

'EAGLE' OF KU KLUX STRIPS KLAN OF MYSTERY

VETERAN OF CANADIAN ARMY DESCRIBES HOW HE JOINED KU KLUX KLAN, GIVING FACTS OF INVISIBLE EMPIRE'S RITUALS, PURPOSES AND GROWTH

Constitution of Klan Prevents Extension to Canada—Denies Outrages in Quebec—Claims Two Million Klansmen in the United States.

KLAN BORN IN WEIRD MIDNIGHT CEREMONY

This is the first of a series of three articles giving the facts of the mysterious Ku Klux Klan related to The Advertiser by a veteran of the Canadian army, who bears credentials as a "Kleagle" of the Klan.

Today's article describes the ritual by which the Klan was founded at midnight on Thanksgiving Day, 1915; tells how this man became a Klansman, and gives a general survey of the Klan's activities.

Subsequent articles tomorrow and on the following day, with further photographs, will deal in detail with the initiation rituals, the oaths and obligations, the constitution and operations in the United States.

The Advertiser offers no comment on the statements made in any of the three articles. The only motive is to provide information which is evidently reliable on a subject believed to be of interest to the general public regardless of personal inclinations.

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Ku Klux Klan!

Haunting bugles thrilling through the night; ghostly riders galloping

shrouded horses; the fiery cross—mystery!

No three words have ever been so

surrounded with weird legends as the Ku Klux Klan of the Civil War.

No three words have given rise to such extravagant stories as the Ku Klux Klan of today.

In London at present is a man who bears signed certificates, regalia and other credentials as a Kleagle of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

His name is Irwin R. Hignett, of Elwood, Indiana, and he is living in a house on King street.

The Advertiser met Mr. Hignett two days ago, and in a series of interviews has obtained from him a complete presentation of the organization and activities of the Ku Klux Klan.

Mr. Hignett's information unmasking the Klan as a tangible definite body with which one can come to grips. In place of the hooded figure cloaked in mystery, one sees the Klansman as an ordinary man, less terrifying in broad daylight, less sinister when stripped of his mystery.

In authorizing publication of this information Mr. Hignett vouches for its accuracy as an officer of the Ku Klux Klan, commissioned by its founder.

He substantiates this statement by references to documents bearing the Klan title, and to various newspaper clippings.

Mr. Hignett declares that his oaths and obligations as a Klansman prevent him only from revealing as grip, the parade and certain details of the constitution. The account which he has given to The Advertiser includes, therefore, not only the present work of the Klan and its purposes, but the various oaths and rituals of the initiation ceremony, the Klan's constitution and the exhortation of the "Emperor of the Invisible Empire" at the "Klionication" of the Klan.

There is nothing very weird or terrifying about Mr. Hignett himself. He is a rather short, stocky chap, with thick dark hair, intense eyes, and a slow deliberate voice, bearing traces of an old country accent in spite of his American citizenship.

He has an engaging personality and is altogether a likeable sort of person, and gives the following interesting account of his own career:

A Canadian Veteran.

Mr. Hignett is a Canadian veteran. Enlisting with the 25th Battalion, C. E. F., he fought in Flanders with the 15th Highlanders, and at Kemmel in 1916, received wounds that shattered and permanently disabled his right arm.

He was one of the first Americans to join the Canadian forces. Soon after Great Britain cast in her lot with France and Belgium in 1914, although he was then but 17, he deserted his studies in a law school in Boston and hurried to Halifax to do a uniform. In 1915 he went overseas, and early in 1916 took his place in the trenches.

Useless as a fighting man because of his disabled elbow, he was returned to Halifax late in the same year, but continued to serve in the position of record clerk at the M. H. C. C. Hospital, situated on Pier 3 of that port.

Hignett was on duty there when the great explosion that almost demolished Halifax occurred on Dec. 6, 1917. The percussion from the explosion wrecked every window in the building where Hignett was working, but although flying metal riddled the walls, he was uninjured.

In 1917 he received his discharge and returned to Boston, but did not resume his studies. When the American Legion was organized in 1918 he joined it at once, and soon began lecturing in its behalf.

His ability as a speaker has been one of the greatest factors in shaping his career, for while serving the American Legion in this capacity he was given the opportunity of lecturing on a Chautauqua circuit. His appeals for "Americanization" won for him considerable fame through many states, and eventually paved the way for his entry into the Klan.

Hears "Invisible Empire's" Call.

He had completed his contract with the Chautauqua people and from his new home in Elwood, Indiana, was carrying on a considerable program of independent work, speaking before such organizations as the Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, when he heard the call of the "Invisible Empire."

