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SEN. FORAKER'S EXPLANATION.

THE OHIO STATESMAN TELLS WHY HE OFFERED THE AMENDMENT TO THE RATE BILL—A RUNNING DEBATE ON THE RACE QUESTION. SENATOR TILLMAN IN EVIDENCE—HE TELLS HOW HE BECAME A VICTIM OF HIS OWN LEGISLATION.

The following extracts from the remarks made in the United States Senate, Tuesday, June 5th, were furnished us by Senator Foraker of Ohio and will no doubt be of interest to our readers:

Mr. President, I find that the conferees have also dropped out of the bill the amendment adopted by the Senate which required that common carriers should give equally good service and accommodations to all who pay the same compensation. I want to speak about that for a moment.

I offered the first amendment on that subject, and when the Senate voted on it, because it was coupled with another provision, or for some other reason, it failed of adoption. Later the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Warner) offered practically the same amendment, though couched in somewhat different language. When he offered it I offered an amendment to his amendment, which he accepted, and in the form in which it was adopted by the Senate.

After it had been adopted I commenced to receive, as other Senators

some of the correspondence I had occasioned to have on account of the offering of that amendment. I produce this because it shows what my purpose was, and it also shows the nature of the objections of those to whom I have referred.

It will appear, Mr. President, that I offered that amendment in response to scores and hundreds of letters I was receiving from colored men living in different parts of the South, which stated that the separate coaches set apart for them were so inferior in quality and in accommodations that they had nothing like equal treatment. They stated that they were required to pay the same fare, but were required to put up with unequal accommodations, and were suffering a grievous wrong. My idea was that by an amendment of that kind put into the bill the Interstate Commerce Commission would be given especial authority with respect to that matter on which it could stand to enforce equality of treatment, and that if equality of treatment should be denied redress could be sought not alone in the courts of the State, but also in the

to the fact that while I objected to his amendment in the original form when he offered the amendment which was engrafted upon the bill by the Senate—the amendment to the amendment offered by the Senator from Missouri—I stated the fact that, so far as I was prepared then to judge, that phraseology was satisfactory, recognizing, as I did, that while the local communities ought to be left free to judge for themselves as to the separation of races, where parties paid the same rate of fare they were entitled to equally as good accommodations.

I wish to add in this connection, Mr. President, it is true in Georgia that the cars furnished for the negroes are exactly of the same type of car which are furnished for the whites. There are some rare exceptions possibly on some few little local trains, but as to the general practice they are exactly of the same type, one immediately adjoining the other.

I wish to add, further, that in the State of Georgia there is absolutely no dissatisfaction by the negro race on account of the accommodations which are furnished to them by the railroads. They are perfectly content with them. They have every reason to be content with them; and any suggestion to the contrary emanates solely from those who desire to make mischief.

Mr. FORAKER. Mr. President, I know nothing about what the facts are. I know I received a great many letters from the South indicating the contrary, and quite a number of them came from the State of Georgia. There may have been no truth in them. I am not discussing whether they were true or not. I am only discussing what I did when I was advised that unequal accommodations were furnished.

Among other letters which I received was one from a very intelligent colored man who is attending a law school in Boston. His home, however, I am advised, is in New Orleans. He is Mr. Charles P. Ford. In answer to him, I wrote a letter, which I ask to have read at the desk and then, as a sample of the letters that I was receiving and have been receiving from many places in the South, I want to have read also, in so far as it has relation to that, a letter from Rev. H. H. Key, of Nashville, Tenn. Let the Secretary first read my letter to Mr. Ford and then read the letter of Mr. Key.

Mr. TILLMAN. Will the Senator consent just to have them printed? We can read them in the Record.

Mr. FORAKER. Very well, they may be printed.

