

DO YOUR PART FOR THE COMMUNITY CHEST

IMPERIAL WIZARD EVAN'S ATTACK IS PLAINLY ANSWERED

Omaha Branch National Advancement Association Recites Facts Which Refute Ignorant Charge

RECORD SUFFICIENT REPLY

Head of Hooded Knights and His Lawless Followers Are Inviting Domestic Strife and Civil War

The Omaha Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has just made the following reply to the Imperial Wizard Evans of the Ku Klux Klan:

AN OPEN LETTER TO DR. W. A. EVANS, IMPERIAL WIZARD OF THE KU KLUX KLAN.

Sir: Recently you made a speech in Dallas, Texas, in which you declared, in substance, that the Negro is Biologically and socially inferior and has always been so and always will be so; that he cannot become an American.

Birth, residence, obedience to laws, observance of the customs, habits and traditions, labor and service, are some of the things required to make one an American. How have we met these requirements? All of the colored people for many generations have been born in America. We have had the longest average residence in America of any racial group except the American Indian. We have obeyed the laws of the country. We have observed the habits, customs and traditions. Up to 1850 the great bulk of the wealth of the nation had been produced by the labor of our people. We have given the highest service in peace and in war. One of our number was with Christopher Columbus when he discovered America, and we have been on American soil almost continuously since 1500. Men and women of our race produced much of the food to sustain the American Army under Washington in the Revolution, and at one time one fourth of the revolutionary army was composed of colored men. We fought with Perry on Lake Erie and with Jackson at New Orleans; during the war of the rebellion, we gave 200,000 black soldiers to free the slaves and save the nation; and during the World War we gave 400,000 men that all that was best in civilization might not perish from the earth.

Fifty-eight years have passed since chattel slavery was shot to death. We were then totally illiterate and propertyless and penniless. Our illiteracy has been reduced 78 per cent; we have accumulated property valued close to \$3,000,000,000; we have produced many men and women of letters, painters, composers, editors, business men of rare ability and achievement, and thousands of ministers, lawyers, doctors and other members of the advanced professions. More of our people are engaged in useful productive work, in proportion to their numbers; than any other racial element in America.

We are quite safe to rest our case upon the record we have made. We believe, also, that when the American people learn the truth about us, as they must learn it, and from us, their decision will not be in favor of the enemies of America for whom Imperial Wizard Evans speaks.

We know that our achievements, all things considered, in all fields of social effort, are without parallel in the history of the human race; that our contributions to the development of the American Democracy has been greater in proportion to our numbers than any other racial element in America. We have paid every price it has been possible for human beings to pay. Our reward must be liberty and equality under the law.

The constitution of the United States was adopted to insure domestic tranquility. Imperial Wizard Evans and his lawless followers are destroying it; they are inviting Civil War. And this pernicious doctrine that some races are inferior and some superior is threatening the peace and security of the world, as well as America. And such a doctrine is wholly false. All human beings have human possibilities. Equality of achievement in any field of human effort depends upon opportunity, and time, and circumstance.

Two thousand years ago the Anglo-Saxon was too savage, ignorant and imbruted to become Roman slaves. How does Dr. Evans know the number of years his elect of race was in

darkness? How does he know what the future holds for us? He does not know and his claims show him to be a very ignorant man, and a slave to the worst form of that malady—prejudice.

We say to Dr. Evans and all his kind in America, that this is our country; we have made it with our labor and sacrifice; with our blood. We have thus preserved it. That no element in this country shall define Americanism for us; we have defined it for ourselves and them. Ideally, it is a land of liberty, the asylum for the oppressed of all the earth. And thus it must ever be; we must strive to keep it so. We must have justice.

We join with all lovers of liberty to crush the enemies from within and from without.

Imperial Wizard Evans, if he will but look, will see, in the great book of justice, our whole answer in blazing letters of the blood we have spilled to help America and Mankind.

Omaha Branch National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Signed,
H. J. Pinkett,
Jno. Albert Williams,
W. W. Peebles.

Adopted by Association Sunday, November 18, 1923.

