

THE KU KLUX KLAN

By Covington Hall

Often you have heard the name of this "terrible klan" but seldom have you ever heard the truth regarding the organization that bucked the United States Government and overthrew the "reconstruction" in the South. In every history it is upheld to you as all-terrible and all-evil. All-terrible it most certainly was. All-evil it most certainly was not. Like all social and revolutionary organizations the Klan was born out of ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. It represented, in fact, a counter-revolution against the conquerors of the South. It came into being as the result of an attempt of Northern Capitalists and their Southern allies, called scalawags, to expropriate the Southern planters and farmers of their lands under the guise of legality. Except as a tool, the negro had very little part in this great war that lasted for nearly ten years. The Klan then won and—LOST. It won in that its "political arm," the "democratic" party came into possession of the State government of the South. It lost in that it failed to see that capturing the political government did not mean ECONOMIC safety. For no sooner had the "Democratic" party come into power than its politicians, most of them men who had never toted a rifle in the titanic struggle, began to raise the cry of "nigger domination!" and, hiding behind this false race issue, maintained all the highly centralised and infamous machinery of government that had been invented by the "reconstruction" politicians and, so, in the end sold out for a song by the most devious and fraudulent methods, the land of which they loudly proclaimed themselves the "saviours." By the violence cunning they, the "Democratic" politicians, succeeded in doing what all the rifles of the alien conquerors could not accomplish. The great Klan itself was turned into an engine of persecution and its mighty name made a synonym for outrage by these same social buzzards who foul all things whatsoever they touch—the POLITICIANS. And so the great Klan won and lost.

But what interests me most today, is not so much its social history, but the marvelous manner of the organization of this Klan of my fathers. It never in its own name held a public meeting. Never made a speech. Never published a paper. It was known to be there but was never seen. The negroes called it the "invisible empire." Most of its membership were young men, many nothing but boys, for it take a boy to dream great dreams and do great and daring works and deeds. And not only boys, but girls were in the Klan. The very child-like woman a United States officer might be flirting with was reporting back to her comrades in the Klan. So the Klan always knew all things. Each company, so one of its old captains told me, was composed of not more than twenty men. No one but the captain knew the names of the members of the group. If their names got into the hands of the "reconstruction," the captain was held to answer for it with his life. At all meetings the Klansmen appeared masked, so never could the stool-pigeon swear positively to the presence of any one person. Then the Klan made the life and work of stool-pigeons so dangerous that few cared to run its risks. Once a man was proven a stool or detective it became impossible for him to live and breathe anywhere in the South. The arm of the Klan was long and strong. Not only did it say, "The Klan never forgets nor forgives," but practiced it as well. Its members were "sworn to swear to a lie wherever a brother member was concerned," and they swore it. Few Klansmen were ever convicted in the "courts of justice." If they were, armed and masked bands often rode into the county seat and took the endangered man away from his captors. The Klan recognised the enemies courts only as Courts Martial, and so refused to submit, except by superior force to their verdicts. In such cases, facing superior power, the Klan, seemingly, laid down, but woe to those who appeared against it when the army was gone. Then came the might of the social and economic boycott, the terrible ostracism and—"a dead man in the road." That is to say, the Klan met "the terror" with "the terror." It was ten years of guerilla war without quarter asked or given. And the Klan won and lost.

But it is mainly hated today because for so long it kept the greedy, bloodstained hands of the Capitalist Class out of that immense treasure house of nature called the "land of Dixie," or made their operations therein absolutely unprofitable. This is the real reason of the hatred of this great Klan of the Southern people, not because it killed a few "niggers," for the Lumber Trust alone has killed, deliberately and in cold blood, and for the purpose of striking terror into the workers, more white men in the State of Louisiana alone than the Klan killed in its ten years of war. The real crime of the Klansmen was that for so long they made Dixie unprofitable to the

Capitalist Class. So then the Capitalists, failing in "the terror", or, rather, being out-terrorized, called in the politicians. The "Democratic" party captured the machinery of government. Monuments were raised, not to the Klan, but to the "White League", and a saturnalia of robbery never witnessed this side of Mexico was begun that enthroned the present buzzard-like Ruling Class in the South, a class that is yet, by its infamous deeds, to call the great Klan or something greater yet into existence and with it the Social Revolution in the South. Let us hope that never again will the Southern workers be led astray by the fatal idea that they can win their freedom by simply "capturing the machinery of government" and that all other worker everywhere will study more the history of the great Southern Klan and likewise learn what lessons may be learned from its history. There are lessons there it were well that the workers learned at once.

