

NEGRO BAR ASSOCIATION HOLD SUCCESSFUL MEETING

Able Discussion of Interesting Subjects--J. M. Ellis Re-elected President; Arthur G. Froe Will be Representative at National Bar Association--Huntington Next Place of Meeting.

The Negro Bar Association of West Virginia met in the office of The McDowell Times Saturday the 22. A majority of the Negro attorneys of the state were present and took an active part in the proceedings.

J. Capehart were selected as members of the committee. Attorney Harry J. Capehart called the attention of the association to the fact that several railroad companies were operating trains through West Virginia into states in which they have "Jim Crow" car laws and the cars used as smoking cars in this state are used for the accommodation of colored passengers in other states.

The session was noted for the able and scholarly addresses of the president and Attorney Harry J. Capehart of this city. President Ellis read his annual address which was listened to with much interest.

Mr. Arthur G. Froe called attention to the fact that there are no colored judges in this state but there are a number of colored justices of the peace and offered a resolution which was adopted to amend the Constitution as to permit Negro justices of the peace to become honorary members of the Negro Bar Association. The secretary was authorized to invite all Negro justices of the peace to become members.

The McDowell Times was selected as the official organ of the association and the secretary was ordered to give to that publication all printing and publication of the association, and it was further agreed that all legal printing of the Negro lawyers of W. Va. should be given to this paper wherever practicable.

The constitutional rule regarding election was suspended by unanimous vote of those present and Hon. J. M. Ellis, former member of the legislature and member of the Republican state executive committee was elected president for the third successive year. T. Edward Hill of the Secretary of State's office, secretary, S. E. Moon, of Wilcox, treasurer; James Knox Smith, of Keyston, vice president for the 5th Congressional District. Other vice presidents re-elected were J. E. Graham, Wheeling, 1st district; J. R. Clifford, Martinsburg, 2nd district. No colored lawyer in 3rd district and changes brought about by the war caused Attorney Shields and Taverner of Huntington to remove from the state, leaving no colored lawyer in the 4th district. E. R. Carter, of Charleston, was elected in the 6th district.

The next meeting will be in Huntington in August, 1918. Attorney Harry J. Capehart delivered an able and brilliant address on the "Workmen's Compensation Law," in which he pointed out many defects in the law and showed that in the operation of the law it was not benevolent as its sponsors claimed, that only about 78 per cent of the claims were ever paid and he asserted that he was of the opinion that hardly more than 50 per cent of the claims were paid arising in the coalfields of McDowell county. He attacked the law for vesting almost unlimited power in the Compensation Commissioner and because the only appeal from his decision was to the Supreme Court thereby entailing cost upon the workman out of all proportion to the relief sought. He cited numerous cases to show that the Compensation Commissioner had denied relief to injured workmen because of technical errors.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

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LETTER FROM ATTORNEY J. M. ELLIS

President Negro State Bar Association, a Member of the State Republican Executive Committee and Ex-Member State Legislature for 3 Years--Endorses Appeal for Negro Inspector in Workmen's Compensation Department

Oak Hill, W. Va. Sept. 26, 1917. Hon. M. T. Whittico, Editor McDowell Times, Keyston, W. Va.

Dear Sir and Friend:-- For several weeks I have been noticing your strong appeals for race representation in the Workmen's Compensation Department. Let me say to you, not only have you my endorsement but I want to assure you, as far as I can learn, you have the whole-hearted endorsement of every colored man in this county but the thing that gives me so much pleasure is that many of the leading white people say it is no more than right that at least one colored man should hold a position as Inspector in this great department. A colored man would greatly simplify matters in that he would know his own people, and then again, having some men of our race who are as highly educated as the average white appointees now holding positions as "Inspectors" together with the fact that they (colored men) are honest, industrious, polite and courteous and especially that class whom we would be pleased to see in this department.

I am aiming to go to Charleston soon and I shall take a delight in calling on Hon. Lee Ott, whom I believe will hear our appeal, and shall talk this matter over with him.

Fayette county will welcome the appointment of a colored man in that department. Our Republicans will make no mistake by appointing a man of our race. Keep the cry up. We are entitled to it. We are Republicans, and our Republican friends can do this for us. When you are in my county call and see me.

Very respectfully yours for the race, J. M. ELLIS.

LETTER FROM J. C. LEE IN REGARD TO COMPENSATION BUREAU APPOINTMENT

Grafton, W. Va., 9-22-17. Hon. M. T. Whittico, Keyston, W. Va.

