join with us in making this protest."

A reporter in an effort to ascertain who is in charge of the theater, and who was responsible for the contract renting the theater, and who was responsible for the contract renting the theater to the convention, was told that Nathan Frank, president of the Famous Players-Laucky Missouri Corporation, approved and signed the contract. He was out of town and could not be reached.

According to officials of the Kingshighway Protective Association those in charge of the convention at the Missouri Theater, the Coliseum, and the Coliseum, and rented the Kings Theater after the other efforts had failed. About 3,000 delegates attended the convention.

BOY RUN OVER, MOTHER SUES FOR \$10,000; SETTLES FOR \$10.00.

(Preston News Service) Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 21.—The mother of little Arthur Mack, aged 8 years, who was run over by L. H. Hodge's automobile last November, must have needed Christmas money very badly when she is alleged to have settled a \$10,000 damage suit out of court for the paltry sum of \$10.

Hodge, of Scrivens, Ga., was on his way to Daytona, Ga., on business it is alleged when he ran over the small lad at a curve on the state highway near here. He went to the magistrate's office and put up \$100 forfeit for his appearance at the hearing and was released to continue his journey. The accident occurred on November 14.

At the hearing last Tuesday afternoon before Justice of the Peace Greenberg, Mr. Hodge was exonerated on the charge of careless driving. It was stated that the mother of the boy had entered civil suit for \$10,000 damages against Hodge. The matter was said to have been settled out of the court when Hodge and his attorneys told the woman how much trouble it would be to conduct a case of this kind and that the enormous cost involved and that she would have to spend a lot of money for competent lawyers, who would finally get most or practically all of the best thing for her to do would be to settle the case out of court and get it without trouble and no publicity. So the woman said that \$10 would suit her since it would put an end to all the bother and trouble.

MOTHER OF MOUND BAYOU FOUNDER DIES.

(By A. N. P.) Clarkdale, Miss. Dec. 21.—Mrs. Sallie Banks, the mother of Charles Banks of Mound Bayou, and Dr. Joseph Jinks, was buried here recently. Mrs. Banks went to Clarkdale in 1867 and was the oldest resident of that city her son, Charles, having been born there.

At her funeral were present most of the influential white people of the city including the Clarks from whom the town takes its name.

NOTE WRITTEN TO POLICE LEADS TO ARREST OF HEAD OF "SLAVE RING." HARROWING TALES OF ABUSE AND VICE ARE TOLD.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 21.—(East Tennessee News Service)—With the arrest of Jake Pruitt, agent for scores of vice resorts in Chicago and other northern cities, the police and welfare organizations believe that they have in custody the chief of the gang who make regular trips to Southern towns and cities for the purpose of luring pretty Negro girls to houses of ill fame in the big cities of the North. The arrest of Pruitt was effected following a clear case made against him on the charge of bringing Thelma Jones, pretty fourteen-year-old colored girl from Samantha, Ala., to one of the most noted vice resorts in Chicago, frequented for the most part by white men and foreigners.

Made Attractive Offers to Girl. The little Jones girl was rescued from the den of vice after she had thrown a note from the window telling of her being held a captive by the inmates of the resort. The note was picked up by a woman who passed the place and it was turned over to the police department. Headed by Captain Hargrave, several officers of the vice squad raided the house and after a diligent search failed to find the girl. Not willing to give up the search readily, they continued to go through every room of the house and when they came near a concealed door they heard the crying of someone and upon touching a place in the wall, the opening was readily revealed and there they found the little Jones girl with hands tied and a well made muffler over her mouth.

Taken From Alabama School. The officers took the little girl down to the detention house and seated in the midst of a half dozen or more, she told a very pathetic story in an intelligent straight forward manner.

"I was attending school in my Alabama town," said little Thelma, "when that man over there," pointing to Jake Pruitt, "came around and told my mother and father that he could give me employment in a silk mill up here that would

pay me good wages. He said that I would only have to work six hours a day and would be given a comfortable home with a nice family. When my parents decided to let me come to Chicago, I notified Mr. Pruitt according to his instructions, and when I reached Chicago, he met me at the station.

We got into an automobile and rode to many places in the city until it began to grow dark and then we came to the house where the officers found me. I was greeted by two women who told me that I would not have to work, but would have plenty of money if I would only follow their instructions. That same night I fought off the advances of more than a dozen white men and three Chinamen and at one time during the night had to fight off one of the women who stayed at the house who attempted to hold me for one of the Chinamen.

They called me a fool, a little country girl, and threw pillows and slippers at me and finally locked me up and wouldn't give me anything to eat. The paper and pencil used in writing the note which resulted in my rescue was slipped from the pocket of one of the white men as he lay across my bed in a drunken stupor. The women at the house took all of the pencils, pens and paper from me."