OMAHA BRANCH N. A. A. C. P. HOLDS INTERESTING MEETING

Elects Six Members of Executive Committee, Adopts Reply to Dr. Evans and Hears Great Address from Henry Monsky

The Omaha Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People met at Grove M. E. Church last Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. There was a good attendance. The president presided. The report of the nominating committee for members of the Executive Committee was adopted. The following persons were chosen for this committee: Henry W. Black, Mrs. Frederick Divers, Mrs. W. W. Peebles, H. J. Pinkett, H. W. Walsh and Rev. W. C. Williams. Three vacancies were left on the Board to be filled later. H. J. Pinkett, chairman of the committee appointed at a previous meeting to prepare a reply to the recent attack of Grand Wizard Evans, presented the report of the committee, which was received with vociferous applause and unanimously adopted. The full text of the reply which was drafted by Mr. Pinkett, appears elsewhere in this issue.

Henry Monsky, first vice-president of the Board of Governors of the Omaha Welfare Federation and Community Chest was then introduced. Mr. Monsky prefaced his splendid address and appeal for the Community Chest by congratulatory remarks upon the reply to Evans and eloquent and inspirational words on the racial question upon which he could speak with sympathy as a co-sufferer of racial prejudice. He counseled that our people should show such sterling character and worth that the malicious charges and accusations of our enemies would be refuted. He then made a strong appeal for support of the Community Chest. Mr. Monsky's splendid address made a deep impression upon his audience.

The next meeting of the Association will be held December 2 at which time it is planned to have another good speaker and an interesting program, due notice of which will be published next week.

DEMAND KLAN BAR AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

New York, Nov. 22.—A message was sent to the Board of Overseers of Harvard University last week by the N. A. A. C. P. calling attention to reports that the Ku Klux Klan existed in the institution and asking that the organizers be ferreted out and expelled.

The message stated that the Klan was a vehicle for the dissemination of the poison of race and religious hatred, and that it would be better to close the doors of the university than to allow the "empire" to remain there.

SLAVE MARRIAGE DECLARED LEGAL

New Orleans, Nov. 22.—Declaring his slave marriage legal, a Baton Rouge court awarded Rev. M. H. Blackburn, aged 71, judgment of \$7,500 against relatives who claimed the entire \$50,000 estate of his dead wife.

Would You Recognize This as a Brother

I GUESS HE DON'T THINK LIKE I DO SO I KILL HEEM-SEF ALRIGHTSKY- SOON I RULE THE WORLD. THEN I KILL YOU- YOU NO THINK LIKE ME, SEE



SIGHTS, EXPERIENCES AND IMPRESSIONS OF A TRAVELLER WHO ATTENDED NATL. BAPTIST CONVENTION, LOS ANGELES

By Mrs. M. H. Wilkinson

(Continued from last week)

GOLDEN GATE PARK

It is said that this splendid and attractive Park is one of the largest in the world. There are over 300 acres of beautiful green lawn.

Well kept drive ways bedecked with flowers of all colors and kinds from the soft and dainty to the loud and gorgeous, every one trying to look its best and to exhale its sweetest fragrance. These flowers and shrubbery are from every country in the world. Many of the delegates rode through the Park in the large sight-seeing cars; but a few had the honor of going through in an old fashioned buggy drawn by a very ordinary horse. The owner, time and weather beaten, boasted of having been on use for fifty years and knowing every nook and corner in the Park as well as the names of every flower and shrubbery.

He surely gave us the names of all we saw, but whether or not the names were correct I could not say. He boasted much of the advantages his old buggy had over the automobiles, how that we could see more by driving slowly and by not having our vision obstructed by any barrier. This old buggy and he looked as though they had been faithful pals of long standing. He was indeed a talkative old fellow and took great pride in pointing out the things of interest. The horse appeared to be as familiar with the various haunts and objects as he, just where and when to stop he knew. "This is the century tree," said the driver, "that blooms every hundred years and then dies. This one bloomed this year." And we beheld a very tall, slender tree of a pale green hue, resembling somewhat a rubber plant. It's work in this capacity was finished and gradually it was returning to mother earth to begin a new work of enriching the earth that other plant life might thrive.

