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The Colored American

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Negro State League

Of Arkansas in a Flourishing Condition With a Bright Prospect.

Its History and Remarks About the Men Who Compose Its Official Head —The Pine Bluffs Meeting—The Strong and Influential Men of the State Interested—An Incentive to Buy Homes and Engage in Business.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., Special.—The Colored Men's Business League of Arkansas was organized in the city of Little Rock, December 30, 1902. Its first session was well attended, representative colored men being present from very nearly every section of the State. The establishment of this League marks a new era in the progress of the race; for many since its organization have embarked in commercial business enterprises with the most flattering results. The homes purchased and residences erected show a spirit of thriftiness not before demonstrated. The motto of every man now seems to be *upward* and *onward* in the realms of the business world—get homes, improve them, establish a commendable business rating. In this endeavor the desires of those who have been so diligent in their efforts to establish such an organization have been met. To-day Arkansas boasts of two well-organized banks; one in Pine Bluff, of which J. N. Donahoo is president, the other in Little Rock, with Judge M. W. Gibbs as president. Both are reported as doing a successful business, well patronized. The officers of the League are: Dr. J. M. Conner, President; J. E. Bush, treasurer; Dr. G. W. Hayman, secretary. The vice-presidents are seven in number—one from each Congressional district. They are as follows: First district, J. N. Donahoo, Pine Bluff; Second district, E. J. Wheeler, Newport; Third dictrict, Professor Johnson, Fayelleville; Fourth district, J. Wilson Pettus, Ft. Smith; Fifth District, E. D Roberts, Morrilton; Sixth district, Dr. C. M. Wade, Hot Springs; Seventh district, M. M. Murray, New Lewisville.

These officers are not only known to the people of their State, but other sections as well. They are thoroughgoing, energetic, social business men.

Its president, J. M. Conner, is a man well experienced in years and ripe in ability. As a pulpit orator and scholar he ranks among the best. His literary productions on biblical doctrines have established for him among theologians a name commendable in history. He is called the organizer. No muscle is ever relaxed in his zeal and energy to elevate the masses. He is now pastoring the largest A. M. E. church in Arkansas, at Little Rock. He is the president of the Ministers' Alliance, and also general manager of the World's Fair board of directors for Arkansas. He has been favorably mentioned as one of the next bishops in his church. It is the wish of his many friends that his deserving promotion should come. We shall wait and watch for his election, when it will then be our pleasure then to extend congratulation to his church for their wise judgment.

The treasurer, Hon. J. E. Bush, is well known to most prominent men of the country, especially in political circles. At present he holds a federal position—receiver of public funds at Little Rock. He is the hustling successful politician and vice-president of the Capital City Savings Bank of his city.

The Secretary of the League is Dr. G. W. Hayman. He is a most exemplary young man. He always takes great interest in every movemnet des-

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Men of the Hour.

MR. J. W. PATTERSON,
Attorney at Law, Washington, D. C.

Thirteen Wreck Claims Settled Yesterday

Messrs. Patterson and Thompson, colored Lawyers, of Washington, Bring Negotiations to Successful Conclusion—Settlements Satisfactory.

John W. Patterson and S. G. Thompson, two young colored lawyers of Washington, D. C., representing the Mutual Improvement Society of Washington, yesterday settled the claims of thirteen colored men as the result of the recent wreck near Washington's Crossing.

These claims were presented by nine Negroes who were injured in the wreck and by the relatives of three Negroes who were killed.

Messrs. Patterson and Thompson have been in the city for the past two weeks acting as agents for the injured colored men and as counsel for the administrators of the estates of those killed. They represented all of the colored men who were in the wreck.

After the settling of the thirteen claims yesterday the money was immediately paid over to the claimants. The injured men and the administrators of the estates of the killed signed releases to the Belvidere division of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and the Delaware River Quarry and Construction Company. The latter company loaned the laborers to do repair work made necessary by the flood.

The usual amounts in such cases were paid and were satisfactory to the companies and to the injured men.

Messrs. Patterson and Thompson had the patients examined by Dr. Thaddeus Martin, a colored physician, who assisted them with the claims.

The two lawyers also settled minor claims of three Italians who were injured.

In their work of settling the claims the colored lawyers came in contact with local lawyers who spoke highly of the ability of the two men.—*Trenton Daily State Gazette.*

The article above is taken from the *Trenton Daily State Gazette*, a leading daily newspaper in New Jersey, and one of the most influential journals in the State. It tells the story

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