Pruitt Through Third Degree. Captain Hargrave expressed determination to break up such activities as has been practiced by Jake Pruitt and with an idea of getting the real facts as to his activities, put him through the third degree and the information which he gave revealed startling facts as to the efforts of a gang of men who operate throughout the South and lure scores of pretty, buxom colored girls from their homes to dens of vice in Northern and Eastern cities. Pruitt confessed to being the leader of the gang working out of Chicago and Indianapolis and gave the names of others who were supplying houses in both cities with the young colored girls.

FORMER DALLAS BOY STUDIES BANKING.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 21.—The Hollywood Branch of the Security Trust & Savings Bank is proud that among its employees who are enrolled in the class in elementary banking offered by the American Institute of Banking is Emory V. Crain of 1315 West Thirty-fifth street.

Mr. Crain, who is a member of the American Institute of Banking, is the only one of his race who is taking the course. There are over 75 enrolled in it and the class meets every Monday evening at the headquarters of the institute, 721 South Hill street.

The American Institute of Banking offers a complete course in banking which is open to all employees of banks and Mr. Crain says that it is his intention to take the entire course by way of advancing himself in the banking profession.

Mr. Crain, as a graduate of the Dallas Texas High School, has the educational foundation for the intensive study which such a course as the institute requires. He was the clerk of his company when he served in the World War. Following the war he was employed in Philadelphia as an operative of the Pinkerton Detective Agency and left that position to come to Los Angeles so that he might live with his mother. He has only been in Los Angeles a short while but says he likes it fine. He enjoys his work with the Security Bank in Hollywood very much.

BALTIMORE HAS FIRST SUICIDE.

(By A. N. P.) Baltimore, Md., Dec. 21.—What proved to be the first Negro suicide in the history of this city was discovered when Bertha A. Peck, 30

TORONTO'S FINEST ORCHESTRA IS NEGRO.

(By A. N. P.) Toronto, Canada, Dec. 21.—Toronto, Canada is widely known as a Music City; it possesses several fine choirs, a Royal Brass Band, and Scottish Pipe Band, but it remained for our group to furnish its best concert orchestra, and to the Gameso belongs that distinction.

Less than two years ago seven young colored musicians, seeing the need of a first-class concert orchestra in this city, decided to enter that honor for the Race, To C. Andie Johnson, graduate of The Toronto Conservatory, fell the task of forming the organization and conducting its rehearsals. Mr. Johnson was ably assisted by Leroy Williams, graduate of Cincinnati Conservatory, and after earned the title of Toronto's finest.

The musicians, each one a master of his art, are: C. Andie Johnson, Cello; Leroy Williams, Pianist; Geo. Bennett, Violin; Andrew Hackley, Clarinet; Grant Hackley, Xylophone and traps; Lewis Washington, Trombone; and Joseph Johnson, Cornet.

POLICE PROTECTION NEEDED FOR ST. LOUIS CONVENTION.

St. Louis, Dec. 21.—(Crusader Service) The National Negro Baptist Convention was in session here today under police protection owing to numerous protests from residents of the west and section against the body meeting in a theatre in the white neighborhood.

BOOTLEGGERS TRUCK WRECKED; FARM HANDS CELEBRATE.

(By A. N. P.) Huntsville, Ala., Dec. 21.—A Negro drunk mystery was solved here recently. Puzzled over the drunkenness among Negro farm hands in Marshall county, sheriff's deputies discovered that an automobile of rum had been wrecked on the Alabama-Jackson Highway when it smashed into a bridge near Cottonville, and its cargo of 300 quarts of fine Irish whiskey abandoned. The Negroes had a run time while the "licker" lasted.

SPIRITED FIGHT MARKS ELECTION OF DR. L. K. WILLIAMS, FORMER TEXAN.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 21.—Dr. L. K. Williams is the new president of the Baptist after a long to be remembered battle among the Baptist hosts. This old town has been alive all week with the sessions of the National Baptist Convention and its auxiliaries; of all the large cities of the country, there is perhaps none more hospitable or more suited to large Negro gatherings. Here one meets the warm hospitality of the of the South, the generous treatment of the North and the combined virtues of every cosmopolitan city. This is true, regardless of the apparent hostility of a few color-phobia poisoned minded whites, who through telephone calls, anonymous letters, and the like tried to create a condition that would prevent the meetings held in the Kings Theater, on the fashionable Kings Highway, and just east of a fairly fashionable section; the attempt, however, was not condoned by the excellent white blood of the city which predominates, and to whose fairness is due much of the spirit of good will which pervades every community activity. St. Louis was in fact not in sympathy with this minority or partial cultural St. Louis. The only disgraceful occurrence in connection with the convention attributable to St. Louis was unpreventable, when some light colored gentry relieved some of the visiting brothers of their valuables in the shape of change and railroad tickets.

MANY NOTABLES PRESENT.

Like every other convention, the city was full of nobodies. Of "Fourth Estate," J. Finley Wilson of Washington, President of the National Negro Press Association, Charles Stewart of Chicago, familiar to anti-white war and some other days as "J. O. Midnight," hobbled and met all old friends to all of whom he is a familiar figure; then there was that old war horse, W. H. Steward of Louisville, then whom there is no better paragrapher in the country; his contributions being familiar to readers of Associated Press items though they seldom bear his name, and the local coterie of whom there are quite a few of more than passing

prestige. It was noticeable that hundreds of ministers returned to join this convention.

