

WHAT IT DID TO NILES.

Niles, Ohio, birthplace of William McKinley, is a drab little town of about 10,000, with its population engaged in iron and steel manufacture and other industries. Its population is divided almost equally between natives and foreign born. It is one of the last places one would select for an outbreak of race prejudice.

Yet klan and anti-klan sentiment has crystallized to such an extent that the town is divided into two armed camps after a day of open warfare in which a dozen were wounded and with hostilities ready to break out the moment troops are withdrawn.

The latest outbreak had its beginning in a klan parade. It seems that the mayor is a klanman and the sheriff is opposed to the klan. The opposition to the klan formed what is known as Knights of the Flaming Circle. The klan got a permit to parade. The Knights of the Flaming Circle protested and the mayor was urged to withdraw the permit. Klansmen insisted that they would parade and the Knights of the Flaming Circle advised women and children to stay indoors on that eventful occasion.

The klan proceeded with its parade and the shooting began. Both sides suffered casualties. Now the town is torn into factions, neighbors are armed and threatening, and when peace is restored, bad feeling will still be there.

The element to which the klan is opposed has not been the cause of any disturbance, and so far as the public knows, the city itself was quiet and peaceful until the klan decided to parade the streets to demonstrate its contempt for those opposed to the klan, no less than to flaunt its "Americanism" in the faces of men and women who are total strangers to the composition of a 100 per cent American, if the klan's estimate of himself fills that description.

It is inconceivable that a body of men would presume to engage in the enterprise of exhibiting their superiority, if such superiority exists. It is incomprehensible that an organization would go out on the streets with the purpose of inviting hostilities, even if it were not incomprehensible that such an organization should exist.

The country does not know yet for what purpose the klan exists. It does not know why it should parade its intolerance. In fact, no one knows just what the shooting was about except that it was the culmination of feeling engendered by men who set themselves up to be better than other men, but who, in fact, are contemptible in their effrontery.

COL. WM. SIMMONS

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have been replaced by rapacious greed for power and personal preferment, by political machination and chicanery, by blasted hopes and betrayed humanity, by programs of

character assassination and creeds of hatred, by the crucifixion of the great heart and soul of the inspired genius who gave birth to what might have been America's greatest motivating power for good, constitute a tragedy unequalled in the annals of history.

WHY HE QUIT

"After months of fighting this condition from within, in the endeavor to affect corrections which would restore the organization to its original contemplated course, and thus save it from further prostitution and destruction, through intrigue deprived of administrative or executive authority, that brave heart finally acknowledged defeat and announced to the world his retirement from the organization and made his severance complete through resignation from membership therein.

It is therefore manifestly unfair and unjust that he be credited with the responsibility of 'horribleness of the present state of affairs' within the organization and its degenerating effect upon American civilization and the peace, happiness and prosperity of our nation, the unity of our institutions and the sanctity of our institutions."

BOTH WENT WRONG

That the klan of today and the klan of the reconstruction period have followed parallel lines and that both degenerated from their original purposes and fell into the hands of unscrupulous adventures, is a matter of history.

Immediately following the civil war the klan was organized to prevent negro political domination of secession states. The solid south was democratic and the federal administration was republican. The southern states, but lately at war with the north, were rebellious and furious at what they conceived to be the federal policy of encouraging the freedmen, who constituted a large majority of the citizenship of the south, to place these heretofore solidly entrenched democratic strongholds in the republican column.

The southerner, being a democrat and a rebel, and writhing under defeat, hated the republican party with the hatred bred of a four year war which laid waste the sunny south. The klan was conceived as a protective idea, to prevent the republican, or radical, party from ruling conquer'd Dixie.

Still secretly loyal to the Confederacy the men of the south welcomed the Ku Klux Klan as a weapon of further defense against their conquerors, and they flocked to it in great numbers and through its agency the political tide was turned.

The leading citizens of every community of the south were active in the klan in its earlier days, but it was not long until an irresponsible membership made the organization so odious because of the flogging and murder of negroes all over the south, that no respectable citizen cared to be publicly known as a member and only the lowest and most ignorant

elements of society kept the machinery of the thing going in its declining days.

When the government was finally forced to step in and suppress the Ku Klux Klan, because of its atrocious crimes, hundreds were prosecuted, convicted and sent to prison.

CONSPIRACY TRIALS

In the federal trials at Columbia, South Carolina, where over fifty members of the York county klan were placed on trial for conspiracy, the presiding judge was a northerner, a republican and a bitter foe to the Southern Confederacy. The republican party controlled the machinery of the court and the defendants were forced to go to trial before a jury of twelve republicans, nine of whom were negroes.

The klan of today, which professes to be the old one, on earth for the second time, remembering the handling received by those southern klanmen fifty-five years ago before a prejudiced judge and a packed jury, consider it perfectly ethical to day, to place klanmen on the bench, and exclude all from jury service who do not belong to the order.

Right here in civilized Delaware county, in the state of Indiana, there has never been a Catholic or a Jew called for jury service in the two years that the present klan jury commissioners have had control of the jury box.

HOW IT IS DONE

The editor of the Post-Democrat who was forced to go to trial on a ridiculously insufficient charge before a klan judge and jury, after having been indicted by a klan grand jury, without a chance in the world of acquittal, regardless of testimony which would have caused an unprejudiced jury to return a verdict of acquittal without leaving the jury box, can somewhat appreciate the feeling of Dr. Edward T. Avery, ex-confederate soldier and leader of the York County, South Carolina, klan, when he was forced to go to trial before Judge Bond and a jury made up almost wholly of colored men, who belonged to the race against whom the crimes ascribed to the klan had been committed.