Although his speeches on "Ameri-

canization" had evidently made him a marked man, the summons came to him in the mysterious way, which he claims the Klan uses to win all its members. He did not know that he was joining the ghostly army of shrouded men until he was taking the obligation.

This is how it happened:

A friend approached him on the streets of Anderson, a nearby town.

"You are forever talking of the great principles of Americanization," said the friend, "What would you think of an organization that lives for just these things about which you lecture?"

He was handed a card. Across the top, in big letters, were the words: "Non Silba Sed Anthar."

Translated they are, "Not for self, but for others!"

Then followed on the card:

"Your friends state you are a 'native-born' American citizen, having the best interests of your community, city, state and nation at heart, owing no allegiance to any foreign government, political party, sect or ruler, and engaged in a legitimate occupation."

"They say you believe in the tenets of the Christian religion, white supremacy, protection of our pure blood, just laws and liberty, close relationship of pure Americanism, the upholding of the constitution of these United States, the sovereignty of our state rights, the separation of church and state, freedom of speech and press, closer relationship between capital and American labor, preventing the causes of mob violence, and lynching, preventing unwarranted strikes by foreign labor agitators, preventing fires and destruction of property by lawless elements, the limitation of foreign immigration, and law and order."

"Real men whose oaths are inviolate are needed."

"Upon these beliefs and the recommendations of your friends, you are given an opportunity to become a member of the most powerful secret, non-political organization in existence, one that has the 'Most Sublime Lineage in History,' one that was 'Here Yesterday,' 'Here Today,' and 'Here Forever.'"

"Discuss this with no one. If you wish to learn more address, 'Ti-Bom-Tim' at the following address."

The Mysterious "Ti-Bom-Tim."

No explanation of this mysterious message was offered. Curious about what it all meant, Mr. Hignett hunted up "Ti-Bom-Tim."

At the door he was met by that mighty person, dressed in civilian clothes.

"Are you a Protestant?" he was asked immediately, and when an affirmative answer was given there followed these questions:

"Are you a Gentle?"

"Were you born in the United States?"

"Are you married?"

"If so, is your wife a Protestant?"

"Are your parents Protestants?"

"Are you a white man?"

"Do you believe in the principles set forth in the 'Non-Silba' card?"

When all these had been answered on a lecture, giving the aims and objects of the society was read. But the name of the organization was still kept a secret.

When departing Hignett was advised that he might still withdraw if, on taking the obligation of the society, he found everything was not just as had been represented.

It was not until some days later, after he had paid out an initiation fee of ten dollars, and was about to fix his name to the charter, did he discover that he had been admitted into the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Named as a "Kleagle."

His reputation as an orator immediately won for him the appointment as Kleagle, or in words outside of the Klan language, "Organizer and Public Lecturer." This honor was bestowed upon him by imperial headquarters at Atlanta, Georgia, and he began work in the state of Indiana.

That was one year ago. Since then Hignett states that he has spoken on an average of five nights a week in both closed meetings and in gatherings open to the public. He does not know how many men he has admitted into the Klan, but he remembers well that he administered the oath to 1,600 men in eighteen weeks in one town of Indiana.

Robed in a long shroud of white satin, with a surcoat of blood red thrown in striking contrast over his shoulders, and with a tall conical helmet tasselled in red, face covered with a weird virus pierced only by two holes through which bright eyes gleamed, he has led countless parades through dark streets at midnight or in the shadowy interior of unlighted churches, or in open fields illuminated by the fantastic flare of a flaming cross, he has initiated innumerable candidates into the mysteries of the Klan.

In his work he states that he has encountered many enemies. He tells of receiving many threatening letters and warnings, and that he has received bruises and black eyes.

Facing, night after night, a public audience containing many persons of unfriendly opinions, has worn Hignett's nerves to a shred. All this summer he plans to rest, and then intends to organize another state.

All this information was drawn from Hignett with difficulty. He did not relish describing personal experiences, but he talked with enthusiasm when the Klan itself was under discussion.

How It Originated.

"Let's get back to the beginning of things," he kept saying to The Advertiser.

"The beginning of things" led to the organization of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan itself.

The Klan, as it exists today, is only seven and a half years old. It is a reorganization or reincarnation of the K. K. K., whose story was told in the "Birth of a Nation"—the Klan of Civil War days.

The birth of the Klan, or rather its reorganization, as described by Hignett, is as weird and romantic as the mysterious "Invisible Empire" into which it has expanded.

