

"EMPEROR OF INVISIBLE EMPIRE," FACING SEVERE CRITICISM, DEFIES ENEMIES OF KU KLUX KLAN

U. S. JUDGE ORDERS PROBE OF KU KLUX

Federal Jurist from Florida Instructs Grand Jury to Investigate Alleged Illegal Societies RAPS "JUSTICE IN WOODS"

New York, Sept. 14.—Judge William B. Sheppard, of Florida, sitting in United States District Court here yesterday, instructed the new Federal Grand Jury to investigate "secret societies which are reported to be interfering with the constitutional rights of citizens."

Flood of Gold Emboldens Wizard

Continued from Page One of October 20, 1915, and all present, thirty-four in number, signed a petition for a charter.

On Thanksgiving night, 1915, men were seen emerging from the shadows and gathering around the spring at the base of Stone Mountain, the world's greatest rock, in Georgia, Ga., and from thence repaired to the mountain top and there, under a blazing fiery cross, they took the oath of allegiance to the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

And thus on the mountain top that night at the midnight hour, while men braved the surging blasts of wild, wintry mountain winds and endured the temperature far below freezing, bathed in the sacred glow of the Fiery Cross, the Invisible Empire was called from its slumber of half a century to take in a new task and fulfill a new mission for humanity's good, and to call back to mortal habitation the good angel of practical fraternity among men.

Official Weather Bureau figures show that on Thursday, November 25, 1915, Thanksgiving Day, the maximum temperature recorded at Atlanta, Ga., twenty miles away, was 63 degrees and the lowest was 43 degrees Fahrenheit.

"Membership in this order," the "Emperor" declares in the same pamphlet, "cannot be bought; it is given as a reward for service rendered. If you really believe in the order and will practice its principles and conform to its regulations and usages and contribute the sum of \$10 toward its propagation and can otherwise qualify, then membership is awarded you upon the service rendered and ledge of your fidelity to the institution. This is not a selfish, mercenary, commercialized proposition, but the direct opposite."

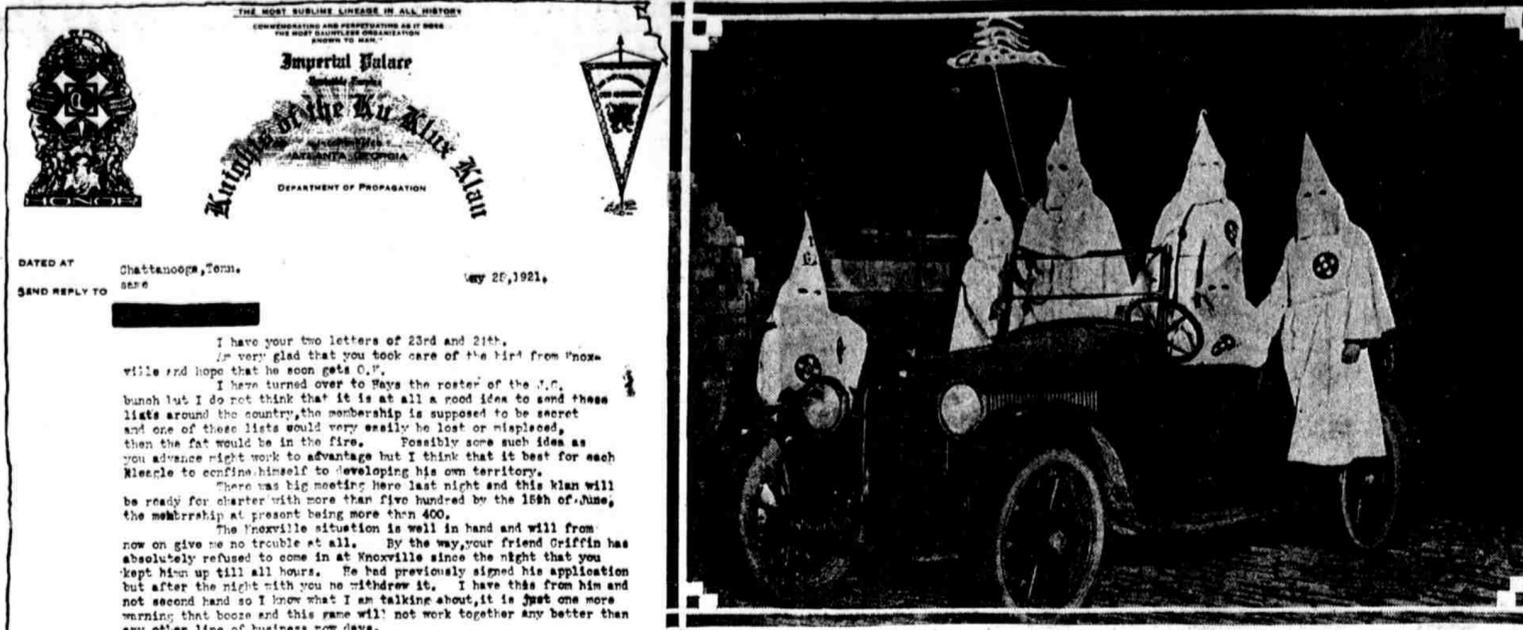
The Klan, he says in another passage, is not envious of other religions or any propaganda of religious intolerance or racial prejudice. "It is an association of real men, who believe in being something in doing things worth while and who are in all things 100 per cent pure Americans."