Mr. BACON. If the Senator will pardon me, I want to suggest a fact. The law in Georgia (and I presume it is so in other Southern States) does not permit a white man to ride in the car set apart for the negroes, no more than it permits a negro to ride in a car with the whites. The only distinction is that the white man is perfectly content to be debarred from the car in which the colored people ride, whereas a great many negroes are not content unless they are permitted to ride in the cars set apart for the white.

Mr. FORAKER. I will say to the Senator, if he has any apprehension on that point, I have not received any letters from white people living in Georgia protesting against being compelled to ride in "Jim Crow" cars.

Mr. BACON. If the Senator knew the people of Georgia as well as I do, that assurance would not be needed.

Mr. FORAKER. I am sure of that. So far as the colored man is concerned, I am not going to take up now the subject of his rights for discussion. I only want to say that when I offered this amendment I did it in answer to just such appeals as I have sent to the desk, which will appear in the Record to-morrow morning for the benefit of any who may see fit to read; appeals which came to us, and have come from intelligent men and reputable men, against whom nothing can be said except only that they are black men; and that I am not going to urge as an objection against any man. They say that the cars furnished them, for which they must pay precisely the same fare as white men pay for the service rendered to them and the accommodations they get, are so unequal that it is almost an impossibility to ride in them with any comfort whatever.



T. M. CRUMP, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal.

did, protests from Afro-Americans, some from Boston, some from Baltimore, some from other points, against the adoption of that amendment, upon the theory that it was a recognition of what they called the "Jim-crow-car" system which has been inaugurated and is now being enforced in some of the Southern States.

When I offered that amendment I had in view only the purpose of securing for those who were compelled to take separate coaches, wherever they may be so compelled, equally good accommodations. I had no purpose, and so explained, of interfering with the established conditions anywhere, for I knew that was impossible in connection with this rate bill. I had no purpose to approve or disapprove of the so-called "Jim-crow system." But I did have in view that which every legislature throughout the South, where they provide separate coaches has announced they have done, namely, that those who are required to ride in separate coaches shall be given equally good coaches and equally good accommodations.

It never occurred to me that anybody in any Northern State would take exception to a provision of that kind upon the theory that it was in the nature of a sanction of the provision of separate coaches for white and colored men. But when they took that view of the subject, I was at a loss to know, just as other Senators were, exactly what should be done about it, but I recognized the right of colored people to settle the matter, and therefore I referred the whole matter to the conference committee and they have acted in the way indicated; they have dropped it out.

Now, before it is passed by forever I want to put into the Record

courts of the United States.

Mr. BAILEY. Mr. President—

The VICE-PRESIDENT. Does the Senator from Ohio yield to the Senator from Texas?

Mr. FORAKER. Certainly.

Mr. BAILEY. I do not, of course pretend to speak as to the other Southern States, but I do know that the State of Texas practices no such discrimination as that; and I do know that in almost every case one coach has a partition run through it and negro passengers occupy one part of the coach and the white passengers occupy the other part of it. It is not true of our State that the carriers provide inferior accommodations for negro passengers.

Mr. FORAKER. I am glad to have that statement from the Senator from Texas, for I know he would not make it unless he believed it to be true. I am not vouching for any of the statements that were written to me. I am only stating the reasons upon which I acted.

Mr. BAILEY. Mr. President—

The VICE-PRESIDENT. Does the Senator from Ohio yield further to the Senator from Texas?

Mr. FORAKER. Certainly.

Mr. BAILEY. I want to say to the Senator from Ohio that he will recall that I was ready to agree to that provision in his amendment.

Mr. FORAKER. Yes.

Mr. BAILEY. I believe that the races ought to be separated, but I also believe that the negro race ought to be provided with accommodations for which they are required to pay.

Mr. BACON. Mr. President—

The VICE-PRESIDENT. Does the Senator from Ohio yield to the Senator from Georgia?

Mr. FORAKER. Certainly.