NOTICE

We have been requested to furnish the United States Industrial Relation Commission with information about the free speech fights in which the Industrial Workers of the World have been involved.

Believing that the publicity to be gained is worth the work it will entail, we have concluded to gather all available data of occasions where police authorities have interfered with free speech, free press, free assembly and where the writ of habeas corpus has been denied.

Facts in regard to these important issues will make a permanent propaganda document of great value.

This report should include every city and town where a free speech fight has occurred, wherever, possible giving names of Mayor, Chief of Police, Sheriff, Policemen, Deputies, Detectives, also names of politicians, members of Citizens Alliances and other thugs.

The locals that have been involved should make a general statement. The individual members that have taken part in free speech fights anywhere in this country are requested to write the facts in detail covering their personal experiences. Write your story in your own way, giving dates, if you can, manner of arrest, prison treatment, trial sentence, etc.

Send in any circular pamphlets, bulletins or reports bearing on the fights for free speech. Send all communications to General Headquarters, 307 164 W. Washington St., Chicago, Ill. Vincent St. Johns, Gen. Sec'y-Treas. Wm. D. Haywood, Gen. Organizer.

To All Southern Rebels:

I suggest that each of you AT ONCE send in reports to our General Officers of all the infamous outrages that have been committed against the workers of the South giving the names of every sawmill manager, superintendent, foreman, every sheriff, deputy and gunman, every "good citizen leagner," who have been guilty of crimes against the workers. Write only on one side of the paper. Get busy. Yours in the fight for freedom.

COVINGTON HALL.

FROM LOCAL 61

Kansas City, Mo., September 4th, 1914. Local 61 at the last business meeting, Aug. 31th, 1914, instructed delegate Bourg to present the following resolutions to the Ninth Annual Convention of the I. W. W. at Chicago.

- Resolved: That General Headquarters be asked to issue leather card covers.
- Resolved, That the Convention be asked to raise fund of ten thousand dollars for special organization purposes; by issuing special assessment stamps to be used to concentrate on some industry. Said stamps to be a voluntary assessment.
- Resolved: That provisional G. E. B. be elected by membership at large.
- Resolved: That The Voice of the People be taken over by the General Organization.
- Resolved: That all matters not pertaining to the propaganda of the Organization be kept out of the papers, and published in a special monthly bulletin.

PRESS COMMITTEE
Stuart St. Johns,
Wm. Ford

G. J. Bourg, Financial Secretary, Local 61.

As long as we submit to exploitation, we may expect the exploiters to quarrel about the spoils. Stop exploitation, and there will be no war, because there will be nothing to quarrel about.

A leader is a relic from looking up to a god. Look neither up nor down, look straight ahead.

TACOMA RESOLUTIONS ON VOICE

To the Members of the Western I. W. W. Locals:

Whereas, There is at present some misunderstanding regarding the "Voice of the People," which has resulted in some locals cutting of their bundle orders with the paper, and caused more or less kicking around the halls of the I. W. W., all of which is detrimental to the life of the paper; and if let run is liable to put the paper into such financial straits that it is liable to lose the support of the members. So, therefore, we, the members of Locals 338 and 380 of the I. W. W. in Tacoma, do offer the following as a solution to the present difficulties:

- The "Voice" to be under the control of the Western Locals, viz.: those situated in Washington, Montana, British Columbia, Idaho, California, Texas, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico.
- That all Locals have one vote regarding all things on the paper, except in referendums which is for all members in good standing in the aforesaid Locals.
- That an election of editor and assistant editor be held as soon as possible; furthermore, that the proposed new names of the paper be put to the ballot, and in that way getting the will of the members on the matter.
- All internal affairs to be left out of the paper, and that it contain news of the labor world, and the I. W. W. fight with the master class, also, that it shall contain propaganda, such as is propagated by the organization as a whole.

Resolution passed by the members of No. 338 and No. 380 on August 30, 1914.

A. R. DOUGLAS,
Secretary, I. W. W.
110 So. 14th St., Tacoma, Wash.

Comment: The Tacoma fellow workers evidently overlooked the interest of the Louisiana Locals in The Voice. As long as it lasts and until they re-establish a Southern paper, their rights in its management continue.