The Klan was born on the summit of Stone Mountain, the greatest single rock in the United States, located 16 miles from Atlanta, Georgia. One mile into the air the great stone lifts its bald head, where, except in a few

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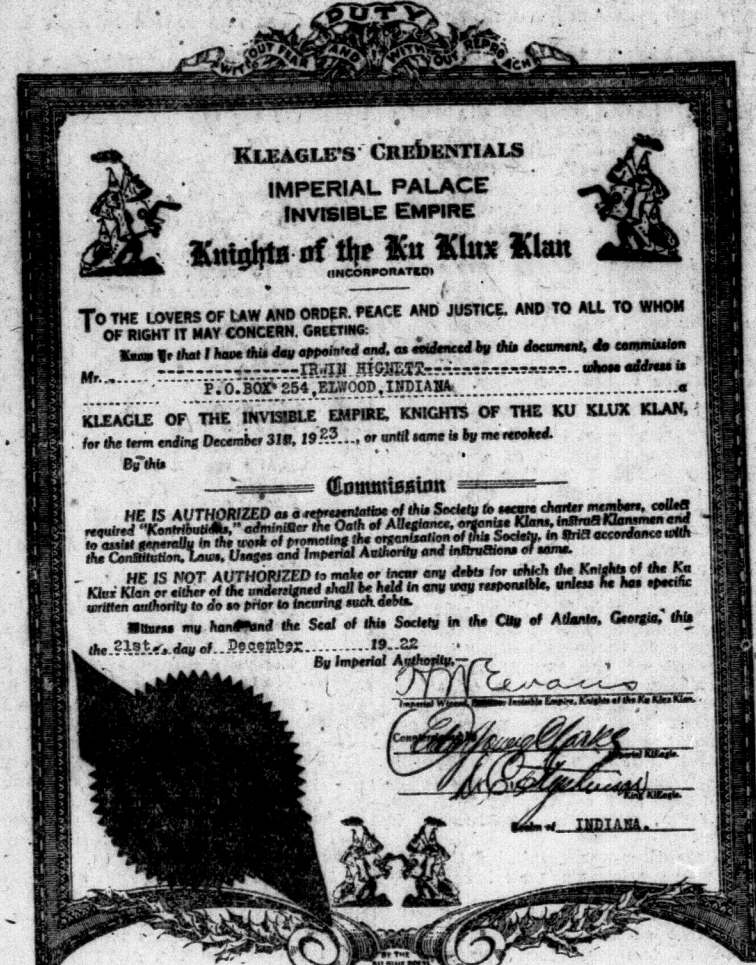
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"KLEAGLE" OF KU KLUX KLAN IN LONDON. The hooded figures above, taken by The Advertiser photographer, show Irwin R. Hignett, of Elwood, Indiana, who is now living here on King street in his regalia as a "Kleagle" of the Ku Klux Klan. The document in the center is Mr. Hignett's commission as a "Kleagle" for the year 1923, signed by H. W. Evans, imperial wizard; Edward Young Clark, imperial kludge; and D. C. Stephenson, king kludge, at Atlanta, Georgia, December 21st, 1922. Mr. Hignett has a similar commission for the year 1922, signed by Col. Simmons, the founder and "emperor" of the Klan. Mr. Hignett is a veteran of the Canadian army. His photograph unmasked appears on page five. (All photographs copyright.)

HOLY SEE IS SENDING EMISSARIES TO IRELAND

Believe Suggestion for Procuring Peace Emanated From Great Britain.

By EDGAR ANSEL MOWBRER.

Special Cable to The London Advertiser and Chicago Daily News Copyright.

Rome, March 14.—The Holy See, desiring to work at pacification for Ireland, is sending emissaries, the correspondent is told, to the Irish Free State to learn what can be done to reconcile the warring factions. It is considered probable that the suggestion emanated from Great Britain, but the Vatican has been interested in the Irish conflict, and hopes for results from intervention.

JAPAN REJECTS PROPOSAL FROM CHINA ON TREATY

Associated Press Despatch.

Tokio, March 14.—Japan today rejected China's proposal to abrogate the Sino-Japanese treaty of 1915, which contained the noted "twenty-one demands," and extended for 50 years the Japanese leases on Kwangtung Peninsula including Dalmi and Port Arthur.

GIVES BIRTH TO SON.

Associated Press Despatch.

Gmunden, Upper Austria, March 14.—The Duchess of Brunswick, daughter of former Emperor William of Germany, has given birth to a son.

