

At the Nation's Capital

NATIONAL GRAND COUNCIL OF THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF GOOD SAMARITANS IN ANNUAL SESSION AT WASHINGTON.

Foraker predicts victory for the Republican party in Ohio.—Congressional campaign to be opened after conference of leaders on part Negroes are to play.—Armstrong Manual Training School to teach aviation.—Slatter expresses great faith in Shepard's school at Durham, N. C.

Thompson's National News Bureau

Washington, D. C., Sept. 21.—The National Grand Council of the Independent Order of Good Samaritans opened its annual session yesterday morning at the Third Baptist Church in Alexandria. The attendance was large and represented nearly every state in the Union. National Grand Chief, Rev. J. E. Wood, of Danville, Ky., presided, and Mrs. Mary E. Washington, of New Albany, National Grand Secretary, filled her allotted position. The meeting promises to be very interesting and many problems looking to the good of the order will be worked out. Mrs. E. P. Diggs, of Leesburg, Va., is the treasurer, and reported the finances to be in a healthy condition. Mrs. Susie Roselle, of 1205 Cameron St., Alexandria, had charge of the housing of the delegates and right royally did she perform her duty. The Good Samaritans are loud in their praise of the openhanded hospitality of the citizens of the ancient town in which George Washington was wont to hibernate.

Miss Mae Irwin, of Chicago, is making a splendid record as assistant superintendent of nurses at Freedmen's Hospital. She is a graduate of one of the best schools for trained nurses in the country and has experience in the work that admirably fits her for the exacting duties at this great institution. Miss Irwin has tact, patience and executive ability, and her courteous treatment of every one with whom she comes into contact, has earned for her a popularity that guarantees success to her administration. Dr. W. A. Warfield, Surgeon-in-Chief, is fortunate in having in charge of this important branch an assistant so capable and efficient as Miss Irwin is proving herself to be.

Former Senator Joseph Benson Foraker passed through the city one day last week, en route from a summer resort in Maine to his home in Cincinnati. He was the picture of rugged health, the result of three months of outdoor life on the seashore, and his friends were gratified to note that the care-worn look upon his countenance, which gave them no little concern, a year or two ago, has disappeared and in his eye there is the merry twinkle of yore. Senator Foraker did not talk politics, as such, but, on the subject of current conditions, remarked:

"I fancy it is somewhat difficult for any republican to keep his bearings these days. And I confess it is so with me."

He stated that it was his expectation to take part in the campaign in the State of Ohio, and his view of the situation there was highly optimistic.

"I have kept in touch with Ohio affairs only by correspondence," said he, "but my advices from republican friends are all reassuring. We have an exceptionally good candidate in Mr. Harding. He is clean, capable and strong, and an ideal campaigner. The people know him, and have confidence in him, and on local issues I should say that conditions are decidedly favorable to his success. One would be rash, indeed, to make any sort of prediction, politically, with matters so abnormally mixed as they are today, but I believe that the Ohio republican ticket will be elected. Certainly it shall have my best support, as every other republican ticket has always had."

Senator Foraker gave it as his opinion that the country's material conditions were never better or more conducive of wholesome, healthy prosperity. All now required, was to give business a chance, and not hamper it by mischievous agitation or disturb it by ill-considered and unwise agitation. There are those who believe that there is "another run" in the energetic Senator and expect him to "come back."

The congressional campaign is to be started soon. The leaders are in conference this week on matters relating to the Negro's participation in the significant contest, and the outcome will be given in a few days. The old-line republicans favor a vigorous campaign on the liberal plat-

form of human rights and equality of citizenship, pointing to the splendid record of the party on all of the questions that had to do with the larger life of the Negro. It is contended that if the republicans carry the House this fall, the party must look to the Negro vote in the pivotal states of the North and West to save the day. There is no use mincing matters, claim the stalwarts. The party must win and if a more generous policy must be inaugurated in order to arouse the colored voters, this old-fashioned republican believes there should be no hesitation about starting out on it at once. It is said that President Taft is getting some expert advice on the subject and it would not surprise the initiated if he should, at an early date, give the "lie direct" to those schemers and marplots who have been putting out the report that he is in sympathy with a plan to eliminate the Negroes of the South from the political equation, root and branch, and build up a strictly "white man's party." The atmosphere is growing warm and in a fortnight there will be "something doing."