Dear Sir:-- The fight you are making through the McDowell Times in behalf of the race for greater representation in the different departments under the control of this "Grand Old Commonwealth," and particularly in the Workmen's Compensation Bureau, is being endorsed by a united constituency. The loyalty of the Negro to the principles of the "Grand Old Party" has ever been a dependable asset.

The resources of this State have been gradually developed by constructive legislation enacted under Republican rule; today she is classified as one of the wealthiest in the Union.

In consideration it is only equitable after a well earned victory to appeal to those vested with power for a division of the spoils. A large percentage of the claims coming before the Workmen's Compensation Bureau for adjustment are those of Negroes, whose interests are in common with those of every race, who by their daily labors are making every effort to solve this rather complicated economical problem.

In view of this fact the cherished and mellow principles of Republicanism have not been vanished before the fleeting winds of time in this "Grand Old Commonwealth," the cause which is being waged by the McDowell Times for the appointment of Prof. L. O. Wilson, of Weston, as an inspector in the Workmen's Compensation Bureau is reasonable and just not only to the race but to the State. Prof. Wilson has met every demand made to him by the party. As a defender of the race he has been loyal, as a leader true and devoted. His ability as an official needs no introduction to the constituency of West Virginia. In your fight you have the interest of the State, as well as the race at heart. You are to be congratulated. Every effort shall be used by the united constituency to assist you in this great undertaking. I remain, Yours very truly, J. C. LEE, Corresponding Sec'y Tygart Valley Republican Club, Grafton, W. Va., 111 Bridge St.

LAW RELATING TO DEPENDENT, NEGLECTED AND DELINQUENT CHILDREN

Parents, Teachers, Officers and Preachers Asked to Help Probation Officers Enforce This Law

Below are some of the salient features of the law governing or bearing on the law passed by the West Virginia Legislature to protect, safeguard and correct any and all irregularities of dependent, delinquent and neglected children.

An act relating to children who are now or may hereafter become dependent, neglected or delinquent. Passed February 26, 1915. Approved by the Governor February 26, 1915.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia: Section 1. Definition--That all persons under the age of 21 years, shall for the purposes of this act only, be considered wards of this state and their persons shall be subject to the care, guardianship and control of the court as hereinafter provided.

For the purpose of this act, the words "dependent child" and "neglected child" shall mean any male or female child who, while under the age of 18 years, for any reason, is destitute, homeless or abandoned; or dependent upon the public for support; or has not proper parental care or guardianship; or habitually begs or receives alms; or is found living in any house of ill-fame or with any vicious or disreputable person; or has a home which by reason of neglect, cruelty or depravity, on the part of its parents, guardian or any other person in whose care it may be, in an unfit place for such a child, and any child who while under the age of ten years is found begging, peddling or selling any article, or singing or playing any musical instrument for gain upon the street or giving any public entertainments or accompanying or being used in the aid of any person so doing.

The words "delinquent child" shall mean any male or female child who, while under the age of eighteen years,

BLUEFIELD TELEGRAPH

One of Leading Daily Republican Papers in West Virginia

Strongly Endorse Appointment of Colored Inspector in Workmen's Compensation Department.

Below is an unsolicited broad-based statement which appeared in last Sunday's issue of the Bluefield Daily Telegraph. This statement appeared in the editorial column of the Daily Telegraph of Bluefield, one of the leading white daily papers of the state. And coming as it does from Editor Hugh Lee Shott, editor and a life time Republican, a man well acquainted with not only the principles of the Republican party but living as he does in the most industrial section of the state, where there are more colored men to the square inch than in any other one section in the state, his opinion ought to mean so much that no man, holding a public position whether elective or appointive, would feel disposed to ignore such broad-minded statesman-like ideas. We are satisfied every loyal Republican, who hopes to see the Republican party succeed and win in its future fight for the reins of government, and know it can be done only in proportion as they keep their promises to the people, will be glad to see this lifelong Republican come to the front and out in the open for a square deal to the 100,000 Negroes in this state. The race will appreciate this stand by Mr. Shott as they have always done by any other big white Republican who is willing to speak out for us in these hours of race discrimination. The Telegraph says: "The colored citizens are urging the appointment of a colored inspector in the workmen's compensation department of the state government, and we see no reason why there would be a moment's hesitation in the appointment. There are a large number of cases of colored men who receive injuries and are covered by the benefits of the law which the department must investigate, and a colored investigator would be proper and efficient."

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TWO PROMINENT AND EFFICIENT GOOD ROAD MEN IN KEYSTONE

Doing Great Work For McDowell County and Its Tax Payers.

