

Ku Klux Klan Spokesman at Chapel Hill Debates Disputed Points Regarding Aims of Organization with well known Carolinian

Dr. J. H. Hawkins, Physician and Lecturer, Defends Activities of Klan while J. W. Bailey Flays Knights of the White Hood Claiming They are a Menace to Nation.

We are always pleased to hear from Polk County Boys who are away at school and a recent letter from Chapel Hill written by P. E. Head of Saluda Township who graduated from Stearns High in the class of '23 and who is now in his second year at the University of North Carolina is particularly interesting because it contained an account of a recent debate between Dr. J. H. Hawkins and J. W. Bailey for and against the Knights of the White Hood whose influence has been general throughout the entire country.

Mr. Head says: At the beginning of the present collegiate year the Dialectic Literary Society, the oldest student organization on the campus of the University of North Carolina, abandoned, by a unanimous vote, its old constitution and reorganized in the plan of the state senate, assuming the new appellation of Dialectic Senate. Along with this new dignity this venerable organization also assumed new duties. One of these duties was the promotion of the discussion of important present-day questions not only for the benefit of the members of the Dialectic Senate, but also for the benefit of the entire University and the general public. The lecture committee wisely considered the Ku Klux Klan a timely subject and accordingly arranged to have both sides of the question discussed here. On Friday evening, February 30, 1925, Dr. W. A. Hamlette was to have delivered a lecture in behalf of the Klan, but due to Georgia floods he was unable to get here and Dr. J. H. Hawkins, a physician and lecturer for the Klan, was sent to take place. One week later, February 6, this committee secured prominent North Carolinian, J. W. Bailey, to present the arguments against the Klan. It is the purpose of the author to present in the following paragraphs outstanding arguments for and against the Klan as they are given by the above named elements.

Dr. Hawkins began his lecture stating that unless an organization could show substantial reason for its existence it should be tolerated, but stated that he would show many reasons for the Klan's existence. He related the history of the foundation of the Klan in those terrible days of reconstruction which followed the Civil War, when the South was facing the most critical period of its entire history. He enumerated the laudible deeds of the Ku Klux Klan in helping to build the South, to overthrow carpetbag rule, to bring white supremacy, and to protect white womanhood. "No one in the South will doubt that the Klan's existence then, and the same principles which guided the Civil War Klan are the principles upon which the present Klan is based, and it should be supported by every loyal and God-fearing American."

He pointed out in considerable detail the circumstances connected with the organization of the Klan and said that it was based on the Bible, and stating that as long as it kept the teachings of Christ uppermost he believed it would survive. Then in a convincing manner he combated the troubles of the Klan, those of Christ, saying, "I can nor any organization be pointed to anything without going through the fires of the chief doctrines of the Klan as stated by Dr. Hawkins. He said, 'We are in the process of stopping all immigration and Americanizing the

large foreign element we now have as best we can. No person," he continued, "is a true American until his heart throbs for American ideals and for the American flag, and these things are what the Klan is striving for."

"In the country at large there are 15,000,000 persons born of foreign parents. There are 6,000,000 born of mixed parents. At this rate, the 1928 population of first and second generations foreign born will be 36,000,000. Add this to 11,000,000 negroes, and we have left only 58,000,000 Americans. But from these there must be subtracted the physically and mentally unfit for American citizenship, who will number at least 10,000,000."

"Thus we have only 48,000,000 Americans. In fact, I am convinced from a study of the figures that we have not more than 35,000,000 honest-to-God American men, women, and children in the United States. If this continues, in 35 years America will be as thoroughly European as Southern Italy. North Carolina will be facing the same problems as the states further north before long, unless we do our duty now."

Dr. Hawkins said the Klan was opposed to Catholics because their oath of allegiance to the Catholic church was held higher than their allegiance to the government of the United States.

He admitted that there are criminals and bad men in the Klan "just as there are in any other organization," but he said they were being weeded out wherever detected. He stated that the entrance requirements to the Klan are rough and rigid, and that it is the intention of the Klan to keep them so. He further asserted that the Klan in no instance would protect a wrongdoer, and mentioned a number of cases where men had not only been expelled from the Klan because they had been detected in crime, but had also been exposed and prosecuted by the Klan.

He said the first principle of the Klan was to uphold the law of the land. And as an illustration of this point he said that in some sections the Klan was opposed by people because they thought it a "dry" organization, and in others because they thought it a "wet" organization, when in fact the Klan was neither wet nor dry. But he said the Klan was in favor of strict law enforcement and that so long as we had a prohibition law, the Klan would do all in its power to enforce it.

