

HISTORY OF PRESENT-DAY KLUXERS

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., was organized October 26, 1916, in Atlanta, Ga., by William Joseph Simmons, who at one period of his life had been an itinerant Methodist exhorter; at another, professor of southern history at Lanier university, a small, newly organized institution in Atlanta, and at still another a solicitor of members for the Woodmen of the World. On that date Simmons and 23 of his friends signed a petition for a charter as a standard fraternal secret order, which charter was issued by the superior court of Fulton county, Georgia, on July 1, 1916.

Now the organization is active in every state of the Union but three. It has a membership of more than 500,000—of 650,000, according to the boasts of its leaders.

When it was organized, its founders claimed it was a revival or legitimate rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan of the reconstruction period in the south, and, like the original Klan, its slogan was "White Supremacy." It was directed against the negro.

Negro Now a Side Issue.

Now the negro has become a side issue with it. Today it is primarily anti-Jew, anti-Catholic, anti-alien, and it is spreading more than twice as fast through the north and west as it is growing in the south.

How has it managed to spread out so widely and rapidly?

First, by appeals to local or sectional prejudices and hatreds. On the Pacific coast it has beckoned to Japophobes and whispered in their ears that the yellow man is plotting to incite the black man in America to rise against the white man. In the cities of the central west it has pretended to devote itself to stamping out radicalism. On the Atlantic coast it has preached that an alien-born man or woman, even though naturalized, has no place in America. Everywhere it has banned Jews from membership and made anti-Semitism one of its many missions. Everywhere, also, no less positively but not as frankly, it has barred and attacked Roman Catholics. Wherever a prospective member lives, he has been promised that his pet aversion will be made an object of Klan action.

Second, it owes its growth to the employment of a large number of professional salesmen, who net the country in an up-to-date sales organization and peddle memberships on a basis of \$1 for every member taken into the Klan. These paid organizers, or Kleagles, are at work this summer on a membership drive directed from Atlanta and from the various cities where the state sales managers, or King Kleagles, have set up their headquarters.

This drive is being actively pushed in scores of communities throughout the United States. The Kleagles collect no initiation fees, but each new member makes a "donation" of \$10, of which the Kleagle keeps \$4 and sends the rest to his King Kleagle, who pockets another \$1. The remaining \$5 vanishes into the "imperial" treasury of the order.

Members Donate \$10 Each.

Furthermore, the Klan itself owns the company manufacturing the regalia of cotton robe and hooded cap,

which is sold to members for \$6.50 and costs \$1.25 to make. The whole "propagation" department is in the hands of professional drive leaders, whose sole interest in Ku Kluxism is in the "split" just outlined.

In the last five years membership "donations" and sales of regalia have yielded at least \$5,000,000—probably a considerably greater sum. Ku Kluxing from the inside has been a paying enterprise and its lucrative possibilities have recently been increased by the decision to admit women as well as men to membership. The sisters can now come on in with the brothers—at only \$10 per come-on.

The original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., modestly begun five years ago, has become a vast enterprise, doing a thriving business in the systematic sale of race hatred, religious bigotry and "100 per cent" anti-Americanism.

It has become and calls itself an "Invisible Empire," ruled by an "Emperor" and "Imperial Wizard," Col. William Joseph Simmons, who is no more legitimately a colonel than he is an emperor or a wizard. Closely associated with him, and making up the triumvirate or "Big Three" which controls its affairs, are Edward Young Clarke, "Imperial Kleagle," a professional publicity man and drive promoter and Clarke's business partner in the management of the southern publicity association of Atlanta, Mrs. Elizabeth Tyler, who is the principal stockholder in the Searchlight, a newspaper published in Atlanta as the organ of the movement.

The second article of The Star's Ku Klux Klan expose will appear in the Second Section of Tuesday morning's paper. Watch for it.

ADOPTS "U. S. SYSTEM"

London.—Children brought up at the new children's court at Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton, will have the American system of punishment dealt out to them, explained Magistrate Hay Halkett today. For stealing apples he fined four boys 50 cents each.

Upset Stomach, Gas, Indigestion

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"Pape's Diapepsin" is the quickest, surest relief for Indigestion, Gases, Flatulence, Heartburn, Sourness, Fermentation or Stomach Distress caused by acidity. A few tablets give almost immediate relief and shortly the stomach is corrected so you can eat favorite foods without fear. Large case costs only few cents at drug store. Millions helped annually.—Adv.