

SIDELIGHTS ON THE LINCOLN LEAGUE

By OBSERVER

Always the gentleman, James W. Johnson of New York, member of the executive committee of the league, added no little dignity to the gathering. His address, the closing feature, was a call to arms.

Everybody who reads wanted to know where Editor Robert S. Abbott was during the sessions. No one worked harder than Editor Abbott to bring success to the meeting, and the regret was general that he was unable to take part.

Most everybody thought that James N. Shelton and Edward Gaillard of Indianapolis would sing their duet, "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away," when they rose to lead the cheers for Chairman Hays.

Scott Bond of Arkansas, merchant and philanthropist, took the floor at will and surrendered it at pleasure.

The leading woman delegate was Mrs. Lethia Fleming of Cleveland, who sat with her husband, Councilman Thomas W. Fleming, and demonstrated that while she may be a politician she is also a delightful representative of what we call the "gentler sex."

It was his first convention, but "Little Joe" Settle of Memphis was as popular as a veteran and as useful as a whole delegation.

Charles A. Cottrell, the Ohio leader, opened the discussion on the Jim Crow car and while he had never ridden in one he had everybody riding against it before he had concluded.

Joe Watson of Georgia proved to be everything Link Johnson claims for him as a man of great courage and deep conviction. "It takes a man to live in the South," declared Mr. Watson, "and," he added, "my address is Main street, Albany, Ga."

Ald. Harris of New York, chairman of the credentials committee, made the kind of impression that a Harvard man and an editor ought always to make on a body of intelligent men.

The chairman put Ed Wright of Chicago on a high pinnacle every now and then, but he had to work fearfully hard to keep the brilliant lawyer in that place.

The only man in Chicago who had any idea of how big the convention would be was Charles B. Travis, chairman of the committee on arrangements. The league is indebted to that man.

That was an elegant debate on cutting down representation of the vote-stealing states. Edward Wright opened it, and then he was met by the argumentative skill of Wm. McDonald of Texas, the lion of Judah.

Rev. A. Barbour came to the convention a set anti-Roscoe man and left it fighting mad at anybody who would speak one word against "that boy," as he put it. Dr. Barbour closed the first session with a "rouser."

From the Old Dominion came Dr. D. A. Ferguson, the only hope the Race in Virginia can claim in the world of politics.

Chairman Hays said before he got to the convention that he would be in a big hurry to leave, but he felt so much at home in that atmosphere that he remained till the latest minute he could make his train in. He got the greatest reception that was given any visitor and made himself a hero with 13,000,000 people. He doesn't know it, but he is the Standing Choice of Colored Republicans for any job he thinks he can get.

Charlie Calloway of Missouri was secretary of the committee on credentials, and he was as thorough about that as he is about everything else he does.

Ald. R. R. Jackson, for whom all Chicago has that kind of regard that always "lands" him, took a leading part in the workings of the sessions, being, as over, a doer.

The old guard, Napier of Tennessee, Steward of Kentucky, John R. Lynch and Jackson McHenry of Atlanta, after

giving the boys the "once over," proceeded to O. K. the future of the Race.

W. C. Houston of Kansas City spoke the heart of his people in grand style in his reply to the address of Mayor Wm. Hale Thompson, showing the ear of the first blade.

The audience arose to receive Robert R. Church, chairman of the executive committee, giving him an ovation second to none, because, and only because, of his worth. If "work makes the man," then count "Bob" the pride of the league, a man of the fullest stature.

Texas came up just like the Lone Star state, but everybody wanted Mr. Grigsby, the Houston business genius, to step to the front at one of the sessions. At the big meeting Thursday night the president called for this Texas leader a dozen times, but to no avail.

Wm. Warley, editor of the Louisville News, looked as if he is the very man to whip a segregation law until it couldn't sit down.

Ald. Louis B. Anderson, president of the Illinois branch of the league, was a correct host to every delegate, and was a heavy support to the organization.

President Simmons demonstrated that common sense is more than parliamentary law when he put through the Nutter resolution thanking Mr. Hays against a single objection by Henderson of Indiana.

The slimy tongue, the slanderous heart, the evil whisper, the intellectual dyspeptic, the hand of Ishmael, the "barber shop chord," struck in a grand chorus—none of these things had a place at the Lincoln League. Ask Ralph W. Tyler, editor and owner of the Cleveland, Ohio, Advocate.

Henry Allen Boyd didn't forget that one of his chief duties in life is to speak up for the Race press.

Dr. Charles H. Phillips, leader of the Missouri delegation, made a bit with his great speech, and the only regret is that Gen. Wood had to hurry off and catch a train. And Grand Chancellor Lloyd of Missouri, didn't he look like a statesman?

Councilman Fleming of Cleveland has enough common sense to last him through a dozen Cleveland councils; Cleveland voters, please copy.

That was a big night when all the lawyers got loose on the points, etc., and after all, the resolutions went on through, just as the people wanted them.

There had been some talk that Walter L. Cohen of New Orleans would not be able to attend the convention. But he was here, as popular as they are made, and showed that without him the convention would have been lightly minus.

The Roman senator—that is exactly what he is—Henry Lincoln Johnson, on his way from Georgia to the national committee, stopped long enough as secretary of the Lincoln League to show the skillful debater and the warmth of a loving heart for his friends.

Bring Special Care

Dr. Chas. H. Phillips Jr., with the Missouri delegation, came in a special Pullman. In the party were: Wm. C. Houston, A. W. Lloyd, J. E. Mitchell of the St. Louis Argonauts, W. H. Banks, J. A. R. Crossland, Rev. E. J. Abbott, Dr. E. L. Harris, Dr. Darrington Weaver, W. H. Fields, Chas. Turpin, L. S. Williams, Dan Bowles, Eugene Robinson, Edward Edwards, James W. Golden, Roy Dorsey, J. M. Nimocks and S. C. Calloway.

The Tennessee and Mississippi Pullmans brought Robt. R. Church, Rev. Henry Allen Boyd, Dr. A. W. White, A. W. Fite, A. T. Shockley, Hon. C. J. Napier, W. L. Porter, T. H. Hayes, Wayman Wilkerson, J. T. Settle, Dr. C. O. Hunter, L. A. West, Guy Williams, R. L. Lewis, Rev. J. W. Bibbons, John Elland, J. B. Martin, W. T. Bailey, D. C. Harper, J. B. Simmons and B. M. Roddy, from Tennessee, while from Mississippi were Perry W. Howard, Dr. S. D. Redmond, Chas. Banks, R. L. Johnson, J. H. Shipp, A. L. Fisher, Z. T. Hobart, D. W. Turner, S. L. Martin, J. L. Webb, J. W. Francis, Fred Miller, V. L. Reuben, H. B. Topp, Dr. J. H. Walker, C. J. