

General Race News

TWO MASONIC BODIES

APPEAL TO COURTS.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 11.—Two high Colored Masonic bodies began Thursday morning, January 27, in the common pleas court a struggle to determine the right to use the word "mason" and all that it comprehends. The suit was filed by the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Ancient Masons of the United States, through its attorneys, Emmet Tomkins and Graham Deuwel, against the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Ohio.

The petition recites that the national organization was established in Revolutionary times in Boston, under a charter from England, that it was formally organized in 1858 and that the Ohio organization was established in 1888 and has been declared spurious by the national organization. The petition requests that it be enjoined from using the word "Masons" and that it be dissolved and that the property which is held prior to severing from the national organization be turned over to the national organization.

SUCCESSFUL WORK BY Y. M. C. A.

Kansas City, Jan. 22.—The first annual report of the Paseo Y. M. C. A. was read at a meeting of the committee of managers last night by Robert B. De Frantz, secretary. Since the Negro association was formed a year ago, 755 members have been enrolled, 514 men and 240 boys.

A Chaffeurs' League with fifty-five members, meets weekly at the association to discuss ways its members may become more efficient. A similar organization is the Domestic Science Club, composed of thirty young men who serve as butlers, housemen and cooks. Other clubs that promote educational and extension work in the form of lectures and the giving of scholarships to graduates of the high school also have been organized.

More than three thousand men attended religious meetings in the building last year. One hundred men have become church members as a result. In addition to the regular men and boys' bible classes, a class for railroad men, who report by mail, has been formed. Seventy per cent of the 240 boys in the association are church members.

The dormitories have housed 385 regular guests and 1005 transients during the year. Plans have been made for a larger work in the employment department.

Mr. DeFrantz's report also was read a few days ago at a dinner in Chicago in honor of Julius Rosenwald, who gave \$25,000 to the building fund.

MICHIGAN MAN WINS

DAMAGE SUIT FOR \$125.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 11.—Refused service in a restaurant conducted by Albert Day, Clyde B. Hayes was awarded a verdict for \$125 against Day.

Hayes was in company with a friend, a white man, but was informed by Day that colored people could not be served in his restaurant. Mr. Hayes retained Francis H. Warren as his attorney and filed suit. A jury gave him the verdict, and this was the first

time in Wayne County that a colored man has won a civil suit based on discrimination.

PERSISTENT PRELATE PRODS PRESIDENT.

(Continued from first page.)

tion, commands this, and our sympathies should also make it easy.

The colored people of the United States have made extraordinary progress toward self-support and usefulness, and ought to be encouraged in every possible way. My sympathy with them is of long standing, and I want to assure them through you that should I become President of the United States, they may count upon me for absolute fair dealing and for everything by which I could assist in advancing the interests of their race in the United States.

Cordially and sincerely yours,
WOODROW WILSON.

Bishop Alexander Walters,
c/o Judge Robert S. Hudspeth,
New York City.

Certainly the hostile Negro sentiment of some who occupy high places in the Democratic party cannot be considered as expressing the attitude of the party towards us. If Democracy means anything at all it must mean the sharing in the government of every honest, intelligent tax-paying citizen without regard to creed or color.

Surely this is eminently true at a time when every man of every race in our beloved country is expected to serve the colors in case of a crisis, and is needed to insure "preparedness" for our national defense. It does appear to me that it should be the aim of the national government to inspire and intensify the warmest patriotism rather than discourage and repress the love and zeal of all citizens.

To be officially informed that Negroes cannot be confirmed in high federal positions, such as they have held under former administrations, no matter how worthy, is to say the least, discouraging. We have waited long and patiently to know what our political status under the Democratic rule is to be in all parts of this country. In certain parts of the Southland a property qualification was demanded, and we met that, but to no avail. Then the educational test was required and when our illiteracy was decreased 70 per cent, and when we had met the educational qualification, we were bidden to stand aside and wait a little longer, instead of being encouraged to register and vote. In many places where we presented ourselves for enrollment we were ruthlessly turned down.

It is well to understand that the Democratic party cannot have the support of the Negro vote in the North, East and West, while it denies the ballot to the members of our race in the South; for a national party to take such a position is unfair, unreasonable and untenable.

Owing to the character of the opposition in certain quarters to a Negro being appointed Recorder of Deeds, it has become a test case and we are not contending so much for the office as we are for the principle involved, namely, the right of Negroes to be nominated and confirmed in important offices.

We do hope, Mr. President, that you

will not hesitate to make the nomination of a colored man to the office of the Recorder of Deeds, or to one of equal importance where Senatorial confirmation is required, for we desire to know whether it is to be the policy of the Democratic party to accord to Negroes the same rights and recognition granted to other citizens of the nation. Or in other words, can the Democratic party afford to ignore a half million voters who are constantly increasing on account of their color?

Most respectfully yours,
ALEXANDER WALTERS.

Bishop Walters has interviewed a number of Senators on the question of confirming Negroes nominated for important positions, and assurances have been given that if the nominations are made confirmation will follow. There are several prominent democrats who are aspirants for the vacant recordership, and it is thought that either of them will be acceptable to Bishop Walters and members of the Negro Democratic League. Jas. I. Howard of Harrisburg, is one of those most prominently mentioned. Prof. Kelly Miller of Howard University, is also mentioned in connection with the office, but it is not known if he would accept the office.

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