

# Congress Investigates Ku Klux Klan As An Anti-American Society

New York World Expose Brings Action by Congress—Simmons and Other Klan Officials Summoned As Witnesses—Rowland Thomas of World Staff Summarizes Findings of Newspapers—Empire Boasted That Congressmen and Senators Were Members

By HENRY P. FRY,

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Congress was not in session when the World began the publication of its articles, and did not resume its sessions until the close of September, 1921. Many of the members of both houses were in Washington, however, and they followed the expose of the Kluxes with close attention. Senators and representatives expressed themselves as being gratified that the work was being carried on, and it became evident that when congress resumed its session, there would be several resolutions introduced demanding an investigation of the Ku Klux organization. This proved to be true, and resolutions were introduced immediately after the two houses assembled by Representatives James A. Gallivan, of Massachusetts, Thomas J. Ryan of New York, Leonidas C. Dyer, of Missouri, and Peter F. Tague, of Massachusetts.

As these resolutions were very much alike, the following, introduced by Representative Tague will be the only one reproduced:

### Congressional Resolution

"Whereas, there is being organized within the United States an anti-American organization known as the Ku Klux Klan, the objects and purposes of which are the exile and suppression of persons, members of certain races and religious sects, and

"Whereas, the accomplishment of such objects and purposes is in direct contravention of Articles I, XIII and XV of the Constitution of the United States, and

"Whereas, the organization known as the Ku Klux Klan has in more than one hundred instances been charged with unlawful seizure, abduction, trial and punishment of certain free citizens and residents of the United States, and

"Whereas, such seizure, abduction, trial and punishment is a usurpation of legally constituted authority and in direct contravention of Articles IV, V and VI of the Constitution of the United States; therefore be it

"Resolved, that the speaker of the house of representatives be directed to appoint a special committee of five members of the house of representatives, which committee is authorized and directed to proceed at once with an investigation of the organization, purposes and all matters connected with the Ku Klux Klan and to report its findings to the house of representatives at the earliest practical day, together with such recommendations as it may see fit to make concerning the Ku Klux Klan, if any, and for this purpose the committee is authorized to send for persons, books and papers; to administer oaths; to employ a stenographer at a cost not exceeding \$1.00 per printed page to report such hearings as may be had in connection with any subject which may be pending before said committee, the expenses thereof to be paid out of the contingent fund of the house of representatives; and that said committee may sit during the sessions or recess of the house of representatives."

### Witnesses Summoned

All of the resolutions were referred to the rules committee of the house for the purpose of making a preliminary examination as to the advisability of appointing a special committee to investigate the Klan. This committee, of which Representative Philip P. Campbell, of Kansas, was chairman, met on Tuesday, November 11, 1921, for the purpose of examining witnesses. "Emperor" Simmons had been previously invited, and appeared with counsel.

Rowland Thomas, appearing in behalf of the New York World, was the first witness examined. He placed before the committee the entire facts that had been collected by the paper, showing specifically that the Ku Klux organization in some portions of the country had been guilty of circulating anti-religious and anti-racial propaganda; that in some cases acts of violence had been admitted by the local Klans; and that the proposition was in all essentials a money-making scheme. Covering every phase of the system, Mr. Thomas concluded his statement as follows:

### Thomas Gives Evidence.

"We found also that they boasted or declared that they were setting up an invisible empire here in the United States. We found that their chief man had taken the title of emperor and that he issued imperial and secret decrees from an imperial palace. We found also, having secured a copy of their oath, that every man who joined this order pledged himself to obey without question all the instructions of the emperor, who had been elected for life. We found that severe penalties were threatened to him if he failed ever in obedience. We found that part of this oath was a pledge of im-

penetrable secrecy surrounding all the doings of the Klan. We found that each member promised to keep at all costs, even that of life, in the face of any coercion, persecution, or punishment, all secrets of the Klan and all knowledge of the Klan committed to him, with only four exceptions. He was not obliged to keep to himself a violation of the oath of the Klan, treason against the United States of America, malicious murder, and rape. Those four secrets, apparently, he could give up to other persons, three of them the crimes, supposedly, he was at liberty to reveal to peace officers and judicial officers of the United States Government. All others, as far as the phraseology of the oath can be read, he was to keep to himself. They belong to the Klan and to the invisible empire and not to the United States of America.

"We found them boasting that they had succeeded in securing as members bound by this oath and made citizens in this invisible empire many men who are also officials of the visible, constituted Government of the United States, Claimed Congressmen

"Emperor" Simmons more than once made statements that members of the congress of the United States—both representatives and senators—belonged to his invisible empire, and therefore were under his imperial orders. He boasted that governors, mayors, and other administrative officers, members of city councils, were citizens of this invisible government, and that sheriffs, policemen, police chiefs were citizens of the invisible empire and that judges on the bench were members of it.