At the conclusion of his trial, in which, by the way, there was no evidence connecting him with the outrages, Dr. Avery skipped out to Canada while the lawyers were arguing the case. He didn't have a China man's chance to escape conviction. That the kluxers of the past recognized no evil in Catholics or the Catholic church, was evidenced by the argument made by T. W. McMaster, attorney for the defense in the Avery case.

IT WAS DIFFERENT THEN
Mr. McMaster, a distinguished South Carolina lawyer arose and openly charged that his client was forced to go to trial before a packed jury.

"You may remember the case of Daniel O'Connell, one of the greatest patriots and one of the greatest men that Ireland ever produced," said he. "The authorities in Dublin convicted him, as they had convicted hundreds before, Mr. O'Connell was a Catholic. The question was between the Catholic and the Episcopalian church of England. In Dublin, the juries were so arranged that every man who sat upon them was an Episcopalian. . . . In our country, which professes to have more freedom even than Great Britain, it is unfortunate that there has not been a provision made by congress to provide against similar outrages to those which have been perpetrated in Ireland. . . . I see here nine colored men selected by the prisoner from the panel, as the best, when the very outrages with which my client stands charged were perpetrated on colored men.

"Can you be other than naturally indignant at these outrages? Will not your hostility be naturally greater than a white man would feel? Therefore it is that I say the world has never seen a greater outrage than in the jury that is now trying this question. If Mr. Macaulay said, with regard to those Irish trials, that in every case of indictment for state offenses there was a reasonable certainty of a verdict being against the prisoner, in this case the chances of such a verdict are increased a hundred fold."

NOT AGAINST CATHOLICS

Remember, this was a Ku Klux lawyer, defending a Ku Klux prisoner, assaulting Protestant England for packing juries with Protestants to convict "great Irish Catholic patriots!"

Thus, you see, when the klan was "reincarnated" its present day follower repented radically from the spirit which animated the original body.

And how vastly has this new engine of hate and discord multiplied its list of victims. With the Ku Klux in charge of the jury box it is not a simple matter of merely excluding

the names of Catholics from jury service. In the name of the Redeemer, the flag of our country and one hundred percent Americanism no man or woman is deemed fit to sit in judgment on their fellows who has not taken the oath of allegiance to an invisible empire. Catholics, Jews, Negroes, foreign born and anti-klan Protestants are all lumped together as undesirables, unfit for jury service.

Next week I will submit some of the evidence of forty-six members of the klan of York county, South Carolina, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy, confessed their participation in outrages on colored victims, and threw themselves on the mercy of the court. The statements of these individuals as to how they were induced to join the klan shows the striking similarity between the modus operandi of the kluxer of 1867 and the Evans plan of 1924.

Santa Cruz Catholic Church Dynamited

Edifice Was Badly Wrecked By An Explosion.

Tucson, Ariz.—The facade of Santa Cruz Catholic Church here was badly damaged and the front doors wrecked by an explosion of dynamite placed there by unknown persons. The Carmelite priests in charge of the church had just completed their vespers services and had retired to the convent in the rear of the church when the blast occurred.

Local opinion inclines to the belief that the persons responsible for the outrage are the same as those who burned crosses on the hillsides overlooking the town on the occasion of the installation of Bishop Gericke a few weeks ago.

A process has been discovered that makes it possible to obtain brass in colors ranging from bright yellow to orange and from red to blue.

Every state in the Union has a college of pharmacy.

STEVES AFTER

(Continued from Page One) the girls he overlooked.

Clamorous Fulk—Listening to a phonograph reproducing his own speeches, telling what a wonderful financier he is.

Kewpie Rine—Wondering why the books won't balance.

Charley Harris—Laughing at Clamorous Red Fulk.

Hi Holmes—Playing with a new Lewis machine gun he expects to use on the dogs as soon as the weather permits.

Jim Dudley—Hating himself.

Keith Lowery—Looking at the red ink entries.

Curtis Berry—Smiling at the mirror.

Ham Stewart—Thanking the Lord that he has only two feet to fall over.

Tom Hays—Practicing with a lasso for dogs that Santa brought.

Jim Gorman—Feeling sorry for himself.

Bob Darnes—A little 25-cent limit.

Judge Collier—Reading a handy volume on "Legal Ethics."

George Hagmaier—Reading his new Christmas book, "How to Be Successful."

Seth Tower—Estimating the relative weights of cooked and half-cooked peanuts.

Bill Cocanour—Cussing Clamorous Red Fulk.

Meter Reader Crist—Playing with his new A-B-C blocks.

KU KLUXERS KLAIM THEY BOUGHT PROPERTY

It has been reported that the local Klanarchists have bought the Eli Hull property in West Main street for a club house. The purchase price is given as \$12,000.

Whether the apostles of hate and graft can dig up that amount in this city is open to discussion. It may be that they figure on patching up a peace with Shinn and her women and getting hold of a bunch of the money the woman are known to possess.

Still and all, Shinn has never been accused of going to "sleep at the switch," and this particular "switch" may mean some "velvet" to some one. All bandits are not "bobbed hair bandits."

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