The warriors have returned from the B. M. C. at Baltimore. Grand Master W. L. Houston, who piloted the "steam-roller," is monarch of all he surveys, and is taking a much-needed rest from his arduous labors. The administration ticket won out by a big margin, electing all of its candidates. Edward H. Morris is grand master, Henry Lincoln Johnson, deputy grand master; James F. Needham, grand secretary; and Julius C. Johnson, of Baltimore, grand treasurer. Henry P. Slaughter, of the Government Printing Office, is elected editor and manager of the Odd Fellows' Journal. He will locate in Philadelphia and establish the office and printing plant in the Odd Fellows' building in the Quaker City. He will not take hold until January 1st. In the meantime, Editor J. C. Asbury continues in office, and will arrange to transfer the property to his successor at the time stated. Mr. Asbury has been editor and manager for the past thirteen years, and has developed the business from nothing to a paying department of the order. He goes out of office with the confidence and respect of his brethren and co-workers. The administration of Grand Master Houston was a success, and under him the Order has reached the high-water mark of its history in membership, the total reaching fully a half-million. The next meeting of the B. M. C. will be held in 1912 in Atlanta. After the few sore spots are healed, the ranks of the G. U. O. of O. F. will close up as usual, and all will march abreast to increased prosperity in accord with the sacred shibboleth, "Friendship, Love and Truth."

Horace D. Slatter, the well-known traveling correspondent, has been in the city this week, circulating among old friends. He had been to the Baltimore meeting of the B. M. C., and had some tough experience with the medicine "steam-roller," but took his medicine good-naturedly, as becomes a first-class newspaper man. Mr. Slatter says Dr. J. E. Shepard has in a magnificent school at Durham, where he had been spending some time, and is of the opinion that he has laid the foundation of an enterprise that will fulfill its mission as faithfully as Tuskegee is doing along its own individual lines. The fames of Shepard and Washington will be linked as joint benefactors of their race in the Sunny Southland. Mr. Slatter is recording secretary of the National Negro Press Association, having been elected at New York in August. He has great faith in the possibilities of the Association, and will deliver a number of addresses in its behalf at the various points he will visit during the current year. The press will be kept informed of the progress of the work through Mr. Slatter and the corresponding secretary here. The Association is solidly behind President M. M. Lewey, and will sustain the policies he will soon announce.

The next international conference

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Stormy Session

MARKED THE GATHERING OF THE GRAND UNITED ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

Used Steam Roller

Did Grand Master Houston and assured the election of his law partner and predecessor in office.

Baltimore, Md., Sept. 18.—After one of the stormiest sessions in the history of the Order, the fifteenth session of the biennial movable committee of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, ended Saturday morning after having taken all night to elect officers.

Edward H. Morris and the rest of the administration ticket were elected by safe majorities.

The last session began Friday at 12:30 P. M., and continued without interruption until 9:30 o'clock Saturday. The election was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the temporary injunction which was secured in Circuit Court No. 2 Friday, by some of the insurgents. Among other things, the administration leaders were enjoined from conducting an election until the committee on credentials had reported and the roll called, if demanded by five delegates.

There were over 1,500 delegates in the convention and the reading and recording clerks were a tired lot when adjournment finally took place.

The administration forces were especially bitter in their criticism of those responsible for the issuance of the restraining order, and they were joined in their criticism by some of the insurgents. It was pointed out that rules had been adopted early Friday, the provisions of which were similar to the demands of the injunction.

Things got to fever heat last night when Rev. Dr. W. Decker Johnson, one of the secretaries, declared it was beyond reason and human endurance to keep men in continuous session because of the differences among aspirants for office, and many of the delegates jumped to their feet to speak in the same strain. City Councilman Harry S. Cummings finally quieted the delegates by explaining the provisions of the injunction, and then the calling of the roll began.

Rev. E. P. Jones, the defeated candidate for grand master, took his defeat in good grace. The list of officers elected follows: Edward H. Morris, Chicago, grand master; Henry Lincoln Johnson, Atlanta, deputy grand master; Julius C. Johnson, this city, grand treasurer; James F. Needham, Philadelphia, grand secretary; W. David Brown, New York; George W. Hayes, Ohio; John S. Noel, West Virginia; C. A. Shehey, Florida, grand directors; and W. W. Lawrence, North Carolina; T. P. Turner, Tennessee; L. N. Porter, Arkansas, grand auditors.