"The statement has been made publicly in print that it amused a klanman when he read in the papers that a judge had charged a grand jury to investigate the Klan because all klanmen knew that a substantial part of the membership of that grand jury would be klanmen; that the judge was a joke in making such a suggestion of investigation."

C. Anderson Wright, who had formerly been a king klan, was also examined and verified in many instances the facts that had been presented by the World, although his testimony in some respects lost its value by exaggeration of financial estimates of the imperial palace. He assisted, however, in verifying the fact that the Atlanta organization had never undertaken any charitable or public work, and appeared to be more of a financial scheme for the benefit of the insiders of the movement.

(To Be Continued.)

### HOUSE OF A THOUSAND MYSTERIES IS LOCATED

Newark, Ohio.—"The house of 1,000 mysteries" is the designation applied by local police officials to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Iacsa here.

When officers recently raided the Iacsa home, they said Mrs. Iacsa, known to the police as "Rinky Mary," sought to destroy the small amount of "evidence" by overturning the bottle containing it.

By using rags, however, the officers soaked up the stuff and squeezed it back into the bottle. Analysis by Chemist Ray Bolt disclosed that the fluid contained over 2 per cent of alcohol, it is claimed.

### The Modern Ku Klux Klan

The Capital Journal today presents another installment of the "The Modern Ku Klux Klan" by Henry P. Fry, author of the New York World expose that caused the congressional investigation of the order.

Mr. Fry in previous chapters detailed how he joined the Ku Klux Klan under a misapprehension, became a klan member, discovered the real aims and purposes of the organizers, and resigned in disgust.

Tomorrow the story of the congressional probe will be continued.

### ALLIES TO HOLD CONFERENCE ON TURK PROBLEM

Paris, Aug. 21.—(By the Associated Press)—The allied conference on the Tureo-Greek problem probably will be held in some Italian city within the next six weeks as the result of a note from the British government received at the French foreign office today. The note is in response to a French communication of August 3, suggesting a conference of the allies in which Turkish and Greek representatives would be admitted on an equal basis.

Representatives of both the Ankara and Constantinople governments will be invited as well as the allied high commissioners in Constantinople. The conference, it was said today, probably will be held on the basis of the present positions of the Greek and Turkish forces in Asia Minor.

London, Aug. 21.—In a note addressed to the French and Italian governments, the British government has agreed in principle to the holding of a conference at Venice between the three allied high commissioners at Constantinople and representatives of Greece and Turkey. It was announced today. The suggestion originally was made by the three high commissioners themselves and was endorsed by the Italian government.

The next step in this move to end the trouble in the Near East will be the drafting of invitations to the Greek and Turkish governments to send envoys to such a conference. It is considered unlikely that the conference can assemble before the end of September.

### POLAND'S RAILROADS PUT IN ORDER BY AMERICANS

Warsaw.—The American technical commission to Poland, working under the direction of Colonel A. H. Barber, will bring its activities to a close this summer.

This commission was formed in 1919 to advise the Polish government on transportation problems. Now that the Polish railroads are practically restored, the work of the commission is at an end. The help of Colonel Barber has been fully appreciated. In proof of this he was the first American to receive the order of Polonia Restituta, established by the Polish government as a mark of honor to those who have served with distinction in the reconstruction of the new republic.

### BRITISH MINERS SPURN SOVIET AFFILIATIONS

London.—The British Miners Federation has decided to have no alliance with the Russian Red International, or the Russian communists or bolsheviks. A motion calling for affiliation with the Russian element was defeated at a recent meeting of the federation by 853 votes to 118. "If we want to save British trade unionism," said Frank Hedges, general secretary of the federation, "we must wash our hands of the Red International."

### BABE HITS TWO HOMERS

New York, Aug. 21.—Babe Ruth's home runs, especially the last four, have been blows of salvation for the Yankees.

The first of the four on last Friday won a much-needed game in the tenth inning and put the Yanks in a tie for first place. The second helped the Yankees to the victory that put them in undisputed possession of the leadership and the third and fourth, knocked yesterday, accounted for five runs. The fourth, coming in the ninth inning with two on bases, won the game. Babe's season total is now 26, six behind Kenneth Williams of the Browns. In all his big league career Babe has knocked 153 home runs.

### Aerial Performer With Ringling-Barnum Circus



After all, what hope is there for fat folks?

"Exercise is the solution," says one. "Eat less," advises another. "Keep to the open air," suggests a third. And in the face of all these rules, Lily Letzel, who twice daily gyrates with pin-wheel speed near the roof of the circus "big top," who spends fourteen hours out of every twenty-four in the open air, and who eats very little compared with her activities, is gradually gaining in weight.