Its lineage, he states, is "The Most Sublime Lineage in History, Commencing with Adam, the first-born of Man." Its secret is "Sacred Guardianship of the Most Sacred Race." Its courage is "the Soul of Chivalry and the Virtue of Imperturbability and the Impulse of an Unconquered Race." Its teachings "inculcate the sacred principles and noble ideals of the world's greatest order of chivalry, and direct the way of the life through the veil of Mystic Philosophy into the Empire Invisible."

Its admits ritual is weird. The Emperor is "the noblest concept of manhood idealized in thought and materialized in practice in all the relationship of life: Mystery and Action; Mastery and Achievement; and the Ritualism of which the Invisible Empire, the Most Sublime Lineage in History, is the most perfect expression."

Its mission, says the "emperor," is "to unite without fault, without fail, without fear and without reproach. Its society is 'the practical fraternal fellowship of men whose standard is worth, not wealth; character, not cash; courageous manhood based upon honor untarnished by the touch of hypocrisy or the veneering of society's selfish social valuations.' Its place is 'in the heart of every true American,' alongside of every other fraternal order, and 'in its original and true meaning, it is a sacred sentiment, noble purpose and peculiar mysticism it is separate and apart from any and all and peerless in its distinctive peculiarities.' Finally, he declares, its fraternity is "not merely resting in ceremony pretty, time-worn platitudes on brotherly love, but to enforce a fraternal practice of

KLANSMEN FLAUNT "FIERY CROSS" AND TRY TO STIR RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY



Imperial Palace
Department of Propagation
Chattanooga, Tenn.
Sept. 26, 1921.

I have your two letters of 23rd and 24th. I'm very glad that you took care of the first from Knoxville and hope that he soon gets O.P.

I have turned over to Hays the roster of the U.P. bunch but I do not think that it is at all a good idea to send these lists around the country, the membership is supposed to be secret and one of these lists would be lost or misplaced, then the fact would be in the first place. Possibly some such idea as you advance might work to advantage but I think that it best for each Klansman to confine himself to developing his own territory.

There was big meeting here last night and this Klan will be ready for charter with more than five hundred by the 15th of June, the membership at present being more than 400.

The Knoxville situation is well in hand and will from now on give me no trouble at all. By the way, your friend Griffin has absolutely refused to come in at Knoxville since the night that you kept him up till all hours. He had previously signed his application but after the night with you he withdrew it. I have this from him and not second hand so I know that I am talking about it, it is just one more warning that hence and this same will not work together any better than any other line of business now days.

I am enclosing you copy of the pledge of loyalty and also employee's record and the record of all Klansmen and kind Klansmen which I failed to send you yesterday.

You should not have made the proposition that you did to Wolfe and I cannot agree to that for their Klan is not entitled to the full kleistoon until it is chartered, should it be necessary to send another Kleistoon in there later to finish up according to the proposition made yesterday they would expect him to do the same thing. You should have left them alone till they had received my letter.

I will write you regarding U.P. when I have their reply to my letter to them.

The Imperial Palace does not get out copies of the U.P. oath but I find it of value among a certain few.

