

KNOCKING RICHMOND

MR. WHITE'S LETTER.

The following is a copy of the letter sent out to members of the B. P. O. of Elks and which is said to have defeated the efforts of the local lodges to have the Grand Lodge meet here next year.

"Richmond, Va., Aug. 14, 1922.

"Dear Brother:
"You are aware of the fact, no doubt, that I am one of the committee on extending an invitation to the Grand Lodge, I. B. P. O. B. of W., convening at Newark, N. J., August 22nd to 25th, 1922, to come to Richmond, Va., August 1923. I beg to say that after realizing the oath of my office taken at Boston, Mass. 1921, I cannot deceive the trust placed upon me by the Grand Lodge via (promoting the welfare and interest of our Order.) I cannot conscientiously invite you to my home town without first enlightening you with the privileges of my people extended by the whites.

"1. The capital of the Southern Confederacy.

"2. No place of interest in the city but for white people only.

"3. We can entertain from 1 to 1,000 of our people at any time, but what would we do with 12,000 or more?

"4. Must you come here simply to spend your money with no security from assaults and insults?

"5. One of our leading citizens, Hon. John Mitchell, Jr., Editor of Richmond Planet and President of Mechanics Savings Bank, was placed in the police patrol and carried over the city for simply standing on the corner, asking the cause of an excitement.

"6. The Honorable Monroe Trotter spoke here recently at the City Auditorium and was told what he must say and what he could not say to our people in Richmond.

"7. Since the N. A. A. C. P. and other Leagues are fighting the unjust causes, how can we invite the Grand Lodge and those people to share the treatments heaped upon us that we ourselves dislike as citizens and tax payers.

"8. Some of the B. P. O. E. here say invite you here, while others think that it might divide peace and harmony.

"9. Ex-Governor H. C. Stuart said the white people here will continue to like the colored people as long as they know and stay in their places. Please define this.

"10. Our Brothers of the Mystic Shrine here have discontinued wearing emblems, urged so to do recently.

"11. All previous cities accepted by the Grand Lodge as meeting place even Norfolk, Va., had the balancing power (the Negro vote) which we are deprived of since we lost our political influence (old Jackson Ward) by some of them who are inviting the Grand Lodge here.

"12. Are you to sacrifice and fold your manhood rights, privileges, liberties, customs and opinions and leave them at the National Capital until you return from here?

"13. Recently hundreds of our people were made homeless by the city opening a boulevard to reach the white suburb easily without any provisions by the city; some compelled to return to the country after many years living here, while others found places in Clay Street, which was opened to our people by real estate agents at a rate of 50 to 75 per cent. increase rent or sale.

"14. If you select Richmond, Va. for 1922 then don't complain especially when you see some of our leading men with their hats off scratching their heads, while talking to the white man.

"Respectfully yours in C. J. B. L.
"JOHN P. WHITE,

"Grand Esteemed Leading Knight

"Elks' Home,

"1023 N. Second St."

WYTHEVILLE (VA.) NOTES.

Rev. W. L. Saunders of Bristol, Tenn., the District Supt., preached morning and night at the Franklin Street A. M. E. church Sunday, September 24th, to an appreciative audience.

Rev. H. L. Johnson, of Rural Retreat preached in the afternoon. A. who heard him went away praising God for his many blessings.

Sunday being rally day at the M. E. church, the congregation showed their loyalty to the cause by raising \$408.50 naturally there was rejoicing in Wytheville.

Rev. Wylie Smith, the white Baptist evangelist of Wytheville preached Sunday morning at the Bethel A. M. E. church. Keep it up Brother Smith.

Rev. Wing of the Baltimore conference preached at night. Come back to see us Brother Wing.

Rev. T. B. Alston preached all day Sunday at the Baptist church.

Mrs. Martha Souger received the sad news, that her niece Miss Blanche Sales, who died in Louisville, Ky., would be brought home to Red Bluff, for burial.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Frigg, of Pulaski, Va., were the Sunday guests of Mrs. Emma Chapman her sister, who is still confined to her bed.

Mr. and Mrs. William Smith of Gilliam, W. Va., and Hannah Lewis of Gary, W. Va., were week-end visitors in Wytheville visiting their many relatives and friends.

Miss Carrie Austin who has been visiting her sisters, Mrs. Bossie Dylle left for Memphis, Friday night.

Mr. Earnest Martin and Miss Stella Brown were quietly married last

Wednesday night. They are at home to their many friends on East Monroe street.

Mrs. Katie Sawyers spent the week end in Radford, Va.

Those who attended the rally at the M. E. church from a distance were: Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Allison, Messrs. Will Gary, Oscar Brown, Will Miner Joseph Chappello of Abingdon and Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Coffor, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Floya Bentley, Mrs. Willy Russell, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Richardson of Rural Retreat and Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bailey of Drapers, Mrs. S. B. Hudley of Washington, D. C., Mrs. H. L. Johnson of Rural Retreat, Mrs. Easter Brown of Ivanhoe, Va. drove to Wytheville Sunday and was the guest of relatives and friends.

Mr. Dave Coffor of Rural Retreat was a visitor in Wytheville.

Mrs. Laura Brown the matron of the Juvenile department of the St. Lukes took her children to Pulaski Friday, September 22, for their annual outing. These children had some time.

Read the Planet for news that affects our people.

Let us have a few more subscriptions.

Mr. Geo. Jones returned Friday from Danville, Va., where he attended the Masonic convale.

Rev. T. W. Hebron made a trip to Rural Retreat in the interest of the Good Samaritan order.