Vacations are not responsible for Miss Letzel this spring rejoined the Ringling Brother and Barnum & Bailey combined show immediately after closing an entire winter's engagement as the star at Olympia, London. Less strenuous exercise does not explain the phenomena for whereas 115 revolutions while suspended in mid-air was Miss Letzel's record in England, she increased this to 127 when the circus was at Madison Square Garden this spring. Herself asked the reason, the world's greatest woman aerialist said:

"Fate—merely fate. It's just meant that some folks take on flesh. Oh, well, there's some consolation in knowing that the fat lady's chair in the stables department may offer me a seat, as my declining years."

To come to the facts and figures—Lily Letzel weighs only 104 pounds at the present time. Still, in 1921 her weight was 96 pounds and last season she tipped the scales at an even hundred. Ernest Clark, officially recorded as the "greatest aerial athlete who ever lived," has not varied two pounds in twelve years. He and Miss Letzel are the stars of the aggregation of almost 700 men and women acrobatic artists who will, along with fifty troupes of trained animals, 200 performing horses and a hundred clowns be seen here next Saturday, August 26th, with the largest circus ever brought to the coast, or anywhere else for that matter.

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### SALEM RIDERS WIN MOTORCYCLE PRIZES, PORTLAND

It was "Salem day" at the Portland Journal annual motorcycle hill climb, held on the west side of Council Crest, Portland, Sunday afternoon under the auspices of the Rose City Motorcycle club.

Two riders from Salem, both riding Harley-Davidson motorcycles won the three events of the day, the 61 inch novice, the 61 inch expert and the 80 inch open. W. S. Crane won both the 61 inch expert and the open events while H. Best won the 81 inch novice event. Both riders represented Harry W. Scott, of Salem.

Crane was the only rider who succeeded in getting over the top of the 60 per cent hill and he made it in his second run on the open event. His time from the starting line to the top was seven and two-fifths seconds.

Best was by far the most spectacular rider of the climb. Staring in the novice class which he won making him eligible for all of the other events, he more than won his spurs by coming in second on the expert event and third on the open event.

During the events two machines caught fire but the fire was extinguished before any damage was done.

By Crane's winning the 61 inch experts events the Journal dealers' trophy cup will remain in Salem for another year. This is the second time Scott has been awarded the cup. If he should win next year the cup will then be his property. Crane also won the Journal personal trophy.

The events and the winners were: 61 inch novice: Best of Salem, riding a Harley-Davidson; Malston of Portland, riding a Harley-Davidson and Howard Langdon of Portland riding an Excelsior.

61 inch expert: Crane of Salem, first; Best of Salem, second and Fred Gilbert of Portland, third. All rode Harley-Davidson machines.

80 inch open event: Crane, first; Malston, second and Best, third. All rode Harley-Davidson machines.

### WINSLOW TO FATHER COAL INQUIRY BILL

Washington, Aug. 21.—Chairman Winslow of the house commerce committee, after a conference today with President Harding, announced he would introduce immediately a bill to create a fact finding coal commission as recommended by the president in his special message to congress.

### NEW YORK LEGISLATURE TO RELIEVE COAL FAMINE

Albany, N. Y., Aug. 21.—A call for an extraordinary session of the legislature for the purpose of enacting legislation to relieve the coal situation in the state was issued by Governor Miller today. The legislature will convene next Monday night, August 23.

### GIANT SEAPLANE LEAVES PALM BEACH FOR NASSAU

Miami, Fla., Aug. 21.—Lieutenant Walter Hinton in his giant seaplane, the Sempalo Correla, hopped off at West Palm Beach this morning at 10:15 expecting to reach Nassau in a couple of hours. The pilot and crew had a good rest last night and with the plane's machinery working satisfactorily and weather conditions favorable, they hoped to make a

### pleasent voyage over the stream to the Bahamas. AIRSHIP LOST AT SEA

New York, Aug. 21.—Sempalo continued to search the waters surrounding the Fire Island Light ship early today for the missing flying boat carrying a pilot, a chancian and one passenger that left here early yesterday on a sight seeing flight to the point and failed to return.

The Autumn Mode Demands the Corset. Not the steeled and boned affair of several years ago, but the plant comfortable, yet restraining corset that is the result of much scientific study and careful effort on the part of famous corset designers. The corset for fall are slightly boned—with a low bust line and a long hip confining skirt. They are priced from 98c to \$7.48. Sports and Dancing Girdles are specially designed for these purposes and are in great demand. Daintily fashioned of attractive pink coutil or satin, they offer you the needed support without accompanying it with unnecessary restraint. 98c-\$3.98. U. G. Shipley Co. Winning by the "Pay As You Go" plan.

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