I find papers like The Protestant that I suggested your subscribing for to be the most valuable paper that I can use for it brings home in a concrete form to them the things we have to guard against.

I sent you this morning several copies of the Searchlight, and will see that you get them each week in the future.

I cannot find any of the old news letters but you will have a copy each week as they come out and I have found them very valuable to me in my work.

Hoping that you will use every effort to make this the biggest week yet as you are not looking for very much next week I am,

Sincerely yours,
Wm. Joseph Simmons
Imperial Klansman

A Klansman, garbed in his white hooded regalia, is shown carrying the "fiery cross" of the Ku Klux Klan in the foreground. In the background, a group of men in white robes and hoods are seen in a public square, some holding a large, ornate cross.

Is Head of Ku Klux Klan a Dual Reincarnation?
Does William Joseph Simmons, head of the Ku Klux Klan, believe he is a reincarnation of Napoleon as an "Emperor" or of Merlin as a "Wizard"?

This question is pertinent because in one of his documents he speaks of the year 1918 as "the year of the Klan III" (thirty-two) and in "the third cycle of the third reign of our reincarnation."

otherwise "fireworks, is going to create a very unpleasant situation" which at present merely "keeping records" of its enemies, and "making plans." Of other defines it as something which, without defiling itself by accepting membership fees, "directs the American Initiative through the veil of Mystic Philosophy into the Empire Invisible," where "on the left heights of Superior Knighthood," they may "sit among the gods."

In the "Hymn of Hate" being chanted all over the United States by Ku Klux Klan's paid apostles, one of the stanzas is directed against the American communists of the Roman Catholic Church.

and approved by the authority of the United States Government, two parenthetical statements are added, as follows:

"(Excerpts from 'Contested election case of Eugene C. Bonniwell against Thomas R. Butler' as appears in the Congressional Record—House, Feb. 15, 1913, at pages 3216 etc., and ordered printed there 'by unanimous consent.' Attached thereto and printed on page 3216 as a part of said report as above.)"

"(For further information relating to the proceedings referred to and the exhibits and documents accompanying the same, reference is made to the Congressional Record from which the foregoing portion is copied verbatim from 'House Bill 1523'.")"

The circulation of this "oath" as part of the membership drive of Ku Klux Klan, Inc., having thus been proved, and the nature of the document made clear, it only remains to expose its fraudulent and bogus nature.

In "The Knights of Columbus in Peace and War," of which Maurice Francis Egan is the author, and which was under three Presidential American Minister to Denmark, and who declined the Vienna Ambassadorship tendered him by both Presidents Taft and Wilson, is co-author with John B. Kennedy, appears the following statement:

"Within the last six years the Province Degree has been the target of attacks by bigots whose professional aim has been proved beyond question through legal action promptly taken by officers of the order. It seems almost fantastic to record the circulation of a bogus oath."

"The 'oath' made its appearance about 1912. It was filed by Eugene C. Bonniwell, a Pennsylvania man, in his charge as Mr. Butler before the Committee of Elections, No. 1, in Congress, when Mr. Bonniwell stated that it had been used against him as a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus in an election contest. Mr. Butler, in his defense, stated that he had refrained from condemning the 'oath' until election day, although he did not believe it to be genuine, because he feared to give it notoriety."

"I now," it begins, "in the presence of Almighty God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Blessed St. John the Baptist, the Holy Apostles, St. Peter and St. Paul, and all the saints, sacred host of Heaven, and to you, my Ghostly Father, the superior general of the Society of Jesus, founded by St. Ignatius Loyola . . . do by the womb of the Virgin, the matrix of God, and the rod of Jesus Christ, declare and swear that His Holiness, the Pope, is Christ's vice regent, and . . . hath power to depose heretical kings, princes, States, Commonwealths and Governments; and they may be safely destroyed. Therefore to the utmost of my power I will defend this doctrine and . . . I do now denounce and disown any allegiance due to any heretical king, prince or State, named Protestants or Liberals, or obedience to any of their laws, magistrates or officers."