Col. W. J. McClaren, of Welch, McDowell county's chief good roads engineer, the one man who is doing more, perhaps than any other one man in the county to build good roads, and a level headed, straight forward business man, passed through Keyston Monday of this week accompanied by Mr. Harrison of the Harrison Engineering and Construction Corporation. The latter has a contract for the building of 22 miles of concrete road from Welch to the Mercer county line. It is gratifying to note that every foot of the road being built or laid by this company promises in good faith to be the most valuable and profitable money spent by the tax payers of this county. The good roads that are now rapidly under way of construction when completed will put old McDowell county in the front of any other county in the state for good roads. He has three separate and complete divisions at work with all the men he can get hold of, and is admitted to be one of the best men, fair in his dealings, that has ever taken charge of a body of men. He is winning, and that rapidly, the happy distinction of being a man who knows his business and not only knows but is so unflinching in his determination to see that every matter, till everybody is forced to acknowledge that it pays to have and employ strong minded business men when you want a great work accomplished like the building of good roads in and through this county. The good people in and around Northfork are tickled to death, as the old phrase is sometimes commonly used, at the rapid and substantial road building now under way of construction. Every man who ever worked for this corporation is quick to speak of Mr. Harrison in the highest terms for his promptness and kindness. He has a heart that moves him to pay liberal wages to any one who works for him. So if you want a money making job just call and see this good man or the management of either of his three divisions. He is at Welch with his headquarters. He is polite, courteous and will meet you on the square.

MARRIAGES IN THE CITY OF KEYSTONE

Last week there were registered three different marriages in this city. One was the marriage of Miss Roxie Turner to Mr. John Williams. They were happily married and were united in the bonds of wedlock by Rev. L. F. Johnson. Miss Roxie Turner is well to do, having some very good property in the city and the young man whom she married is one of the most industrious and sober young men in this section of the county or perhaps, the State.

violates any law of this state; or is incorrigible, or knowingly associates with thieves, vicious or immoral persons; or without just cause and without the consent of its parents, guardian or custodian absents itself from its home or place of abode, or is growing up in idleness or crime; or knowingly frequents or visits a house of ill repute; or knowingly frequents or visits any policy shop or place where any gaming device is operated, or patronize or visits any public pool room where the game of pool or billiards is being carried on for pay or hire, or who wanders about the streets in the night time without being on any lawful business or lawful occupation; or who habitually wanders about any railroad yards or tracks or who jumps, or attempts to jump, on any moving train; or who enters any car or engine without lawful authority; or who writes or uses vile, obscene, vulgar, profane or indecent language; or who is guilty of indecent, immoral or lascivious conduct. Any child committing any of these acts shall be deemed a delinquent child and when proceeded against such proceedings shall be on behalf of the state, in the interest of the child and the state, with due regard to the rights and duties of parents and others, by petition to be filed by any reputable person, and to that end the child shall be dealt with, protected and cared for in any circuit court or other court having chancery jurisdiction, as a ward of the state in the manner hereinafter provided.

A deposition of any child under this act or any evidence given in such case, shall not, in any civil, criminal or other cause or proceeding whatever in any court, be lawful or proper evidence against such child for any purpose whatever, except in subsequent cases against the same child under this act; nor shall the name of any child in connection with any proceedings under this act, be published in any newspaper, without a written order of the court. The word "child" or "children" may be held to mean one or more children, and the word "parent" or "parents" may be held to mean one or both parents, when consistent with the intent of this act. The word "association" shall include any association, institution or corporation which includes in its purpose the care or disposition of children, coming within the meaning of this act.

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THE DISGRACE OF DEMOCRACY

Open Letter to President Woodrow Wilson By Kelly Miller, A. M., Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Howard University, Washington, D. C.--This Letter Appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12th as a Public Document.

August 4, 1917. Hon. Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, The White House, Washington, D. C.

Mr. President: I am taking the liberty of intruding this letter upon you because I feel that the issues involved are as important as any questions now pressing upon your busy attention. The whole civilized world has been shocked at the recent outrages in Memphis and East St. Louis. These outbreaks call attention anew to the irritating race problem of which they are but eruptive symptoms which break forth ever and anon with Venetian violence. For fully a generation American statesmanship has striven to avoid, ignore or forget the perplexing race problem. But this persistent issue will not down at our bidding, and cannot be shelved from public attention by other questions however momentous or vital they may seem to be.

