



THE NEGRO BUILDING.

South Carolina's Interstate and West Indian Exposition, Charleston, South Carolina.

THE AFRO-AMERICAN COUNCIL

Meets in Philadelphia and Carries a Most Enthusiastic and Interesting Program—Able Men Make Addresses and the Re-election of Officers

Philadelphia, Pa. (Special).—The fourth annual session of the Afro-American council met at Odd Fellows' Temple Wednesday, at 10 a. m. The gathering was representative in every respect. The ablest men of the race were present. The President, Bishop Walters, was in the chair and presided with his usual dignity. In his opening address he said in part:

"The disfranchisement scheme is wrong in principle and unwise in policy. We propose to prove it. The National Afro-American Council has determined to test the constitutionality of the election laws of the Southern States. We have instituted a test case at New Orleans, La., and have retained some of the ablest constitutional lawyers in the country. We believe that the election laws of Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and North Carolina are unconstitutional.

"We are not opposed to legitimate restriction of the suffrage, but we insist that restrictions shall apply to all citizens."

This is considered the most important Negro franchise project so far begun. The delegates to this convention number more than two hundred, and represent thirty-one States.

The object of the Council is for the general elevation of the race North and South, and the maintenance of its rights on a level with the white race, as prescribed by the Constitution. There were 135 delegates present, representing 31 different States. The morning session on Wednesday was devoted to organizing the various committees and general routine. Mr. H. S. Williams, of B. W. L., made an able address on "The Union of the Two Negro Races."

The afternoon session consisted of several able addresses by prominent members of the Council.

Rev. Walter H. Black during the course of his remarks said:

"In spite of our position as American citizens, we are faring very differently from the way we should. We are robbed and outraged every day in the South, and it is our duty to protest. We have been compelled to see certain privileges taken away, and the signs of the times point to still greater losses in the future. We can stop this, and we would not deserve well of the American people if we did not do so. The South has no right to take from us the ballot box. I know God will vindicate our wrongs."

One of the most eloquent speeches of the day was made by Bishop C. S. Smith, of Detroit, in the course of which he said: "Ever since the sixties I have been trying to do my part in the elevation of my race, and out in Michigan we have a very bright and glorious future before us. Every man there is recognized alike. Here in Pennsylvania, where you enjoy the God-given right denied our people in the South—that of the right to vote without molestation—you have not one representative at Harrisburg. This is a state of affairs that must change, and in Michigan it has done so.

"This Council I recognize as the greatest deliberative body of the kind among us in the country. We want to impress our great functions upon those immediately around us. To a

certain extent we are our brothers' keepers, and tell me, I pray, where would this country be today had it not been for these old altars of freedom, which assisted in raising the race in thralldom and chains to be free and independent?"

The evening session, which was held at Wesley A. M. E. Zion Church, was mainly occupied with the reading and discussion of reports on the churches and the local Councils. Members were also allowed the privilege of speaking for five minutes on subjects relating to the race.

Among these were: Rev. G. L. P. Talliferro, C. J. Perry, T. Thomas Fortune and F. L. Barnett, Assistant State's Attorney, of Chicago.

Thursday the Council held its annual election of officers, heard reports of its various branches, including a general discussion on education and lynching. The report of the Anti-Lynching Bureau was especially interesting. Mrs. Ida B. Wells-Barnett has charge of this bureau, and because of her absence her husband read a set of resolutions in behalf of her work:

"Whereas, the lynching statistics of 1901 show that already 91 persons have been put to death without a charge under oath, a trial by jury or an opportunity to prove their innocence, three of the number being women, and four of the men being burned to death,

"Resolved, That this Council appoint a committee to prepare and present to the President of the United States and Congress a memorial which shall ask national legislation making the Government answerable for the murder of American citizens in the same way and to the same extent as it answers for the lynching of foreigners, and further that it propose for the adoption of the several State Legislatures a Constitutional amendment which shall give to the Federal Courts power and jurisdiction to secure a trial by jury to every citizen of the United States."

