

## KU KLUX KLAN IS NOT FIRST ORGANIZATION FOSTERING RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS HATRED; FALSE BASIC PRINCIPLE UNDERMINES THEM

The Ku Klux Klan excludes from its communion, not only the negro and the Jew but two other important classes of our population—the foreign born and the Catholic, and apparently seeks to debar these from equal political rights.

It is not the first society which has drawn this line. Hostility to foreigners and to Catholics dates back to colonial days and the Protestants were apparently much more intolerant than were the Catholics themselves.

For while the Puritans in New England were boring the tongues of Quakers with red hot irons, while they were flogging Baptists and Quakers at the cart tail and even inflicting the death penalty upon heretics; while the adherents of the Church of England in Virginia were depriving both Catholics and Dissenters of all civil rights, it was the Catholic colony of Maryland which established its government upon the basis of complete religious toleration.

### Many Go to Colony

Protestants as well as Catholics immigrated to that colony to enjoy the blessings of full religious liberty. So, when we criticize, however justly, Roman Catholic intolerance in other countries and at other times, we ought not to forget that here in America they took the first great step, a step which up to that time was unknown in the world, in establishing a government founded upon complete religious toleration.

**Other Organizations.**  
In 1844, there was organized in New York the "American Republican Party" which nominated candidates for mayor and city council. Similar organizations were formed in Boston, Philadelphia, and St. Louis and carried the elections. In the following year an organization was formed called the "Native American Party," but each year it declined in numbers and soon passed out of existence.

Some years later there was organized "The Order of the Star Spangled Banner" commonly called "Know Nothings" which established a system of national, state and local councils and in 1855, every state and territory in the Union had been organized. On June 14, 1854, a general convention met in New York and protested among other things, against the evils of foreign immigration as well as against Romanism, which they looked upon as a great conspiracy to ensnare Protestant America. A ritual was adopted at this meeting. To become a member, a person must be a Protestant, born of Protestant parents in the United States, reared under Protestant influence and not married to a Catholic. It sought to conceal the personnel of its membership and to keep absolutely all knowledge of the order from the outside world. To avoid questioning why they professed ignorance of all matters pertaining to the society, for which reason they were dubbed "Know Nothings."

### First Indiana Lodge.

The first lodge in Indiana was organized in February, 1854 at Lawrenceburg and the order spread rapidly through the towns along the Ohio and later through the central and northern part of the state. The Rushville Jacksonian says, "It is a rehash of native Americanism, gotten up on such a scale that Whig politicians can follow their instinct by joining without being exposed."

The Logansport Democratic Pharos says, "Like an ill-omened bird of night, this society, afraid to meet the light of day and honestly avow its purpose, holds its gatherings in secret."

In July, 1854, it claimed a membership of 60,000 in Indiana. The old Burnt District (our own) soon became a Know Nothing stronghold. The order formed a fusion with the People's Party which held a convention at Indianapolis in 1854. Probably three-fourths of the delegates were Know Nothings and fusion candidates were secretly nominated by the Know Nothing county councils. On July 11, a state constitution was adopted. George W. Julian said of the fusion convention, "The ticket nominated had been agreed upon by the Know Nothings the day before in secret conclave as the outside world afterwards learned."

The secrecy of the movement threw it open to many charges. It was considered cowardly and un-American and preventive of the free expression of the people at the ballot box.

### Opposed by Morton

Oliver F. Morton was repelled by its secret measures, its opposition to the Catholic church and its desire to

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to government was the proof that nativism is not Americanism. Public opinion has never accepted its estimate of the alien nor Catholic citizens."

Lincoln's views in regard to it were shown in a letter which he wrote in 1859, quoted in his "Life by Nicolay and Hay," his private secretaries (Vol. 11, 1851), declaring his opposition to the waning fallacy of Know Nothingism.

Referring to the provision lately adopted by Massachusetts to restrict the naturalization of aliens, he said, "As I understand the Massachusetts provision, I am against its adoption in Illinois or in any other place where I have a right to oppose it. Understanding the spirit of our institutions to aim at the elevation of men, I am opposed to whatever tends to degrade them. I have some little notoriety for commiserating the oppressed conditions of the negro and I should be strangely inconsistent if I could favor any project for curtailing the existing rights of white men even though born in different lands and speaking different languages from myself."

The question for us is, do we want such an organization to be resuscitated under another name and to involve in its train the hatred, bigotry, riots, and acts of violence which have been the inevitable consequences where one part of a community is stirred up against another. America has a right to protect herself against undesirable immigrants, against criminals, paupers, the diseased, and other elements which will not assimilate with our people, but as to those who are already among us, whatever their nationality, creed or race, we are bound to treat them exactly as we treat ourselves by giving them the full benefits of all the rights of American citizenship.

(NOTE—Many of the facts in this article are taken from "The History of the Know Nothing Party," Indiana magazine of History, March and June, 1922.)

According to official figures, war material thus far destroyed by Germany consists of 5,885,000 rifles and carbines, 104,000 machine guns, 35,700,000 loaded shells and mines, 14,800,000 grenades, 13,363 airplanes and 24,045 airplane engines.

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## 2-WAY SHIP CANAL FOR LAKE SHIPPING WOULD AID CHICAGO

(By Associated Press)

CHICAGO, Ill., Aug 1.—A two-way ship canal between Lakes Superior and Michigan, deep enough for ocean steamers, could be built at a reasonable cost and would divert to this route and to Chicago at least seventy-five per cent of the tonnage which now goes through Sault Ste Marie, according to D. Chase Denison, a Chicago engineer.

After surveying the territory through which it was proposed to build such a canal, Mr. Denison said that the best place for the cut-off route would be from a point near Au Train, Mich., on Lake Superior to the headwaters of the bay north of Escanaba, Mich., on Lake Michigan.

With the close of the recent school term Miss Kate M. Stevens rounded out fifty years of service as a teacher in the New York city schools.

**PRESIDENT AND WIFE  
TO CAST VOTES BY MAIL**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1.—President

and Mrs. Harding will vote by mail

in the Ohio primaries, Aug. 8. It was

said today at the White House that

their ballots would be forwarded to Marion during the week.

**U. S. BALLOON RACER  
WINS INTERNATIONAL  
PLACE BY BIG FLIGHT**

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1.—Major Oscar Westover, who will represent the United States Army in the International Balloon Races for the Gordon Bennett trophy in Geneva, Switzerland, won his place by winning the national elimination race from Milwaukee, last May. His balloon won from a large field, travelling almost twice as far as any other bag and landing in Quebec. He was the only contestant who landed outside of the United States.

Major Westover is listed among the few higher army officers who won their way to commissions by way of the ranks. He started as a private in

the Cavalry and was promoted to

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