In short, some of the leading principles of the Ku Klux Klan, as stated by Dr. Hawkins, are: 100 per cent Americanism, high respect for, and strict enforcement of, law, absolute racial purity, and protection of womanhood, loyalty to protestant Christian religion, and supremacy of the white race.

Now if an organization is sincere, and is striving toward such

worthy ideals as those just given, it certainly deserves the support of every thinking individual.—So much for "The Knights of the Hood." Let us now consider some of the arguments against them as set forth by the Honorable J. W. Bailey.

During the week which elapsed between the time that Dr. Hawkins made his appearance and the coming of Mr. Bailey the Klan was greatly discussed. One would hear quite often such questions as: How will Bailey meet Hawkins' argument? What can he say? and similar questions. However, he mounted the platform carrying a vast armload of documents containing data on the Klan from its constitution and by-laws to the latest editorial from the official organ of the Klan, the Kourier, and soon convinced his hearers that he was amply prepared to support the views of the anti-klansmen.

Mr. Bailey began by giving the history of the Klan, stating that it was organized in 1915 by Colonel Simmons who wrote its constitution, rituals, etc., and himself became the Imperial Wizard. The Klan did not make much headway until about 1920. Congressional records which he produced show statements that in 1920 there were between one and two thousand Klansmen in the country. About this time Col. Simmons met Edward Young Clark. Clark told Simmons that he could make the Klan a going concern, but stated that he would have to sign a contract to give him eight out of every ten dollars collected. So they signed a contract to this effect, Clark becoming King Kleagle, which really means collector. A Kleagle was to be appointed for each state and local kleagles for each district. Of the \$10 initiation fee collected from each man the local Kleagle got \$2, the state Kleagle \$2, Mr. Clark \$4, and Colonel Simmons \$2.

The Klan was now thoroughly organized on a business basis and in a short time it spread all over the United States, and Simmons, Clark and others made great fortunes. After amassing over a million and a half dollars

Clark was obliged to flee from justice as he was wanted on a white slave charge. After Clark was gone Simmons, who was a notorious drunkard, was left to manage the Klan and it was getting in a bad way again. Finally, however, the other officials of the Klan bought out Simmons' rights for \$140,000 and reorganized the Klan as it has continued since.

Mr. Bailey admitted that the Klan had a certain appeal, but said that it did not appeal to a man of intelligence. Its appeal, he stated, is to the man with the inferiority complex. "The regalia and fiery cross are put on to cover up a mysterious nonentity. When I see a man who puts on a helmet and says he is a dragon, I know he is a being with boy's brain in a man's body."

Mr. Bailey gave four main objections to the Klan which were as follows: (1) It is secret and its secrecy is to avoid responsibility for crime committed against non-Klansmen. (2) The Klan favors a Gentile Christian religion which is impossible. (3) The Klan proposes to raise and put forward a sectarian issue in American politics; and (4) the Klan's conception of 100 per cent Americanism is 100 per cent false.

Mr. Bailey said he had no objection to secret organizations so long as they dealt with their own members only. But he cited instance after instance where the Klansmen had inflicted severe punishment on non-Klansmen and showed that the Klan had positively supported these lawbreakers. He said: "They judge in secret and punish in secret, thereby escaping the responsibility for their crimes."

He showed that the Klan's plan of a Protestant Christian religion was contrary to our fundamental law, because it draws a line against Jew and Catholics. Christianity includes all races, tribes, and peoples, and not merely Gentiles and Protestants. He said, "Europe has been drenched in blood for four hundred years because she has been thinking in terms of religious hate.—Our peace and tranquility has been due to the fact that we have kept clear of sectarian and racial conflict."

In speaking of 100 per cent Americanism he showed that it was not necessary, as the Klan holds, to be native born in order to be 100 per cent American. He named a number of very eminent men who were known to be very loyal Americans despite the fact that they were foreign-born.

Mr. Bailey is a very able speaker and easily kept his audience in sympathy with him. He gave documentary evidence for practically every important statement he made, appealing to the intelligence of his audience, rather than making an emotional appeal as Dr. Hawkins did.

Notice of Sale of Valuable Real Estate and Personal Property

In the matter of S. M. Robinson, et al. vs. Tryon Hosiery Mfg. Co.