JAMAICANS PROTEST AGAINST GOVERNMENT

Allege That People Are Dissatisfied and Lack Confidence in Ireland's Administration.

By R. W. THOMPSON.

Special Cable to The London Advertiser and Chicago Daily News Copyright.

Kingston, Jamaica, March 14.—The elected members of the legislature are continuing their agitation against the island government. They are preparing a memorial for transmission to the Duke of Devonshire, the colonial minister, setting out at length the shortcomings of the executive department, charging that from time to time they have ignored the desires of the people, that they are not qualified to fill the positions they occupy, that the people are dissatisfied with the government, and that their elected representatives have not confidence in the administration.

Babe Ruth Out To Fight Mysterious \$50,000 Action

Says He Doesn't Even Know Miss Delores Dixon, Who Has Started Suit Against Him—Backed by Wife.

Special to The Advertiser.

New York, March 14.—Babe Ruth, baseball's slugger, will fight the \$50,000 damage suit started against him by the mysterious Miss Delores Dixon, 19, "to the limit," Hyman Bushel, his attorney declared today. "The Babe is a fighter, and he will fight this case," Bushel said. "He will do it as a public service."

SEIZURE OF COAL FROM THE MINES IS FRENCH MOVE

For First Time, Army of Occupation Takes Fuel Direct From Pits.

Special Cable to The Advertiser.

Dusseldorf, March 14.—The first seizure of coal direct from the mines by the French in the Ruhr was accomplished today, a total of 350 tons being taken.

OUTSIDER WORKING MAY GO TO COURT

Suspect Unidentified Nation Is Secretly Interceding in Ruhr Dispute.

Special Cable to The Advertiser.

Berlin, March 14.—An outside power is secretly interceding in the Ruhr dispute, trying to induce Germany to make a new reparations offer, based upon withdrawal of the French troops. It was learned today, however, that the French government has had out for some time, are understood to have failed. It now is indicated that broader-gauged feelers may be fruitful, especially in view of the report of the assistance of the outside power.

BOMB RAILROADS.

Special Cable to The Advertiser.

London, March 14.—Because an outbreak of bombings has occurred along the railway from Wenden to Essen, the French today required burgomasters of German towns to travel on all trains.

MANITOBA MAY TAKE BEER AND WINE VOTE

Premier Promises to Submit Petition of League to the People.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Winnipeg, March 14.—Should the house do decide, the government will submit the petition of beer and light wine league to a vote of the people at the same time as the moderation league's bill, Premier Bracken made an announcement to this effect in the legislature yesterday.

BRITISH LABOR PARTY TO INVESTIGATE RUHR

Official Deputation to Report on Situation There and in Germany.

Associated Press Despatch.

London, March 14.—The British Labor Party is sending an official deputation to the Ruhr and other parts of Germany to report upon the situation, the Daily Telegraph says today.

STATES MANY RAILWAY EMPLOYEES NOT AFFECTED

Canadian Press Despatch.

Ottawa, Ont., March 14.—A large proportion of the railway employees of Canada are not affected by the decision of Mr. Justice Goff of Winnipeg, declaring the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers an illegal organization.

NEAR EAST CONFERENCE IN LONDON TOMORROW

Associated Press Despatch.

Paris, March 14.—M. Bonaparte, former ambassador to Turkey, and Rear Admiral Lacaze leave today for London to attend a conference tomorrow night on the Near East and Turkish situation as it has been influenced by the Turkish reply to the Lausanne peace proposals.

TAKES ACTION TO PADLOCK 3 BEST KNOWN CABARETS

New York, March 14.—United States Attorney Hayward yesterday began action under the Volstead act to padlock for a year three of the best-known cabarets in the white light district—the Knickerbocker, the Little Club, and Shanley's.

REVEAL SENSATIONAL PLOT TO MURDER IRISH LEADERS

Bonar Law, Lloyd George and Sir Hamar Greenwood Were To Be Included in Wholesale Killing.

Associated Press Despatch.

London, March 14.—A sensational story of a plot by an Irish republican organization to murder their cabinet ministers and commit other outrages is printed by the Daily Sketch. The newspaper connects the alleged scheme with the activities of Irishmen recently arrested in Great Britain. It says that the persons marked for assassination included Premier Bonar Law, David Lloyd

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Mountain Town May Be Buried

Earth Moves Down From the Slopes of Apennines.

Associated Press Despatch.

Bologna, March 14.—The village of Braschi, in the Province of Piacenza, is threatened with burial under a slide of earth, caused by the infiltration of water from the upper slopes of the Apennines.

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