COVINGTON HALL, Editor.

SYNDICALISM VINDICATED

From the midnight blackness that today palls all the nations of the earth, one ray of blazing glory breaks,—the defiance of the patriotic war gods by the syndicalist organizations of Italy, England and Spain. It is only in those lands where syndicalism is strong that a shadow of resistance has been made to the last and most colossal crime of the Political State. Seek to hide it as they will, but so far the syndicalists of Italy, Spain and Portugal have prevented their motherlands from entering the world-shambles. Those of England and France are not "volunteering" as the cut-throat "statesmen" hoped they would, nor do the soldiers of France and England show near the savage desire to slaughter as do the troops of the "greatest socialist nation on earth," Germany. This is written, veiled, uneasily, in every recent dispatch in the black press of capitalism. Clear and plain the record stands, the record written in deeds of blood. "Not by your words," O ye Socialists, "shall ye be judged, but by your works shall ye be known and by your works shall ye be judged."

Dead is the Political State. Dead is this Christless Christian civilization. Dead is the Socialism of the ballotbox. Dead, living-dead, rotten in its heart, bones and soul is all capitalism. Dead! Drowning in seas of human blood!

Face to face with starvation in the midst of boundless plenty stand all the nations and races of the world. Workers! Will you let a dying beast deny to you and yours the right of life? If you must, why not die with the revolutionists of life instead of for the revolutionists of death? In the name of life, liberty and love, arise! Death to the revolutionists of death! Long live the revolutionists of life!—C. H.

EDWARD SLEPPA

This fellow worker is hereby urgently requested to communicate his present address right away to T. G. Gaveel, Secretary Local 339, 47 Frazer avenue, Edmonton, Alta., Canada, as this is of the greatest importance, also those having knowledge of where the above fellow worker is at present kindly write to the aforementioned address, T. G. Gaveel, Secretary Local 339.

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CAPTAIN BOYCOTT MOBOLIZING ON BUTTE

Butte, Mont., Sept. 5—Things seem to be progressing as well here as can be expected. As announced the gunmen are here and have taken charge of the city. They have placed the notorious gunman, Frank Conley, Warden of the State Pen, in charge of the city police and county sheriff's forces and, the other night, he ordered the raid on the Wobbler hall. As a result got myself and several other fellow workers, seven in all, and took us up to the can. It was just five minutes to 2 a. m. when they made the raid; they took us to the can and kept us there until 3 p. m. that afternoon, when they took us over to the court house for the court martial before his honor (?) Judge Root, where we were tried and four given a sentence of \$100 and three months in jail if they did not get out of town in 12 hours, and the other three were turned loose.

The business men are already hollering about the troops and, to make matters worse, we are announcing in the papers that we are organizing a league to send for all supplies to Montgomery, Ward & Co. We have got them going. In a previous letter to "Solidarity," I said that Mayor Duncan was playing a slimy part and I wish to make the following correction: it seems that he has been fair after all as, when a bunch of businessmen went to him and asked if they could not do anything to get the troops out of here he said that it was the businessmen that got them in here and they could get them out again, as he did not intend to have anything to do with it—he had washed his hands of the matter.

The reason that Conley, the gunman, is sore and ordered the raid is because that he tried to interfere with the fellow workers on strike at Deer Lodge, where he is the mayor of the town, warden of the pen, and runs a butcher shop, but the boys used the woden shoe on him and made him behave. He was afraid the boys would expose him and his methods, as, it is said, that he is now and has become a millionaire since he became warden of the pen some 20 years ago by his genius for finance.

The judge said on the bench that there was no appeal from his court but the socialists are busy and have ordered the governor and the whole bunch to appear before a Federal Judge to show cause why the troops are here.

F. L. TIFFANY.

MY POEMS

Word just received from the Illustrator says that the poems will be out in time for the holiday season, that is the volume will come out in November or December. The title of the book will be: "Songs of Love and Rebellion," and it will contain several poems never before published anywhere, such as "The Last Message," "Night," "My Woman," and other songs. The cost will be about 50 cents a copy, but don't send me any money until book is advertised as ready for sale; just let me know how many copies you want and your address.

COVINGTON HALL.

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