Mr. BACON. I wish to direct the attention of the Senator from Ohio

to the fact that while I objected to his amendment in the original form when he offered the amendment which was engrafted upon the bill by the Senate—the amendment to the amendment offered by the Senator from Missouri—I stated the fact that, so far as I was prepared then to judge, that phraseology was satisfactory, recognizing, as I did, that while the local communities ought to be left free to judge for themselves as to the separation of races, where parties paid the same rate of fare they were entitled to equally as good accommodations.

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JOHN MITCHELL, JR., Grand Chancellor.

The Question of Color Raised by Negro Juror.

Savannah, Ga., June 22.—E. D. Desverney, a colored juror in the case of W. L. Bunting who was suing the Savannah Electric Company in the superior court to-day for \$30,000 for personal injuries, raised the color question. He got little

satisfaction out of his effort, however, and found that the court would not force eleven white jurors to sit at the table with him.

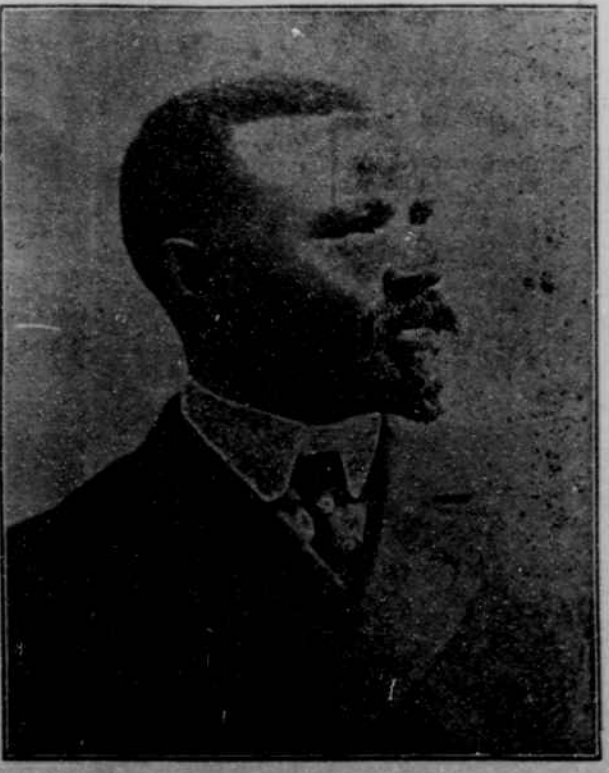
When the dinner hour arrived the jurors retired to their room. The eleven white jurors sat at one table. At another table the bailiff told Desverney to sit. Desverney sulked and wouldn't eat. The court was informed that one of the jurors wouldn't proceed with the consideration with consideration of the case. The colored juror agreed to do so, and finally a verdict of \$15,000 for the plaintiff was returned.



W. E. MITCHELL, Grand Master at Arms.

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E. R. JEFFERSON, Grand Medical Register.

AN ECHO FROM STAUNTON, VA.

THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—THE OFFICERS ELECTED—A GRAND SHOWING—A SUPERB ORGANIZATION—NOTHING BUT PRAISE—TO MEET NEXT YEAR IN NORFOLK.

The recent session of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, Knights of Pythias, N. A., S. A. E. A. and A. held June 19th, 20th and 21st at Staunton, Va. was most successful and harmonious. The reports showed an excellent financial condition and the expressions of approval by the grand representatives present emphasized the value of the business methods now in vogue in this superb organization.

rapid spread of the organization was a cause of felicitation to the members. Despite all of this, the Grand Lodge was warned to be careful of the material selected and not to increase rapidly at the expense of quality.

The election of officers resulted in placing Dr. E. R. Jefferson of Richmond in the position of Grand Medical Director and J. H. Page of Roanoke as Grand Inner Guard and Sir C. B. Brown of Covington, Va. as Grand Outer Guard.

RARE ABILITY.

