

General Race News

FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT HALTS SEGREGATION LAW.

Judge Dyer Grants Temporary Injunction Against City of St. Louis.

St. Louis, Mo., April 27.—Judge D. P. Dyer, in the United States District Court Monday, April 17, in granting a temporary injunction against the enforcement of the ordinances for segregation of the races, recently adopted by a referendum vote, declared he was convinced the ordinances are in contravention of the United States constitution.

He said he was only constrained from making the injunction permanent by reason of the fact that the United States Supreme Court is considering the legality of a somewhat similar ordinance passed in Louisville.

The petitions asking for the injunction were brought by Albert Burgess and others, and James J. Doyle and others. The city was represented by Counsellor E. Paul Griffin and Sherman Steele.

Wells H. Blodgett, Isaac H. Lionberger, Frederick N. Judson and Geo. B. Webster represented the petitioners.

City Counsellor Daues asked Judge Dyer to postpone the hearing until the decision of the United States Supreme Court on the Louisville case could be had, but Judge Dyer refused.

The Judge said he had digested the briefs filed in the Louisville case and was convinced that that case was not "on all fours" with the St. Louis case, and he preferred to hear the arguments.

Judge Dyer said he had voted as a citizen against the ordinances because he did not believe they were legal, and he held the same view of them as a jurist.

In giving his decision, Judge Dyer made a statement that ought to become a classic when he said: "The Negro is entitled to the same consideration and the same rights as is a white man. The Negro doesn't want social equality. He wants the same rights before the law as the white man, and he should have them."

The effect of the decision, directed against the mayor, the Board of Police Commissioners, the city counselor and Building Commissioner McKelvy, is to restrain those officials taking any further steps to make effective the segregation ordinance until the case can be heard on its merits.

NUNS UNDER ARREST FOR TEACHING COLORED PEOPLE.

St. Augustine, Fla., April 27.—Under the new state law making it illegal for white persons to teach Negroes, three nuns from St. Joseph's convent today were placed under technical arrest here. They were allowed their freedom on their own recognition. The case will be carried to the supreme court of the United States.

JANITRESS PENSIONED.

Philadelphia, Pa., April 27.—Mrs. Maria L. Cooper, who for thirty-one years has been janitress of the Drexel bank building, has been pensioned for her long and faithful service. Mrs. Cooper is 82 years of age.

DAHOMIAN CHIEF AT HEBREW PASSOVER.

New York, April 27.—At the beginning of the celebration of the Passover feast, commemorating the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt, held at the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid society, East Broadway, on Monday night, April 17, the most conspicuous figure was that of Chief Lobogola, a Negro Jew from Dahomey, who traces his descent from the sons of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

Lobogola's father and mother, although they know nothing of Judaism, honor religious customs similar to those of the Hebrew faith. It is their belief that King Solomon's sons and the Queen of Sheba carried the worship of Solomon into the Arabian desert. Lobogola ran away from home when 8 years old, and as a stowaway reached Glasgow, Scotland. Picked up by the city chamberlain, he was educated at the Glasgow university.

He is in this country lecturing on customs of his country. Wearing the skull cap required by his faith and the heavy necklaces of beads which mark him as a married man in his own country, Lobogola was a striking figure even in the polyglot assemblage which gathered at the rooms of the Aid society.

CONSUL H. F. WRIGHT HOME FROM VENEZUELA.

New York, April 27.—Among the passengers who arrived last week by the steamship Caracas of the Red Line were Hon. Herbert F. Wright, American consul at Porto Cabello, Venezuela, and Mrs. Wright. This is Mr. Wright's first trip to the United States for six years and was made necessary by the alarming state of his health. He was taken ill last July and lost some seventy pounds in weight, until his physician recommended his return to his native air for recuperation. On the other hand, Mrs. Wright appeared to be in the best of health. Consul Wright stated that the business of his district has increased greatly during his occupancy of the post and declares that he possesses the best equipped consular office in Venezuela, although as there is no vice consul the full burden of the work falls upon the consul. After a day spent in this city, Mr. and Mrs. Wright left Friday for their home in Marshalltown, Ia.

MERCHANTS CAMPAIGN.

Memphis, Tenn., April 27.—The merchants of Memphis, Tenn., are planning a "get-together" campaign somewhat similar to the campaigns recently conducted in Atlanta, Ga., and Nashville, Tenn.

FROM FAIR NEBRASKA TO SUNNY TENNESSEE.

(Continued)

were told that they do an immense business among the Negroes of Memphis. Our informant further advised us that there is a Greek syndicate in New York City which runs a chain of these restaurants and ice cream parlors, catering for Negro trade, throughout the chief cities of the South. Shall we tell you the way he put it?

"These foreigners are keen after the darky's dollars; and they know how to get it."

The Editor Eats.

We had a meal in a Beal street restaurant. It wasn't a Green restaurant, however, but one run in a modest building by a Mrs. ——— Pshaw! We can't at this moment recall her name. But no matter, a sunny-faced and pleasant-mannered Colored woman who certainly knows how to cook. We enjoyed our meal there immensely, as well as the people we met.

Let us tell you how we happened to go. Mr. H. F. Sadler had taken us in his car for a little run about the city to visit one or two of the schools. We then went to his office—he's a lawyer, and a good one.

He said, "I'll telephone to the rectory and tell them you are going out to dinner with me, because you are so busy I can't tell when I can get hold of you again."

We gladly submitted to his judicious ruling. We were soon joined by Mr. Harry Shepherd, a splendid young business man, of whom we will tell you more when we introduce you to some of the friends we made in Memphis, and the three of us went to his restaurant.

If Burt Williams could have the privilege of always eating such a meal as the Editor did eat in that restaurant, he never would have sung his popular song:

"I'm tired of eatin' in the restaurant, I'm nearly starved to death; The very thought of a home-cooked meal

Just takes away my breath. Just found out one cook, cooks it all,

For the food all tastes the same, And the only difference that there seems to be

Is that every restaurant has a different name, That's all."

We had a home-cooked meal. And it was good.

There we met Mr. Barnett, an uncle of F. L. Barnett and Mrs. Sylvia Stephenson of Omaha. Mr. Barnett recalled a pleasant visit to Omaha during the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. He spoke well of our city, but thinks there is no place like Memphis. Can you blame him? He's in the undertaking business there and doing well. Please do not infer from this that we are in any way reflecting on Memphis as being a live town. It is a live town despite the number of doctors and undertakers—no necessary connection between the two—of which it boasts.

Italians the Grocers.

We saw many large grocery stores in the sections of Memphis occupied by Colored people, and the proprietors of these stores are Italians. There are few grocery stores run by Negroes, but the majority of grocery stores which cater to the Negro trade are run by Italians, who are piling up fortunes from this class of customers.


The sons of Italy and Greece are indeed the royal purveyors to the palates of the princes of Ethiopia in Memphis. Greeks and Italians cater to Colored trade in restaurants, refreshment parlors and grocery stores.

We wonder how many millions per annum the race in Memphis spends among these aliens? We wonder if they have ever realized what a commercial standing and rating it would give them if this money were to be concentrated and placed in circulation among our own race enterprises?

As a matter of fact does our race anywhere realize the importance of supporting and building up business enterprises among our own people?

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