Miss Flora Burks, of Bluefield, W. Va., is the guest of her father, Mr. Frank Burks.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Crockett and Mrs. Mary Scott, of Ivanhoe were the guest of Mr. Richard Holiday Sunday the 24th.

CHICAGO NOTES.

J. B. Street, vice-president the Virginia Society and president the Joint Building Association of U. D. P. and S. M. T., is back in the city after spending two pleasant weeks in Virginia. Mr. Street visited Crow, Va., his home town, Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va., his Alma Mater, Norfolk and Petersburg, Va. after an absence of twelve years.

Mrs. N. E. Newland, matron and assistant financial agent of the Enterprise Institute, 514 Aldine Square, has returned to the city from a visit of 2 weeks at Idlewild, Michigan. While there Mrs. Newland was the guest of Mrs. J. J. Lee in her cottage, the "Corino."

Mme. Ezella Mathis Carter, 4509 Prairie avenue, president the Hairdressers Association of the Carter System, after spending several months on a tour of the south, is back in the city ready to take up her full duties. Mme. Carter attended the Agricultural and Industrial State Normal School at Nashville, Tenn., during the summer, taking up some special work. She then visited her father at Atlanta, Ga., and held the annual session of the Hairdressers Association at Fitzgerald, Ga.

Mrs. Sarah Stratton, Princess of Gates Ajar Temple No. 35 S. M. T., has moved to 3261 Cottage Grove avenue, apartment two, where she will be pleased to have her many fraternal friends visit her.

Delegates to the 20th B. M. C. session at Cleveland Ohio are returning to their homes. Among the Chicago delegation who are back are Mesdames Nora F. Taylor, Lou Ella Young, Ella G. Berry, Ida M. Nelson, Josephine Townsend, Maggie T. Pryor and Alice Carr.

Miss Alpha Baxter, 420 E. 48th St., has returned to Alton, Illinois to take up full duties as teacher in the public school there after spending a pleasant vacation with relatives here. Miss Alice Baxter her sister, has returned to Colp, Illinois, where she will resume similar work after taking up special work during the summer at the University of Chicago.

Mesdames Crenshaw and Anderson, milliners, 3408 S. State street, and their mother spent Sunday in Morgan Park the guest of Mrs. H. Settles, 11342 S. Throop street.

Mr. and Mrs. Amos Meredith and children of 4553 Champlain avenue were the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Benton, 1431 W. 109th Place. W. C. Denton and others were also seen in the suburbs during the day.

Miss Mary Washington of Des Moines Iowa, is in the city to spend some time with her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Washington, 15 W. 36th street and will visit other relatives at Milwaukee, Wis., before returning to Des Moines.

M. T. Bailey, president the Bailey Realty Co., 3638 S. State street made a flying trip to Morgan Park during the week and spent considerable time getting information concerning the zoning district in Morgan Park. This information will be of great benefit to members of the race in the future.

TWO SCHOOL JOBS OPEN.

(Preston News Service.)
Washington, D. C. Sept. 26.—Announcement has been made by the board of education that a Spanish teacher is needed in the colored high schools and a teacher of drawing in the Miner Normal School here are needed. It is said that an examination for persons to fill these positions will be held in the Franklin School on September 30.

THE COLORED PEOPLE OF VIRGINIA ARE RECOGNIZED AS BEING THE MOST PROGRESSIVE IN THIS COUNTRY.

They are economical and thrifty. As an evidence of this, they had accumulated approximately Four Hundred Thousand Dollars in the Mechanics Savings Bank of this city. Their Board of Directors and Officers were not paupers, but were well-to-do citizens and stood ready to put up the \$83,500.00 worth of assets as required by the Banking Division. The decree as signed by Judge William A. Moncure reads—

"And it being represented to the Court that the closing of said bank by the plaintiff was because of the presence in its assets of obligations of the Bonded Realty Company, Inc., amounting to the sum of \$83,500.00, which are not secured to the satisfaction of the plaintiff and it being further represented to the Court that there is a reasonable prospect of the defendant being able, within a short time, of satisfying the plaintiff as to said obligations of the Bonded Realty Company, Inc., and as to the entire solvency of said bank, it is further ordered that said receivers be authorized and instructed to report to the Court, at the earliest possible date, together with a statement of the assets and liabilities of said bank, such offers and plans as may be submitted to them by the defendants, or others on its behalf, with a view of satisfying the requirements of the plaintiff and effecting a prompt discharge of said receivers, and the return of the assets of said Mechanics' Savings Bank, of Richmond, Va. to its proper authorities."

The unofficial information given was that the Mechanics Savings Bank would be returned to its owners in ten days. Instead, it has been more than two months. The Receivers insist that the pass-books must be turned in before they release their hold on the Bank. Let us deliver to them the pass-books and remove this basis of complaint. The white people of this community have cordially co-operated with the colored people both with their sympathy and offer of money.

The Depositors have come forward and offered to share in the liability should that liability exceed the amount approximated by the Receivers. This removes the necessity for the return of all the pass-books. The leading white financial institution, which is the largest and only creditor of the Bank except the Depositors, offers to aid and will not embarrass the institution. Then why not re-open the Bank. The Depositors have agreed not to make a run on the Bank and they will accept a limited amount of cash on their deposits in order to aid the Bank.

Winter is here and the people need some of their money in order to ward off suffering. It seems to us then that there is no excuse for keeping the Bank closed. The cost of keeping it closed is approximately from fifty to one hundred dollars per day. It is essentially necessary that it be opened. One pull, a strong pull and a pull all together should accomplish this feat since the Receivers themselves are reported to be anxious to get out.

JOHN MITCHELL, JR.