Here were children's play ground, tennis courts, base ball grounds and huts built for animals enclosed with a high iron fence. The largest bear I ever saw was here and weighed over a thousand pounds. There was also another Alaskan bear which came near that mark. They could hardly walk. I thought of the once popular song concerning the fellow who ran up the tree from the bear and prayed "Lord, if you don't help me, please don't help that bear." My heart filled with sympathy, went out to the brother as I beheld those great monsters. Had they broke out, I am quite sure I would not have been able to have prayed at all.

This Park sheltered thousands of refugees during the terrible earthquake and fire. \$75,000 was the price of a very handsome music pavilion built by the Italians every stone of which was brought from Italy. It is a light brown marble with a rich glowing finish. Around it are placed rows

and rows of benches surrounded by trees.

Another interesting building is the museum, a gift of H. de Young, and contains a rare collection of famous paintings and sculptures, ancient armour, Egyptian mummies, antiques and relics of several centuries. Here we saw a statue of a Chinese, formed out of very fine texture of wood, enclosed in a glass case. Never, in all my life have I seen anything unreal look so real and inhuman so human. His hair streaked with gray looked so real, his yellow complexion so natural, the expression with a few wrinkles in the forehead so perfect, one could not believe that he was not breathing. Kneeling with an uplifted head he presented the expression of Master I am ready to do thy bidding. It was very touching. My how willing and how humble he looked. A fine piece of work.

Here we saw, I believe, some of the finest work that could be carved out of marble. Blind Homer, with eyes without any life or light. One that could not read would readily see that this must represent a blind man. Beautiful laces as delicate and real as laces made of thread decorated these statues, buttons and trills and everything necessary to put on the finer touch.

I have never realized and admired the wonderful genius of the Sculptor so much as during this pleasing experience. Faces so full of expression and carved out of hard cold stone, and yet seemed so warmed with reality. What wonders and achievements man is capable of performing. How great is the Source of Wisdom from which we draw our Creator the Alps and Omega. All comes from him!

A very picturesque and interesting scene is the Japanese Garden. It is indeed oriental; covering about an acre of ground and enclosed and sheltered by a cloister of trees. There is a main entrance with many by paths covered here and there by hanging vines and archways, every path leading to some enchanted nook. A very romantic air is felt while crossing the sparkling streams filled with gold and silver fish, climbing the oval shaped bridges and viewing their Gods made of hands, that have eyes and see not; ears and hear not. In the midst of all the blooming flower beds and green shrubbery with trees hanging with beautiful foliage is seen their Temple, a place of worship, built in the shape of a belfry. Passing through the main pavilion where the famous tea is made and where each tourist registers, through hanging moss and stones we passed on to a little building whose walls and floors were filled with beautiful hand paintings in pictures and china. Such an enchanted Garden. One could not feel that he was really in the U. S. A. Benches and tables for teas were made out of large trees that still retained their bark, and knots. How thrilling and lovely to be so near to nature.

NEWSLETS

At Bakersville, N. C., 77 "leading citizens" were indicted for unlawful assembly in connection with recent violence in forcing colored people to leave that vicinity.

Ruanda, the country of giants, covering an area in Africa larger than the State of Connecticut, has been ceded to Belgium by Great Britain.

Fred D. McCracken, prominent leader of St. Paul, was refused service in a leading department store in that city and the colored people have boycotted the establishment in reprisal.

O. C. Hall, prominent churchman of St. Paul, has been endorsed by the Minnesota Conference of the A. M. E. Church for Secretary-Treasurer of the Sunday School Union in Nashville.

Whether or not married women shall be allowed to teach, to the exclusion of maidenly and spinster eligible products of the Normal unit, is the heated question to occupy the front of the stage in Washington's perennial school controversy.

At a meeting of the Philadelphia Housing Association the problem of home settlement for the influx of migrants was considered to be acute on account of slow building activities. That there was an increase of crime in the Quaker City, due to migration, was denied.