Grand Chancellor John Mitchell, Jr., displayed to even a greater extent than ever before his rare executive ability. He presided over the sessions of both the Grand Lodge and the Grand Court, the latter being the female department of the Order, of which he is the Grand Worthy Counselor.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

The following are the officers elected for the ensuing term:

John Mitchell, Jr., Grand Chancellor, Richmond; T. J. Pree, Grand Vice Chancellor, Newport News; R. L. Jackson, Grand Prelate, Pocahontas; H. F. Jonathan, Grand Master of Eschequer, Richmond; Thomas M. Crump, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, Richmond; W. E. Mitchell, Grand Master at Arms, Richmond; J. H. Page, Grand Inner Guard, Roanoke; C. B. Brown, Grand Outer Guard, Covington; L. W. Holbrook, Grand Master of Work, Danville; Dr. E. R. Jefferson, Grand Medical Register, Richmond; W. H. C.

Despite all this all of the business was concluded by Thursday afternoon and the grand representatives had ample time to attend the banquet at the Old Mt. Zion Baptist Church building. The local committee discharged its duties very satisfactorily. The sessions were held in the spacious and magnificent new Mt. Zion Baptist Church, of which

Dr. E. R. Jefferson, Grand Medical Register, Richmond; W. H. C.



H. F. JONATHAN, Grand Master of Eschequer.

Rev. W. H. Moses, the eloquent young divine is pastor.

Brown, Grand Lecturer, Newport News.

FINANCIAL SHOWING.

The reports showed that the Grand Lodge had a cash balance of \$10,140.46. The amount invested in property is \$5,980.00 making a grand total of \$16,120.46.

The two Departments of the Order now have received in its business department since its organization \$20,289.90 and expended \$19,701.68. The total value of the property both real and personal owned is \$18,000. Every dollar due on this has been paid and the business department of the organization is entirely free from debt.

The following appointments were made by the Grand Chancellors:

W. H. Mills, Grand Marshal, Norfolk; O. M. Steward, Grand 1st Attendant, Richmond; S. S. Baker, G. 2nd Attendant, Richmond; J. A. Moss, G. 3rd Attendant, Richmond; John G. Smith, G. 4th Attendant, Richmond.

A REMARKABLE FEATURE.

Grand Chancellor John Mitchell, Jr. has inaugurated a plan by which a member who belongs to a lodge or court for ten years, without having at any time become unbenefited, if he becomes incapacitated or poverty stricken he will be kept benefited in the Endowment Department and remain a member of the Order for ten years. If he has been benefited for 15 years he will be kept benefited the remainder of his life. A fund has been established for the aid of all such persons and it will supply the place of sick dues. The new arrangement is known as the Self-Extending Endowment Plan. Grand Chancellor Mitchell explained its features and he was listened to with intense interest for an hour as he minutely described all of the methods in relation thereto.

DEPUTIES NAMED.

The following are the Deputy G. Chancellors appointed:

Richmond, George W. Dandridge; Manchester, Robt. Jackson; Petersburg, Edw. Wood; Danville, Wm. A.

HARMONY EVERYWHERE.

The harmony existing in Virginia is something remarkable and no where was there a false note. The

CONTINUED ON EIGHTH PAGE

Mr. Jasper's Funeral.

The funeral of Mr. J. M. Jasper took place Saturday, 7th inst. at the Ebenezer Baptist Church at 4 P. M. He departed this life Thursday morning at 4:50. The sermon was preached in a most pathetic and impressive manner by Rev. A. Bliza, D. D., pastor of the First Baptist Church of Manchester, Va. of which deceased was a member. He was assisted by Rev. W. H. Stokes, Ph. D. and Rev. S. C. Burrell. His text was from Proverbs 14:32. Madame Fanny Payne Walker sang with telling effect, "Flee as a Bird to Your Mountain."

Planet Lodge, No. 23 was out in force and made a creditable showing. He belonged to Peerless Lodge No. 2642, G. U. O. of Odd Fellows and to the True Reformers. He had been a member of the Church 36 years.

Miss Nannie B. Jones presided at the organ. Funeral Director Wm. Isaac Johnson officiated.