The administration rushed through the election of an editor and manager of the Odd Fellows' Journal Thursday declaring Henry P. Slaughter, of Washington, elected over J. C. Asbury, the present incumbent on a viva voce vote.

The new grand master is about 59 years of age. He is said to be one of the most successful colored lawyers in the country and has served as a member of the Illinois legislature. The retiring grand master, W. L. Houston, is associated with him in the practice of law. The next session will be held at Atlanta, Ga.

DEMOCRATS EXPRESS FRIENDSHIP FOR NEGRO.

Jefferson City, Mo., Sept. 14.—In the platform of the Democratic party of this state filed here today was a plank proclaiming their friendship for the black race, and declaring that they never will discriminate against the Negro either by criminal laws or by attempting to deprive him of his right of suffrage.

This recalls past moves to disfranchise the Negro. In the last campaign former Congressman Cowherd, Democratic candidate for governor, in an address in St. Louis practically advocated disfranchisement of the Negroes. This was followed by Cowherd's defeat at the general election.

The State administration of Missouri is now in the hands of the Republicans.

Washington Interviewed

BY LONDON PAPER CONTRASTS CONDITIONS IN SOUTH WITH ENGLAND'S POLICY.

Negroes Progressing

And seem to be too well satisfied to consider seriously any movement looking to their return to the Dark Continent.

(From the Manchester, England Guardian August 29)

Dr. Booker T. Washington, the American Negro born a slave, who founded and conducted the famous Negro Institute of Tuskegee, in Alabama, was made an honorary graduate of Harvard and Doctor of Laws of Dartmouth, and is now known in America as the spokesman of the American Negro, yesterday arrived in London. In appearance he is a strongly built man of medium height with a very faint touch of grey beginning to show in his hair. His expression is the friendly and animated one more common to his race than ours, but there is nothing that obviously marks him out as a leader of men. In his age, hands, figures, expression, and voice, everything is moderate about the man, and through a somewhat lengthy cross-examination by journalists at his room in a London hotel yesterday the feature that struck one most was the great moderation of his remarks.

The Two Races in America.

"The worst thing," he said, "that happen to the Negro—the lynchings and so on—are all over the world the next morning. You don't hear of the best. There is a good deal of wrong that ought to be corrected—will be corrected. But there is a big lot of progress too. You don't understand here what the situation can be, with its many mighty contradictions. Listen to this. When you go really into the community in the South you find that every Negro has a white friend and nearly every white man has a Negro friend. That is different from anything you have in South Africa, I think. In America the races are side by side and the relationship is very close. In every community there is a white man whose family owned Negroes, and down to today there's a friendly relationship. The white man takes an interest in the descendants of his family's slaves, and they go to him when they're in trouble. Alexander Stevens, the great Confederate leader, helped the son of one of his former slaves through a college course, and similar cases have happened many times."

Social Conditions in Europe.

He spoke of the object of his visit. In America the Negro was the man who was the farth down. Mr. Washington has come to Europe to study the lot of the "white man who is farthest down." He intends to see something of the poor quarters of London, Liverpool, Copenhagen, Berlin, and Paris, to study the life of the field workers, and the miner, and to compare them with the mass of the Negro population in America. Besides the places mentioned, he will visit the Balkan States, Southern Italy, and Austria. He will also spend a few days with Mr. Carnegie at Skibo Castle. As he intends to do this and return to New York by the 1st of October it will be seen that his studies p to the social problems will not be very exhaustive, but he hopes to gain some general impressions for republication in Mr. Roosevelt's journal "The Outlook." The hand of that great admirer of movement may perhaps be discerned in the planning of this tour. Dr. Washington believes that when America comes to a more accurate conception of the difficulties that the masses of working people in other parts of the world have to struggle against it will do much to solve the problem of the Negro in America.

The Negro's Progress.

Speaking of the general position of the Negro, Dr. Washington said that there were about ten millions of Negro population, nine millions of which were in the Southern States. It was difficult to disentangle the figures, as only two States keep separate accounts of the property according to races, but Virginia showed that the Negro population owned 52,000 acres, and Georgia between 40,000 and 50,000.

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Harmony Meeting

OF REPUBLICAN LEADERS IS HELD ON THE CALL OF GOVERNOR GLASSCOCK.

Plans are Adopted

By which the success of the party at the polls next November is to be assured.—Governor speaks his mind and reads riot act.