Confessing that she stole a watch and chain from a colored chef, to return to her old home at Roanoke, Va., Lula Wade, colored maid at White Plains, N. Y., was provided with a purse by the Grand Jury of Westchester county, who refused to indict her and started her on her way.

Eric Waldron, brilliant young magazine writer, bearing a commission from several New York publications, attended the recent national meeting of the Urban League at Kansas City, Mo., with a view to studying sociologists in the formation of conclusions on the race problem. A series of articles are anticipated that will be truly enlightening.

THREE RACE DOCTORS PLACED AT TUSKEGEE

Tuskegee, Ala., Nov. 22.—(By A. N. P.)—Three colored doctors and two dentists have taken up work at the Veterans' hospital here. They do not expect any hindrance. The doctors are: Walter S. Taylor, Drue King, Toussant T. Tillman. The dentists are Benjamin D. Boyd and Thomas B. Davis.

You help thirty social agencies by giving to the COMMUNITY CHEST.

BOOK CHAT

By Mary White Ovington, Chairman, Board of Directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"These United States"

Edited by Ernest Gruening. Published by Messrs. Boni and Liveright, 195 W. 40th St., New York City. Price \$3.00. Postage 10 cents extra. "Has the State you come from been overhauled by The Nation yet?" is a question frequently asked this past year. For The Nation, New York's greatest humanitarian weekly, has been publishing a series of articles, on the States of the Union. Very few have escaped unscathed. Vermont, whose story is charmingly written by Dorothy Canfield, makes the best showing, largely, we surmise, because she is poor. Were she to strike some hidden mine of wealth, she might differ little from her neighbors. East, West, North and South one learns of grafts and nationalism, of noble pioneering to be followed by ignoble exploitation. Out of the 27 States described in this first volume, Kansas, by William Allen White, is the best piece of writing. It describes the strength and the weakness of Puritanism. One feels proud of the State's noble humanitarianism, its sobriety, its lack of degrading poverty. But with this is an absence of creative art, of appreciation, and love of beauty. Can the two, one wonders, never exist together?

The Negro problem is a very present reality in "These United States." Ernest Gruening, editor of the series wisely limits it to two of the 27 states, Mississippi and Alabama. But here he summons two of the greatest critics the South has today, Beulah Amidon Ratliff and Clement Wood. Mrs. Ratliff writes of Mississippi. Her name first appeared in an article some years ago in the Atlantic Monthly entitled "A Man Hunt in Mississippi." Her story reminded one of Fannie Kemple's diary, and the Atlantic Monthly has been apologizing to its Southern constituency by sloppy "darker" sentiment ever since. Mrs. Ratliff has lost none of her force in her summary of the State in which she lived for some years. Black and white alike are degraded by race prejudice. She shows the plantation Negro in his ignorance, his hopelessness, his animal bestiality. But she points out clearly that the Southern planter keeps him purposely in this condition. He prefers to bear with dull, irresponsible labor rather than to sell the Negro show any power. He knows that cleanliness and knowledge would increase the Negro's ambition and he wants the Negro in a condition as close to slavery as possible. Thus he degrades his worker and he degrades himself. Child labor, illiteracy, narrow provincialism, and inability to face facts, these are attributes of white Mississippi.

Alabama is treated by Clement Wood whose novel "Nigger" I reviewed some months ago. Miscegenation is the keynote of this article and never has the subject been treated more eloquently and fearlessly. Every colored man and woman should read it to know what this white Alabamian is saying. They may not agree with his solution, Absorption, but they will follow him breathlessly as he reaches it. "A study in Ultra-Violet." Mr. Wood calls his article, and it is a great chapter in a great book.

K. K. K. INVOKES LAW

Steuenville, O., Nov. 22.—Members of the Ku Klux Klan here injured in an anti-klan riot filed nineteen suits under the anti-lynching bill passed sometime ago for the protection of Negroes in the South.

WHOLE PARADE ARRESTED

Portsmouth, O., Nov. 22.—Klan paraders, numbering 244, who marched here recently were arrested by police, and fined.