"I swear to support the Constitution of the United States, I pledge myself as a Catholic citizen and Knight of Columbus, to enlighten myself fully upon my duties as a citizen and to conscientiously perform such duties entirely in the interest of my country, and regardless of all my personal consequences. I pledge myself to do all in my power to preserve the integrity and purity of the white race, to promote reverence and respect for law and order. I promise to practice my religion openly and consistently, but without ostentation and to so conduct myself in public affairs, and in the exercise of public virtue, as to reflect nothing but credit upon my Holy Church, to the end that she may flourish and our country prosper to the greater honor and glory of God."

The two defendants were convicted by the jury, of which the foreman was a Methodist minister. The authors cite two other similar prosecutions where conviction or pleas of guilty resulted, and, finally, record two instances where investigation by non-Catholics was made at the invitation of the order. The second of the instances is more significant.

In Los Angeles in 1914 the entire work, ceremonies and pledges of the Knights of Columbus were submitted to a Masonic committee of two thirty-second and two thirty-third degree Masons, all past or past grand masters of Masonry in California, who issued a statement certifying that they had examined a complete copy of all the work, pledges and ceremonies and found that the order, while secret, was not outlandish, and that its ceremonies were comprised in four degrees "intended to teach and inculcate principles that lie at the foundation of every great religion and every great State." They then said:

"Our examination was made primarily to ascertain whether or not a certain alleged oath . . . which has been printed and widely circulated was in fact used by the order and whether or not an oath, obligation or pledge was used which was or would be offensive to Protestants or Masons. . . . We find that neither the alleged oath nor any oath or pledge bearing the remotest resemblance thereto in matter, manner, spirit or purpose is used or forms a part of the ceremonies of any degree of the Knights of Columbus."

"The alleged oath is scurrilous, wicked and libelous, and must be the invention of an impious and venomous

man who may be approached by agents of the Ku Klux Klan to pay no attention no matter what blandishments they use or what allurements they offer."

Former Governor Edwin S. Stuart—"The EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER is to be congratulated for exposing any doctrines that are contrary to the doctrines of William Penn. This Commonwealth was founded by William Penn as an asylum for the downtrodden and oppressed, offering to them civil and religious liberty and the right to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences."

Following are some of the many letters received by the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER praising the expose of the Ku Klux Klan:

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:—It is with great pleasure that I have noted the stand taken by the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER in matters of recent public concern as embodied in editorials and special news articles. In this class are the articles now appearing on the Ku Klux Klan and your recent editorial on the situation in West Virginia. May you continue the good work no matter where it leads you, or what interests it may strike, I am referring not only to the subject of the present articles, but to other conditions where a spirited crusade would have far-reaching results.

Perhaps the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER is leading the way to a regeneration of the newspaper world, where the editorial column will be respected as of old, and the newspapers will regain the confidence and esteem of intelligent people. Who knows? A. GODFREY, 104 East Rockland street.

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:—Sir—Being so gratified with your de-

menting the principals of the Ku Klux Klan, I wish to express my thanks to you for your emphatic definition of the principles of this organization, which was in your paper of September 12. I hope that your illustration in producing effect in influencing those who joined this organization to withdraw from it, or those who have contemplated joining support it in any way.

Knowing that justice, persuasive talk and a lack of certain knowledge, aided with gullibility, can perform wonders, I do not write this in derogation of those who have been "naturalized" into the "Invisible Empire," and who have decided to withdraw from it, but I am not envious of the position of those who have determined not to relinquish their stations in this unlawful and nefarious body, after they have seen your depiction.

JOHN A. DOLAN, 2752 Emerald street.

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:—I waited patiently to receive the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER today to read what you had to say of the Ku Klux Klan. The only way to destroy a bad tree, when you have found out it is bad, is to pull it up by the roots, and be sure you get all of them, and I think you are trying to do that plan. I fully agree with all you have said, and hope you may be able to hammer the Ku Klux Klan back into the hole from which it originated.

What would occur if their policies could be put into effect, with all Roman Catholics, Jews, Negroes and foreign-born and children of foreign-born out of the country, what percentage of the Ku Klux Klan would be left? Of course, all of these wildcat schemes pop up every once in a while, but they have to be put down, and I don't see any better way to do it than the way the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER has adopted. Somebody is going to make some money out of it before it goes out of existence. I will anxiously await your issue of tomorrow. Will you kindly tell us what were the purposes of the Ku Klux Klan that was about during or after the Civil War? Were its objects the same as this society? All hail the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER. A DAILY READER.

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