

AMERICA AND THE KLAN

THE HON. BENJAMIN LORING YOUNG

(In this article, re-printed from Public Affairs, official magazine of Uncle Sam's Voters, the speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, tells why he, a Protestant, descendant of the original Puritan settlers of New England, opposes the Ku Klux Klan.)

ONE problem above all others deserves the careful attention of the American people at this critical time in the life of our nation. It is a problem which most people are thinking of but which is seldom discussed in public. My own convictions upon it are so profound that I cannot keep silent.

I have in mind the growing spirit of intolerance and hatred which is spreading throughout the Republic. Just as the great need of the world today is tranquility and peace among the nations, so the great need of America is tranquility and peace among all the elements of our population. Patriotic Americans, whatever their origin or occupation, should have a decent respect for one another. We should forever cherish our ancient ideals of individual liberty, freedom of conscience and religion, freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

The original Ku Klux Klan was a secret order formed by the white men of the South in the dark days of reconstruction which followed the Civil war. The North and South are today united in common love of flag and country, and nothing can be gained by any attempt to arouse again the hatreds engendered by slavery, civil war and reconstruction.

But when we Americans of New England are asked to join the modern Klan, we cannot help remembering that the Ku Klux Klan of 1865 was formed for the sole purpose of nullifying the Constitution and laws of the United States, and of opposing, by force if necessary, the civil and military officers of our country.

Whatever that name may signify to the citizens of our southern states, it has never been held in honor by the men and women who worked and fought with Lincoln and with Grant. The old order, accomplished its purpose of insuring white supremacy in the South, and it was speedily abandoned. Its dissolution was accompanied with rioting and disorder to such a marked degree that President Grant sent to congress in 1871 a special message asking for legislation to protect the constitutional right of free American citizens.

"White, Gentle, Protestant Supremacy."

But the present order has no connection with the Klan of 1865. The present organization was incorporated July 1, 1916, in the state of Georgia. It is a nation-wide fraternity, operating in secret and having for its purpose white, gentle, Protestant supremacy. During the world war, Americans were working and fighting shoulder to shoulder. The soldiers in the trenches were not asked what country their parents came from, nor were the buyers of liberty bonds restricted to the members of any particular church.

The real spread of the Klan has come in the last three years, and today it claims several million members, divided among all the states. "By their fruits, ye shall know them." The Klan has shot across the continent like a flaming meteor. It has left behind a trail not merely of passion and hatred but of violence, bloodshed and murder.

Several states of the south lie prostrate under its dominion. Representative government has been abandoned. The invisible empire holds sway. Unknown and irresponsible leaders, self-styled by the fantastic names of "Imperial wizard," "cyclops," and "kleagle," have passed secret judgment on men and on measures. By persuasion if possible, by trickery and fraud, tyranny and oppression, the offices of government have been taken from the American people and placed in control of the Klan.

Do I exaggerate? The facts prove every statement. Read the testimony before the congressional committee at Washington, read the evidence in the trial before Judge Odom at Mer Rouge, Louisiana—threats, kidnapping, whipping, torture and murder. In fact, Governor Parker went to Washington to secure, if necessary, the help of federal troops in preserving order and upholding justice. I have personally talked with citizens of Georgia, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Arkansas and have learned first-hand of the methods used in those states. Cities, towns and counties have, for months, been under a reign of terror. "Promoters Have Been Self-Seeking Adventurers."

The promoters of the Klan have been self-seeking adventurers. The little ring which controlled the organization in its first years made fabulous profits from the initiation fees. The sworn evidence has shown that the \$10 initiation fee has, at times, been distributed as follows: \$4 to the collector, \$1 to the state organizer, 50 cents to the goblin, \$2 for actual expenses of the order, and \$2.50 to an inside group known as the Southern Publicity association. On this basis of division, 1,000,000

cal faith, the equality of all men before the law.

The Ku Klux Klan is false to the Declaration of Independence, false to the Constitution of the United States, false to the lessons taught by Washington, Lincoln and Roosevelt.

The Ku Klux Klan is not yet a political issue in Massachusetts. But it is a political issue in a dozen states, and the leaders of the Klan openly announce their intention of capturing every office in the government including the presidency of the United States. Here is an issue upon which patriotic citizens cannot keep silent. Those who are not publicly against the Klan must be counted as being with it. There can be no surrender to force and no compromise with murder. No doubt the great majority of Klan members are God-fearing, well intentioned men, but they must be judged by the company they keep.