LIBERIANS MEET PREJUDICE

Paris, France, Nov. 22.—Managers of a local hotel were warned by the government to close unless they took in Attorney General Grimes and Collector Dixon Brown, of Liberia. White Americans objected to their presence.

TOWN BUILDER BURIED

Cracksdale, Miss., Nov. 22.—Chas. Banks, active with Isaiah Montgomery and others in founding the town of Mound Bayou, died in Memphis and was buried here recently.

HAGAN-TALBERT RECITAL IS GREAT MUSICAL EVENT

Premier Pianist and Famous Singer Captivate and Delight An Appreciative Audience at Brandels Theatre

GIVE HIGH CLASS PROGRAM

Musical Masterpieces Are Skillfully Interpreted By Finished Artists of Rare Gifts

Undoubtedly the greatest musical event, from the standpoint of artistic excellence, ever sponsored by our group in this city was the piano-song recital given at the beautiful Brandels theatre Monday night, under the auspices of the Episcopal church of St. Philip the Deacon, by Helen Hagan, pianist, and Florence Cole-Talbert, coloratura soprano. While the attendance was not as large as had been anticipated the audience was a cultured, representative and warmly responsive one which inspired these eminent artists to do their very best. The audience was captivated and delighted from the first number by Helen Hagan, who opened the program with a brilliant and spirited interpretation of the Chopin B flat minor "Scherzo," to the last number by Florence Cole-Talbert, who closed the program with "Homage," which she gave as an encore in response to the enthusiastic applause with which her last programmed number, the difficult "Caro Nome" from Rigoletto by Verdi was received.

The musical critics of the Omaha dailies, August M. Borglum of the World-Herald; Henrietta M. Rees of The Bee, and Miss Myrtle Shotwell of the Omaha Daily News, all wrote in laudatory terms of the work of these artists. Persons high in musical circles in this city were most enthusiastic in their praise.

The program was a generous one consisting of four numbers by each artist. These with the encores which the audience demanded and the musicians graciously gave, extended it beyond the customary length.

The opening number, as has been said, "Scherzo," B flat minor by Chopin was performed with brilliance by Helen Hagan. Her other numbers were "O Love" by Liszt; "Gardens in the Rain" by Debussy; Prelude, G. Minor by Rachmininoff; "I Am Troubled in Mind" and Bamboules (African Dance)—(Transcription of Negro Melodies)—S. Coleridge Taylor; Hungarian Rhapsodie No. 2 by Liszt, and as encores "Deep River" by Burleigh and "The Spinning Wheel." In all her numbers her complete mastery of her art and instrument was manifested. It would be difficult to say which was her best number, the difficult Rhapsodie perhaps giving the best opportunity for full display of her superb musicianship. Her charming personality and graciousness enhance her rare musical gifts.

Florence Cole-Talbert, who has a striking stage presence and a sunniness of disposition which charms her audience, chose as her opening number the difficult classic aria, "Queen of Night" from the Magic Flute by Mozart, which acclaimed her mastery of the vocal art. Her other numbers were Ave Maria by Schubert; Song of India by Rimsky-Korsakoff; Swiss Echo Song by Eckert; "The Wind is East" and "Are You Ready" (Spiritual) by Hilbert Stewart, of Chicago, a young race composer of great promise; "Oh, My Love" by Burleigh; "At Parting" by Rogers; "The Night Wind" by Farley; "Butterflies" by Seller; "The Spirit Flower" by Tippin and "Caro Nome" from Rigoletto by Verdi, encore numbers being "A Big Brown Bear," "The False Prophet" and "Homage." It is exceedingly difficult to say which was her best number or numbers, but in Ave Maria, The Swiss Echo Song, Are You Ready and "Caro Nome" her magnificent voice and wonderful tone shading and control were given ample demonstration.

Florentine F. Pinkston, our own talented townswoman, and graduate of the New England conservatory, did excellent work as Mrs. Talbert's accompanist.

WHITE SETTLERS SOUGHT

New York, Nov. 22.—Officials of the Southern Railway are offering inducements to white farmers in the North to take up farms in the South left by migrating Negroes.