That harmony is a necessary adjunct to successfully fulfilling the principles of the republican party in West Virginia was a pronouncement following a meeting at the White Sulphur Springs Monday of leading factors of the party in this State.

The meeting was one that will be featured in the annals of politics of West Virginia, for there were heart to heart talks and lung to lung talks during which things were said that made every off-colored party man prick up his ears and wonder why he had not already been busy at puncturing the possibilities of democratic success in West Virginia this fall.

When the wheel horses got together at the White, Governor Glasscock was essentially the dominant individual and he evidently took upon himself the prerogative to say what he thought, for he said things that were naturally conducive to a question of his authority.

It was determined at the meeting, and nearly every part of the State was represented, that from this time the recognized head of the party workings of West Virginia is to be the governor. The harness was placed on Mr. Glasscock's back and he has begun the task of preparing a public statement addressed to all the republicans in West Virginia in which will be incorporated an idea as to the party intentions from this time on and of the platform on which the candidates of the party may safely stand and be elected this fall.

By those who were present at the meeting it has been said that the governor had more than usual to say and he pictured the situation in a manner that made everyone present sit up and take notice. He assumed the position of a dictator just as soon as the power to do so was placed within his reach and then he began to show the factions that have been disturbing conditions of harmony wherein they are not only doing themselves but the entire party an injustice.

It was shown to be the sense of the meeting that all present were unanimous in expressing favor for the conduct of the present national administration, and also that it is necessary for committees to be appointed to further look into the differences that have arisen in different parts of the State between factions of the republican party.

It was shown to be the sentiment of all present that instead of the United States senators of West Virginia being the actual head of the party in the State, that the governor should be recognized as the party leader and that he is entitled to the consideration that in great part have been shown to the senators.

Mr. Glasscock announced that he wished for an immediate harmonizing between the factions and it was shown at the meeting that there is an inclination on the part of all of them to bring about the result just as soon as possible. One of the committees selected will have that work of harmonizing factions in hand and assurance was given at the meeting that there will be but little difficulty in bringing about that condition, so long as things are worked along the same lines as those now being adhered to.

It was unanimously decided that headquarters will at once be established in this city. From this headquarters campaign literature of every description will be circulated from this point.

It was announced by the governor that he will at once busy himself in furthering the interests of the party in West Virginia and will assume the responsibilities that have been imposed on him by the leaders other than himself. He will remain at White Sulphur Springs for some time in going over business connected with his office and those concerning the party work for the campaign now in progress.

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True Reformers i'ouble

GRAND MASTER TAYLOR'S REM OVAL VIRA INSURANCE COMMISSIONER A ND HOLME

Order was so heavily involved that a tax of \$1.00 or levied.—Session notable for bitterness of ex- gatives who vote to throw Taylordown when giv- as to deplorable condition of order's finances.—Bank in sound condition.

Richmond, Va., Sept. 15.—Yielding to repeated demands made by State Insurance Commissioner Joseph Button for a complete change in management, the Grand Fountain of the United Order of True Reformers, in biennial session in Richmond, yesterday chose A. W. Holmes, of this city, as grand worthy master, in place of W. L. Taylor. W. P. Burrell, whose administration has been entirely satisfactory to the Bureau of Insurance, will be re-elected grand secretary. The officers have been selected by what is known as nomination, and will be formally elected today.

Probably the entire future of this order, the largest, most successful and most prominent among all colored secret societies in the world, was involved in the choice of the Grand Fountain of its president. Recent troubles have brought the organization to a critical stage, due mostly, it is believed, to ignorance of business methods and partly, perhaps, to the machinations of more intelligent Negroes who found in the members of their race easy dupes to their plans.

Remarkable indeed is the history of the True Reformers, which for nearly thirty years has held first place in the respect and admiration of the colored population of America. Its home office and central building are located in Richmond, on Second Street, near Leigh, where yesterday's sessions were held. The body, which is composed of delegates, met on Tuesday and will be in session the remainder of the week.

On one occasion this Grand Fountain, elected to represent the interests of the members, gravely and solemnly bought its own ritual, its own charter and its own constitution and by-laws from its grand master for the sum of \$50,000, nearly \$40,000 of which was actually paid. This official, who is now dead, was the founder of the True Reformers, was a salaried officer, and actually had the ritual copyrighted in order to secure the consummation of his plans. To add to his gains, his wife for nine years had the exclusive right to manufacture regalia for the members and at last this right was "sold" back to the order for \$13,000.