We should be outspoken against the Klan. Let us point out that its very existence is a betrayal of the American spirit. Its fires of religious hatred would speedily dissolve "the cement that binds the Union."

In one of the last speeches made by President Harding, he used these solemn and reverent words:

"I tell you, my countrymen, the

world needs more of Christ; the world needs more of the spirit of the Man of Nazareth. If we could bring into the relationship of humanity, among ourselves and among the nations of the earth, the brotherhood that was taught by Christ, we would have a restored world."

Let us follow his example. Let us obey the Golden Rule in practice as well as in theory. Let us do unto others as we would have them do unto us.

The issue is clear. It is the Ku Klux Klan against constitutional government. It is the Ku Klux Klan against the equality of all men before the law. The fight is on and it must continue to the end.

WRIGHTMAN TO BE SPEAKER AT ELKS LODGE DECEMBER 27

Initiation And Banquet to be Held And Full Attendance Expected Says Exalted Ruler

Hon. Frank T. Wrightman, past exalted ruler of the Salem lodge of Elks, who is now district deputy grand exalted ruler for Oregon south, will visit the Klamath Falls

DECEMBER 31 IS FINAL DATE FOR VETERANS' LOAN

Initial Applications May be Filed and Final Petition Made by June 20, 1927

"December 31 is the last date on which applicants may file initial applications stating whether they elect

lodge of Elks Thursday, December 27.

Exalted Ruler Perry De Lap said there would be an initiation and a banquet following the ceremonies and that a full attendance is expected. Wrightman is said to be a very entertaining speaker and in addition to being a grand lodge officer has been very active in Oregon Elksdom for a number of years.

to take the cash bonus or the loan, under the Oregon state aid commission's ruling," says the Pacific Legion.

"Should an applicant petition for the loan at his disposal under the terms of the Oregon adjusted compensation law, he will then have until June 30, 1927, to make his second, or final petition.

"December 31 is also the last day on which the cash bonus can be refunded and the loan taken in place of the cash by those who took the cash through a misunderstanding of their rights. The refund may be deducted from loan proceeds.

"The number of initial applications received to November 15, was 33,298. The number of cash bonuses paid to date is 21,089, and the amount is \$4,605,906.42. Loans paid total 4758 in number and \$11,839,400 in amount. Repayments on loans already total \$409,498.59."

If you want a good family cow attend the Auction Sale at the County Fair pavilion, Friday, Dec. 21, 18-20

Stationery—the write gift. Currins for Drugs. 20

Five times the Records at Earl Shepherd's Record Headquarters. 19-20

Universal Electric Household appliances—Currins for Drugs. 20

HUNTER FINED \$25.

E. G. Childers was fined \$25 and costs in the justice court yesterday for hunting without a license. The arrest was made by Game Warden Marion Barnes.

WHAT NEXT?

A town in New York state has announced that teachers may smoke if they so desire.

Kodaks and Brownies—Currins for Drugs. 20

50 GOOD CIGARETTES 10¢

GENUINE "BULL" DURHAM TOBACCO

GREAT PRE-HOLIDAY SALE

Our Complete Line of Up to the Minute Ready to Wear Sacrificed

Big Stocks and a Backward Season Leave us Loaded with Merchandise that must be turned into Cash Right Now—We cannot wait until the Holiday Season is over. We must act at Once—We must get the Money at Once

It Is An Unfortunate Situation For Us, But a Lucky One For You

Winter is just fairly started. You need winter clothes. Then, too, Christmas is just a few days away and you have many gifts to make. For every woman or miss on your list we can save money—LOTS OF IT.

FUR SALE NOW ON

"NOTHING CAN COMPARE WITH GIFTS TO WEAR"

Coats

All new and up-to-date. Grouped into six extra specially-priced lots.

\$15, \$19.50, \$24.50,
\$35, \$39.50, \$59.50

All worth at least a third more than the price asked. Many others at \$39.50.

All our Voile and Marquisette

WAISTS

Straight 1/2 Price

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Silk Blouses

A Splendid Assortment

1-5 Off

Extra Specials

Bath Robes

Extra Heavy, Beautiful Designs. Silk Trimmed

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Extremely neat and Desirable

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Every Dress in the House Drastically Reduced

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Your Choice of any Winter Hat in the Store for \$9.50

Suits

For less than the cost of materials. Every suit of the best workmanship and the materials and linings the best

\$15.00, \$19.50
\$24.50

AND UPWARD

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Silk and Mohair Mixtures SLIPONS

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