BAPTISTS HAVE BIG MEN.

The Baptists have no need of being ashamed of comparing their talent with any other organization. This body is full of big men, men of strong minds and full of achievements, a few of whom might be pointed out in the persons of Revs. L. K. Williams of Chicago, W. H. Moses, W. D. Parks, P. James Bryant, J. W. Bailey, D. D. Superintendent of the Evangelical Department, which last year added 26,000 converts to the church, Prof. R. B. Hudson, A. M., Sec'y and one of the busiest men of the group because of his indefatigable energies and the hundreds of duties demanding his attention and requiring immediate solution of their various complex problems on the spot of the moment. He is the right hand man of the president, now Dr. L. K. Williams while in private life he pilots the destiny of the Salem High School at Salem, Ala., to which institution he has given publicity as taking high rank among the secondary educational institutions of the country.

ELECTION SPIRITED.

The election took place Thursday and ran well into the night because of spirited contest. During this campaign "The St. Louis Argus," a hustling up-the-minute paper, got out an extra in which the chances of Dr. Norman were extended, the article being written by J. Finley Wilson and signed by S. G. Lumpkin; Dr. Norman was preceded to the city by several hours by the Capitol City delegation headed by Dr. W. D. Jarvis, and much of their campaign work was conducted from a room in the Grand Central Hotel; the Chicago delegation was active in behalf of Dr. L. K. Williams, and perhaps as effective a campaign as could be conducted was by means of the beautiful souvenir entitled "Greetings of Olivet Baptist church, Chicago, Ill.," in which all the various church activities, and drawing attention to the desirability of such ability in the executive chair of the convention.

SUNDAY SERVICE IMPRESSIVE.

There were a number of impressive services, but perhaps that one outstanding service from the point of spiritual uplift was Sunday morning.

(Continued on page 2)

GEORGIA WOMEN WOULD NEGRO SECTION OF TOWN DESTROYED BY FIRE. URGE PUBLIC TO STOP LYNCHING.

(Preston News Service) Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 21.—Pointing out that the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill had been defeated, a group of prominent white women connected with the Southern Methodist Church, have issued a vigorous address to the public calling upon the authorities in the South, the citizenship, the pulpit and the press for their united support for the complete suppression of lynchings.

Women were present, representing thirteen states. Each pledge to serve in an official capacity and take an active part in a persistent campaign for law enforcement and for the passage of anti-lynching laws in the Southern States.

Mrs. Robert R. Moton of Tuskegee Institute, Mrs. John Hope of Atlanta and Mrs. Jennie Porter Barrett of Peake, Va., were present.

The statement issued by Southern Methodist women after a three days conference in Christian principles in race relations follows:

"Whereas, the defeat of the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill, which proved for the Federal control of lynching, has thrown the whole responsibility back upon each state for removing this heinous crime; therefore:

"Be it resolved, that we, the Commission on Race Relations of the Women's Missionary Council, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the conference social service superintendents and other officers on conference in Atlanta, Ga., December 4-5, 1923, do now demand of the authorities of the several states that they make good their claim proving their competency to abolish mob violence and lynching.

"That we assume our responsibility as citizens for the protection of human life and hereby call upon all the people of all the states, upon the pulpit and upon the press to join in an insistent and persistent agitation against this barbarous practice.

"That we formulate plans for an organized movement in behalf of adequate state laws and law enforcement."

(Continued on page 2)

NEWBERN, N. C., DEC. 21.—Sweeping before it more than 300 residences and many factories and warehouses, stores, churches and other structures, the fire which last Friday destroyed more than a million dollars' worth of property here was finally gotten under control late Saturday afternoon. Fire companies from nearby towns had to be called in to help subdue the devastating flames.

The area razed by the fire stretched for half a mile from the western boundary of the city to the Neuse River. The churches destroyed and most of the homes were those of Negroes. The fire started at the Roper lumber company, and the loss is variously estimated at \$250,000. More than 500 Negroes were thrown out of employment at this plant alone.

While the flames were raging in the lumber plant a disastrous fire started in the Negro residential section. Firemen being occupied at the lumber company were unable to respond to the call immediately and it was not until half an hour after the alarm had been turned in that the first hose was stretched in the Negro section.

By that time five houses had been completely destroyed, and the flames fanned by a high wind, had gained great headway and scores of other houses were in flames. Negro families were hastily removing whatever belongings they could from their homes, but the onward sweep of the flames forced most of them to abandon their efforts to save any of their household goods.

On account of the high wind sparks were carried several blocks and fires were breaking out in various parts of the city. Several persons were treated at various hospitals for minor injuries.

It is said that the disaster originated in the home of W. D. Bryan, starting in his kitchen. Dynamite was used repeatedly in an effort to back track the onward rush of the

(Continued on page 2)