

LYCEUM DELEGATES REPORT.

What the Business League and Council Did at Their National Conventions.

The first Sunday in November was "Delegates' Day" at the Second Baptist Lyceum. Mr. R. W. Thompson, who represented this enterprising organization at the meeting of the National Negro Business League at Richmond, Va., in August, made an encouraging report, pronouncing the convention to have been of vast benefit in generating in the race a lasting enthusiasm that is taking form in a keener commercial activity, and a smaller dependence upon the unsubstantial props that the prejudice of the times are knocking from under us. The magnetic personality of Booker T. Washington was felt throughout the gathering, and the stories told by practical men of how they had built up profitable business ventures from the humblest beginnings carried an inspiration to more than two hundred centers of Negro thought and purpose that can not fail to produce tangible results. The speaker was of the opinion that the future offered much if the race's leadership would preach the gospel of work and that triumphs were the fruit of thrift, self-denial, and determination to succeed.

Prof. Jesse Lawson, the Lyceum's delegate to the National Afro-American Council at St. Paul, Minn., was eloquent in his praise of the hospitality of the Great Northwest, referring to the perfect arrangements made by the committee and the cordial welcome extended by Governor Van Sant. His picture of the proceedings of the Council, however, was not of a roseate hue. He feared that, through the selfishness of a few who insisted upon controlling the convention for personal ends, the grand opportunity which had been offered for the uplift of the race had been frittered away. He characterized the election of officers as a bit of sharp practice, which had engendered untold bad feeling and dissension among men of usefulness to the country. He promised that, despite everything, the local council, presided over by Hon. Georg H. White, would continue the work of testing the constitutionality of the disfranchising and humiliating laws that threaten the citizenship of the Negro. A vote of thanks was tendered the two delegates for their conscientious services.

Educate Both Races.

Continued from first page.

Prof. J. B. Lafargue, of Rapides parish, said there was no country school in his parish. Such country schools as there are there are taught in the churches. Some of these buildings he described as comfortable and others as "very airy." Dr. J. S. Powell of Lincoln parish said that he did not know of a colored school building erected by the state in the parish. He knew of six small buildings built by the colored people themselves near the churches for school purposes. The tendency is to build more of these buildings. Otherwise the schools are in the churches, except that the people in and around Ruston have formed a company and built a good school building there. This school is under the direction of Mr. Charles P. Adams, a graduate of Tuskegee, who has several other graduates of the same school to assist him. It is an industrial school. Prof. Powell said that the educational needs of the colored people of his parish were just as great as he could possibly imagine.

Others who spoke were Professors T. H. Kane, of Caddo parish, in which the city of Shreveport is situated, W. R. Raymond, of St. Mary's parish, Daniel West, of West Baton Rouge and Point Coupee, W. R. Eright, of Rapides, Enoch Dunn, of Lafouche, James Herod, of Vermilion, W. M. McGee of Richland, the principal of a colored school at Delhi in that parish, and others. The reports of these men in general agreed that although the bulk of the Negro race in the South lives in the country there are practically no country schoolhouses, and that such rural schools as there are are held in the churches; the school term provided by the public money is from two to three months—hardly ever over the latter—unless supplemented by money raised or given by the people themselves. Reports as to wages varied from \$10 to \$25 in the country. Wages in the towns and cities are reported better, and in general the length of term there was said to be the same as that for the white schools. When it was said by one man that the pay of the white teachers was much higher than the colored, another man said that this might be in part explained by the fact that a higher standard of efficiency was demanded of the white teachers. He thought that colored teachers were sometimes selected from a favored colored family regardless of fitness. Mr. West, of West Baton Rouge, replied in this connection that in his parish the colored people lived near enough to the members of the school board so that if they were given an unsatisfactory teacher they at once made their complaints, and in that way had been able to have good teachers.

Mr. Washington commented particularly on this point, and said that he believed that the white school boards of the South had enough true interest in the colored schools as a general thing so that if complaints of this kind were brought to their attention they would see to it that he wrongs were righted.

Fully three thousand persons must have been crowded into Washington Artillery Hall for the evening meeting, and the audience was representative of the most intelligent and most earnest elements of both races. President of the School Board, Kruttschnitt, said in his opening remarks that the large number of white persons present was the best proof of their approval and of the intelligent effort made by the colored race of the South to advance along the line of education and civilization.

Dr. Alderman said that Mr. Washington came not from the ranks of the politicians, or even from the clergy, but from an humble schoolroom. He said that no right minded man would withhold his sympathy from the race striving for the reality of freedom. "Freedom," he said, "is a conquest, not a bequest." He thought that the paramount question was one of a change of attitude on the part of the people of both races, and that although difficult it was not hopeless. The white man must come to think of the Negro impersonally, and with an eye to the future. The Negro must come to believe that the Southern white man means to be just in large ways, as he knows that he is honest and just in daily relations. He spoke of the fact that within the last year some southern white men had given liberally to Tuskegee Institute as indicating this change of attitude on the part of the white man. He said that even the thirty-five years of educational experiment of the Negro which has just been passed through is only a moment of time in the development of a race.

Mr. Washington's address emphasized

the needs educationally of the colored people in the South, and spoke of the industrial and agricultural instruction which was being more and more required and which he thought wise. In regard to the assertion often made by southern white people that Negroes flocked to the towns and cities to their own disadvantage, he said they could not be expected to remain in the country with a school there of only two or three months, when in the cities the schools were in session eight or nine months. Nor could they be expected to remain in the country unless property owners there provided fairly comfortable homes, and unless they were afforded the same protection by law there that they would find in the cities and towns. His address was listened to with the closest attention and interrupted by frequent applause. At its close, Dr. Alderman grasped him warmly by the hand and congratulated him, and hundreds of those present remained to meet him and congratulate him.