In pursuance to an order made by His Honor, Henry P. Lane, Judge holding Courts of the Fourteenth Judicial District, at the January Civil Term, 1925, the undersigned receiver, will sell to the highest bidder for cash, on

Wednesday, March Fourth, 1925

at 12 o'clock, Noon, on the premises of the Tryon Hosiery Manufacturing Company, near Tryon, North Carolina, the following property, to-wit: 28 acres of land, more or less, adjoining the lands of W. H. Stearns, W. W. Capps, and W. T. Hammett and others, situate in Polk County, North Carolina, near the town of Tryon on which is located the Tryon Hosiery Manufacturing Company's plant, consisting of the Mill building; six 6-room houses; eleven 4-room houses; and eleven 3-room houses; also all the machinery, equipment and supplies used in connection with said plant, including, 164 knitting machines; 23 Loopers; motors; boilers; etc. Also, 4000 lbs. of yarn and 900 dozen socks.

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This January 27th, 1925.

COIT M. ROBINSON, Receiver.

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State of North Carolina. County of Gaston.

In the Superior Court S. M. Robinson, et al, Plaintiffs.

vs.

Tryon Hosiery Mfg. Co., Defendant.

In pursuance to an order made by His Honor, Henry P. Lane at the January Term of the Superior Court of Gaston County, the undersigned Receiver hereby notifies creditors of the Tryon Hosiery Manufacturing Company to present and prove such claims against the said Tryon Hosiery Manufacturing Company on or before the second day of March, 1925 and failure to present and prove such claims within said time, will bar said creditor of claimant from participating in the assets of said corporation.

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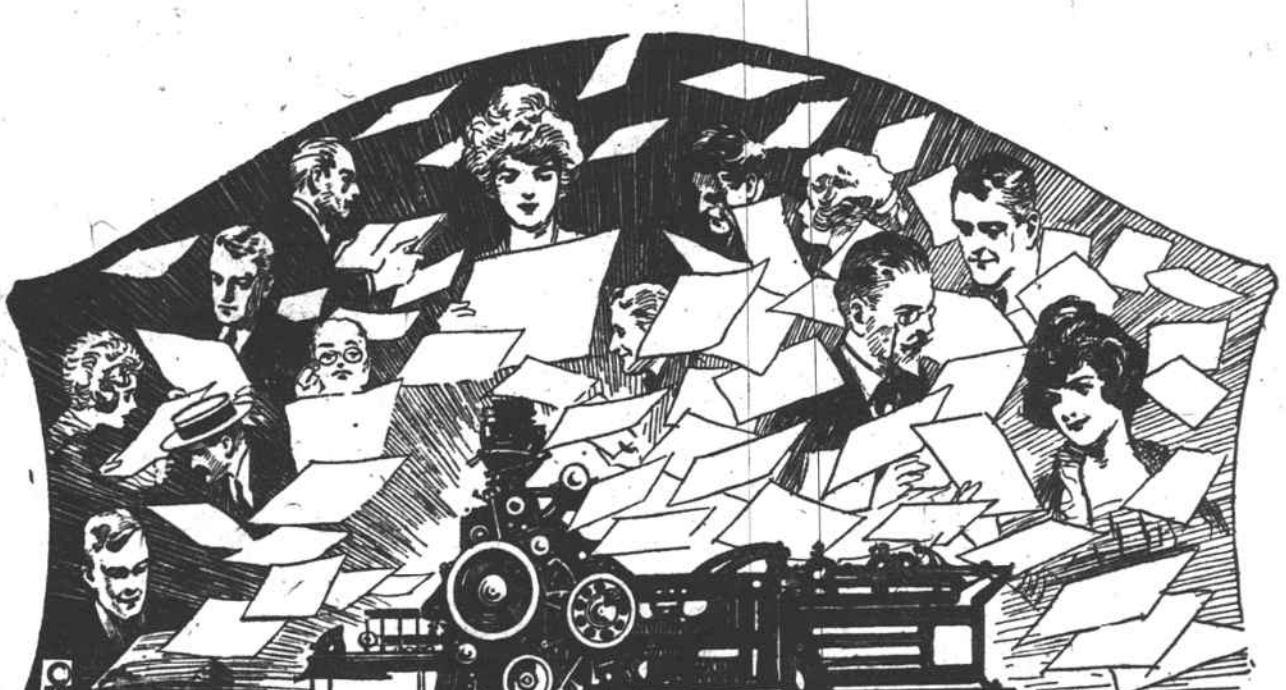
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