

similar though less reputable nature have flourished in the United States, but all perished as quickly as they grew. Circumstances seem to show that the present Ku Klux Klan is an outgrowth of some of the elements of these earlier societies, for it has some characteristics of them all.

In order to get a clear conception of the activities and purpose of the Klan, it will be well to outline a few of the salient points of its creed and teachings.

Until this last Summer, the most noticeable feature about the Klan was its secrecy. Who or where were its leaders, none but influential members of the order knew. But last Summer, for the first time in its history, it came out in the open, boldly stating its aim and purpose, and appealing to the public for moral support. This was the object of the Klonoconvocation held at Kansas City. Its purpose in thus disclosing itself was to attempt to draw into its ranks many who had hitherto held aloof or actually opposed it—folks who wanted reasons instead of prejudices to back their actions. Here, the Imperial Wizard, Dr. Hiram Evans, launched his appeal to the public and attempted to justify the existence of the organization.

To a vast assembly of people, he announced the Klan's platform to the "native, white, gentile, Protestant supremacy". This official statement confirms the general conception of the Klan's policy, that is, that their propaganda and influence is exerted equally against Negroes, Jews, and Catholics.

With such a platform, appealing to racial and religious prejudice, and backed by such a widespread powerful organization, its influence can scarcely be calculated.

Hitherto, we have been accustomed to think of the Klan in connection with the Southern States where there is a racial problem, but that is no longer the case. A wave of Klan-ism has swept northward thru the New England and Western States to the Canadian border. These northern States had no racial problem like those in the South, hence their greatest drawing-card in the North was the Anti-Catholic plank. Among the laboring and middle classes of the industrial towns of New England, religious prejudices and ignorance