This founder, W. W. Browne, it is stated, presided in the meetings of the Grand Fountain in flowing robes, to aid him in impressing superstitious reverence upon those who had united with the organization. In fact, if rumors be correct, vague ceremonies of this sort were practiced up to a very recent time.

When an income of nearly \$300,000 a year, hosts of claims amounting in the aggregate to more than \$50,000, remained unpaid at about the beginning of this year.

Numerous complaints of the non-payment of insurance claims, ranging from small sums up to \$500, were made to Commissioner Button, who ordered an examination. It was speedily learned that the trouble was not with the order, but with its depository which was known as the Savings Bank of the Grand United Order of True Reformers, was holding the checks without paying them. A little deeper was a search conducted, and it was learned that the officials of the bank and those of the order are the same. In fact, the bank is an affiliated institution.

Checks were Held.

This was the method of procedure. The treasurer of the order was cashier of the bank. The checks for payment of the insurance claims would be properly drawn by the order, and charged off on its books. This was all regular. The order had the money on deposit. Then the cashier of the bank would put these checks away in a drawer and they would not be paid. The records of the bank did not show that the checks had been presented. The bank looked all right. Oh, fine!

Immediate demand was made by Colonel Button for the payment of the claims. The bank made its arrangements and paid them. But the commissioner was not satisfied with the management. He gave the order until the next biennial meeting, which is now being held, to cleanse its stables.

For weeks past officers and members of the True Reformers have been notified that there must be a change of management. Taylor, the grand master, was told that he must step out, or he was given intimation to that effect. The result was to be an immediate investigation and firm application of the insurance laws. It was Colonel Button's intention to reform the order, not to wreck it. He desires to build it up for should it fall it would drag down with it, probably, the entire fabric of colored secret societies to which the Negro race pins its highest hopes.

Stood to Guns.

All day yesterday delegations of members called on the commissioner at his office in the Capitol, some of the members undertaking to argue the points at issue with him. He produced his reports and official records, and told them what he expected. Expostulation was of no use. To the last delegation he delivered his ultimatum. Taylor's head must fall in the basket.

Yesterday's action of the Grand Fountain is regarded as a complete return to sanity and conservatism. In new hands the order is expected to continue its work safely and successfully. At the last unity and harmony reigned, Taylor stepping down without protest.

The parent and leader of all such associations among the colored people of the United States, the United Order of True Reformers, has been generally venerated as a model of what such things should be, and held up as a pattern to be emulated. Its career, however, and more especially its recent management, have resulted in bringing it to the situation in which the Grand Fountain found itself when it assembled here on Tuesday.

The association was organized in 1881 by William Washington Brown a colored minister of Richmond. A charter was issued on April 4, 1883. It steadily grew in membership and in importance, gathering thousands of people into its lodges, scattered throughout most of the Southern and Eastern States, and extending into the Middle West. The membership in Washington, D. C., is large.

Sold its Own Property.

In the annual report of Browne, the grand worthy master, in 1894, he recommended that the association purchase from him in fee simple the plans of each department of the order. He had prepared himself for this coup by having the ritual and construction copyrighted in 1887. Obedient to his commands the Grand Fountain, at its session held in September, 1895, agreed to the purchase for the compensation of \$50,000, by a standing vote which was nearly unanimous. Subsequently, under an agreement with Browne's widow, this amount was compromised at \$40,000. All of this was paid with the exception of three or four thousand dollars, which was paid through an emergency fund created in 1906 by individual subscriptions.

Quoting from the report of Examiner T. M. Hobson, to the Commissioner of Insurance, made last February: "The sale of such plans by W. W. Browne to the order was a severe breach of trust for the reason that his service and labors had been bought by the order, and to have sold them the fruits of such services deserves the greatest condemnation. It was only the good will, and this they already enjoyed."

Grand Master Rules.

Under the laws of the order, the president is, or has the opportunity to be, a supreme power. The Grand Fountain, which meets only once in two years, elects a board of directors composed of the first five officers and nine others. During the absence of this board, however, the administrative duties are delegated to an executive committee, which is composed of the grand master, vice-grand master, grand secretary, grand treasurer, and three others appointed by the grand master.

Even should he not be able to control the other three officers, he can with his own vote and those of the men he appoints, absolutely control the situation.

As a further mark of financial ruin its stables.

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