I know that I am taking unwarranted liberties with the ceremonial proprieties in writing such a letter to the President of the United States at the present time. It may seem to partake of the spirit of heckling after the manner of the suffragists. Nothing is further from my purpose. No right-minded American would wish to add one featherweight to the burden that now so heavily taxes the mind and body of the President of the United States who labors under as heavy a load as human nature is capable of sustaining. Every citizen should strive to lighten rather than to aggravate that burden. It is, nevertheless, true that any suppressed and aggrieved class must run the established code of procedure in order that their case may receive a just hearing. Ceremonial codes were enacted by those who are the beneficiaries of existing order which they wish to perpetuate and make unchangeable. They would stop all social and moral reform. The ardent suffragists find it necessary to ruthlessly violate the traditional and decorous modes of procedure in order to promote the reform which they have at heart. On one occasion you felt forced to terminate an interview with a committee of suffragists because they persisted in cross-examining the President of the United States.

There are 10,000,000 loyal citizens of African descent in the United States. They are rigorously excluded from a voice in the government by which they are controlled. They have no regularly constituted organ through which to present their case to the powers that be. They have no seat nor voice in the councils of the nation. The late Doctor Booker T. Washington was the accepted spokesman and mediator of the race, but he has no successor. Under former administrations there was a small appointive official class of Negroes. Though derisively designated as the "Black Cabinet," they were on the inside of the circle of governmental control to which they had ready access in presenting the claims of the race. But under the exaction of partisan exigencies even these have been excluded from official position under your administration. Several weeks ago a delegation of colored men from the State of Maryland sought an interview with you concerning the horrible crime of East St. Louis. You were good enough to write Senator France that you were too busy with other pressing issues to grant the request of an interview. The failure of all other methods is my only excuse for resorting to an open letter as a means of reaching you and, through you, the nation at large, concerning the just grievances of 10,000,000 loyal American citizens.

The Negro feels that he is not regarded as a constituent part of American democracy. It is the fundamental creed of democracy that no people are good enough to govern any other people without their consent and participation. The English are not good enough to govern the Irish. The Russians are not good enough to govern the Finns. The Germans are not good enough to govern the Belgians. The Belgians are not good enough to govern the people of the Congo. Men are not considered good enough to govern women. The white people of this country are not good enough to govern the Negro.

These outbreaks are not limited to the Southern States, although they occur there more frequently than elsewhere because of the relatively larger number of Negroes in the total population. There have been lynchings and burnings in Illinois, Kansas, Delaware, Ohio, Indiana, Colorado and other Northern States. The evil is indeed national in its range and scope, and the nation must provide the remedy. Striking indeed is the analogy between the spread of lawlessness today and the extension of the institution of slavery two generations ago. Like slavery, lawlessness cannot be localized. As the nation could not exist half slave and half free under Abraham Lincoln, so it cannot continue half law-abiding and half lawless under Woodrow Wilson. The evil tendency overcomes the good, just as the darker overpowers the brighter phase in the waning moon. If the Negro is allowed to be lynched in the South with impunity, he will soon be lynched in the North, so easy is the communicability of evil suggestion. The lynchings of Negroes has become fashionable in some parts of the country. When a black man is accused of wrongdoing, "Lynch the Negro!" is the cry that springs spontaneously to the lips of man, woman and child. The fashion is rapidly spreading throughout the whole nation. It slavery could have been isolated and segregated in the South that institution might have existed even down to the present time. And so, if lynching could be localized and limited to the Southern States the nation as a whole would have less pretext for interfering. But this cannot be done. Senator Tombs of Georgia boasted that he would call the roll of his slaves under the shadow of Bunker Hill monument, an ambition which, doubtless, might have been gratified had not the nation arisen in its moral right and blotted out the iniquitous institution altogether. Unless the aroused conscience of the American people, efficiently asserting itself through Federal authority, shall stamp out the spirit of lawlessness, it is easy to prophesy that the Negro will yet be lynched not only in the shadow of Bunker Hill monument, but on the campus of your beloved Princeton. Already there have

Resolutions pending before both houses of Congress look toward investigation of

the outrage at East St. Louis. I understand that you are sympathetically disposed toward this investigation by Federal authority. Such investigation is important only to the extent that it implies a tardy recognition of national responsibility for local lawlessness. There is no expectation that any additional comprehensive information will result. You may rest assured that there will be a half dozen similar outbreaks before this investigation is well under way. Indeed, since the East St. Louis atrocity there have already been lynchings in Georgia, Louisiana, Pennsylvania and Montana. Every intelligent American knows as much about the essential cause of this conflict as he will know after long and tedious investigation. The vital issues involved are apt to be obscured by technical wranglings over majority and minority reports. What the nation needs is not investigation of obvious fact, but determination and avowed declaration on the part of the President speaking for the people of the United States to put an end to lawlessness wherever it raises its hideous head.

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