The following statistics were read before the Council, showing the extent of mob violence during the past year: Number of persons lynched..... 91 Number of women lynched..... 3 Number of persons burned alive... 4

Offenses charged were as follows: Race prejudice ..... 5 Murderous assault ..... 6 Train wrecking ..... 1 Rape ..... 12 Arson ..... 4 Serving as witness ..... 1 Murder ..... 24 Suspected rape ..... 2 Attempted rape ..... 7 Robbery ..... 1 Insulting white women ..... 1 Implicated in murder ..... 4 Unknown offenses ..... 2 Alleged theft ..... 1 Keeping gambling houses..... 1 Sheltering murderers ..... 3 Suspected of killing cattle..... 1 Theft ..... 7 Mistaken identity ..... 1 Suspected cattle theft ..... 3 Horse stealing ..... 3 Resisting arrest ..... 1

Total..... 91 The following officers were elected: President, Bishop Alexander Walters, New Jersey; vice presidents, T. Thomas Fortune, New York; W. A. Pledger, Georgia; George H. White, North Carolina; Dr. George W. Lee, District of Columbia; C. H. Brooks, Pennsylvania; Rev. H. T. Johnson, New Jersey; Bishop George W. Clinton, North Carolina; E. C. Morris, Arkansas, and Mrs. N. P. Mossell, Pennsylvania, Sec-

retary, Cyrus F. Adams, Illinois; financial secretary, George E. Wibecan, jr., New York; corresponding secretary, Jesse Lawson, New Jersey; assistant secretary, J. N. Fullilove, Oregon; national organizer, Dr. Ernest Lyons, Maryland; sergeant-at-arms, Harry Shepherd, Minnesota; chaplain, Rev. J. S. Caldwell, South Carolina. Heads of Bureaus—Educational, Dr. W. C. Jason, Delaware; legislation, F. L. McGhee, Minnesota; business, Emmett J. Scott, Alabama; ecclesiastical, Rev. Walter H. Brooks, District of Columbia; anti-lynching, Mrs. J. P. Wells-Barnett, Illinois; literary, Dr. John Q. McDougald, Pennsylvania; newspaper, Charles J. Perry, Pennsylvania; emigration, Dr. A. L. Brown, Massachusetts.

THE SEASIDE NEWS

A Sensation in Salons Circles—The City Still Wide Open—The Elite Dramatic Club on the Bills—General News Notes—An Eloquent Divine.

Atlantic City, N. J.—(Special)—Hotel proprietors, saloonkeepers and their army of help were thrown into consternation this week by the issuance by Justice Hendrickson of another order commanding that the saloons be closed on Sundays. After seeing his first order observed the first Sunday, partly disregarded the second Sunday, and wholly ignored since, the learned Judge has fretted and fumed at what he considers a slight to Jersey justice and has now, in a manifesto bristling with threats, commanded the Mayor to see to the closing of the saloons. The Mayor has declared that he can do nothing and that it is up to the police. The police can see no violation, and so there you are. Judging from the number of saloons open last Sunday, the Judge's order has not even been read. It will be interesting to note the progress of this contention between the Judge and the city officials. The fall term of court convenes September 10, and it will be interesting to note the Judge's charge to the jury, as he is the presiding Judge.

The Elite Dramatic Club, of Haddon Hall, gave its second dramatic production of the season to a small but appreciative audience at the Auditorium Wednesday, August 7. The size of the audience did not do justice to the ability of the players. After their successful presentation of "Imogene," it is surprising that a larger crowd did not attend. Those who attended were loud in their praise of the play. The play presented was "Strife," and though the scope of the play did not allow the players to show their real worth to advantage, yet they did grandly. Mr. W. S. Jefferson, as the gentleman of leisure, and Mr. E. E. Jones, as Judge Buttons, are to be singled out as deserving of special mention. Mr. E. H. Bell, the manager, deserves great credit in getting together and training such talent.

On Thursday evening, August 8, the Crescent Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Club gave a concert before one of the largest crowds of the season (over 500) at Fitzgerald's Auditorium. The numbers presented were of an exceptionally high order, being mostly classical. Following is the programme: Crescent Club March.....Thomas Holy City .....Selected Mandolins—L. Washington, J. Williams, A. Clark. Guitars—D. Carrigan, J. Davis. Guitar solo.....Thos. H. Ashton Waves of the Danube.....Club Banjo solo .....Thomas Guitar solo .....P. H. Sayles

Mr. Joseph Green, the famous rag-time singer, took part. There were thirteen numbers, and all were of the highest order. Much of this music was composed by members of the club, who number many composers among its members. It will do well to notice this club in the future, as with its musical talent it is bound to be heard from sooner or later.

Rev. Dr. O'Connell, of the Bainbridge-Street M. E. Church, delivered an interesting lecture before the Asbury A. M. E. Church Literary Society last Friday evening on "Words and Their Uses." Dr. O'Connell, though his name is Irish, is one of the best known and most powerful colored speakers living. His lecture, delivered

in his unusually deep and masterful manner, was highly enjoyed. Dr. O'Connell preached at the Asbury last Sunday evening to a packed church at the Asbury A. M. E. on the "Beauty of Morality."

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