The success and attractiveness of the meeting was greatly enhanced by the presence of Prof. W. J. Nickerson's Ladies Orchestra, an organization of about twenty members, composed of young ladies from New Orleans. This orchestra is the same which played so acceptably at the Atlanta Congress last summer. It has recently returned from a tour in the northwest, during which several concerts were given in Chicago. During the evening the orchestra played the overture from "Odeon," and "The Girl from the Barracks," and Miss Julia Ellen Lewis played a violin solo, "Scene de Ballet." Miss Lewis is a graduate of the Boston Conservatory of Music. Miss Leona A. Deluc sang "Where Roses Gleam," and Miss Stella A. E. Brazley sang Mascheroni's "For All Eternity," giving as encore Paul Laurence Dunbar's "Little Brown Baby." While Mr. Washington was in New Orleans he was the guest of Col. James Lewis at the latter's home on Canal street, where, among other guests entertained at the same time, was Father Dorsey, who is at present traveling through the South.

MAX BENNETT THRASHER.

The Reward of Merit.

Continued from fourth page.

his ready sympathy and his generous assistance.

Dr. Lofton is a man of whom any community may well be proud, and whether he is to be regarded as a Washingtonian only, or as another colored man who has made a distinctive mark for himself, we bespeak for this fine gentleman, this good son, this clean and brainy man, a niche in that Pantheon wherein are found the names and forms of those who help to make a people great.

It is not improper to add that Dr. Lofton has been a subscriber to The Colored American ever since the issue of its first number.

C. C. CURTIS' BIRTHDAY.

A very enjoyable collation was served by the National Colored Personal Liberty League, Wednesday evening, at Foster's cafe, 20th and L streets northwest, in commemoration of the forty-sixth anniversary of the birth of the League's well-known National Organizer, Mr. Charles C. Curtis, of Iowa. Covers were laid for thirty. The program embraced the discussion and absorption of a dainty menu, followed by a running fire of

DRESS MAKING ACADEMY.

de Lam Orton Famous French Perfection Tailor System Mme J. A. Smallwood, Agent 1513 Madison street, northwest. Morning class from 9 a. m. to 1 p. m. Afternoon class 2 to 5 p. m. daily. Evenings from 7.30 to 10 o'clock. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, dress makers and ladies who wish to do their own dressmaking.

WANTED—To learn the wonderful de Lam Orton French Perfection Tailor System. Seamless Basques without one inch of visible seam, in lining or goods, not even on the shoulder. Successful dressmaking requires as much earnest progressive study as successful work in any of the professions. No detail is too small to be looked after. We teach you to make dresses with or without seam and guarantee perfect fits, and complete your course with a diploma. Pupils can enter at any time.

WANTED—A POSITION.

An intelligent young man who is taking a college course desires a position as bookkeeper, copyist or any kind of office work. Salary no object. Address "W" care this office.

If you have a spare room that you would like to rent to desirable parties, advertise them in The Colored American.

Wanted Colored Girls.

A number of families in Washington would like to secure one or two colored girls to do general housework cooking and laundry work. The pay runs from \$3.50 to \$4.50 per week according to the ability of the girl to give satisfaction. Strong healthy girls who would like to take these positions can get particulars by addressing C. care of The Colored American office. Transportation will be paid.

WANTED—Reliable colored help for general house work &c in good homes in New England. Good Wages. Apply with references as to ability and character to Susie White, 1747 Oregon Ave. N. W.

FOR RENT—One large front room in good locality with all modern improvements, convenient to cars and herdicks, 1625 Corcoran St. N. W. Apply to Mr. J. B. Patterson.

FOR RENT—Furnished rooms, front and rear, all modern improvements. Gentlemen preferred, 540 Elm street, n. w., Le Droit Market.

FURNISHED ROOMS—With board convenient to car lines, call after 4 P. M. 1642 10th St. Northwest or inquire at Colored American Office 459 C. St. N. W.

Two nicely furnished front and back rooms with all modern improvements for rent, also table board, \$12.00 per month 2104 Ward Place, at.

FOR RENT—One furnished front room large and southern exposure with or with or with a board. Apply at 407 Ward street, n. w.

Wanted 5 young men ages from 17 to 20 as agents. Good chance for right persons.

Improve the Hair and Complexion—Singleton's Pharmacy 20th and E carries a full line of Ozone preparations with his toilet articles and sundries.

Please Help Me Find My Brother

Sauk Joyce was sold in Mecklenburg, Virginia, several years before the civil war, to Cunningham, a Negro trader. His mother, Willie, was a slave on the Joyce plantation. He had one sister, Betty, who is very anxious to find him. Any information will be gladly received. Mrs. BETTY REYNOLDS, 44 Parker street, Atlanta, Ga.

Colored Man, Chance of Your Life

We wish to employ an honest, capable man to establish local agencies and employ agents to sell our two special books entitled: "A Negro for a New Century," by Booker T. Washington, and "Under Fire with the Tenth Cavalry," a military history of the colored race. Good salary permanent position. Man applying must have ability to merit rapid promotion. Empire Book House, Manhattan building Chicago.

WANTED A MAN OR WOMAN

not over thirty years of age, capable of taking care of office in the largest photo studio operated by any colored man in the world. Twenty two years in business in St. Paul, Minn. Studio also in Sault Ste Marie, Ont. Party must have \$2000.00 to invest for half interest. Seventeen medals and diplomas.

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speeches by the company. Mr. H. C. Hawkins, president of the League, presided, and Mr. R. W. Thompson acted as toastmaster.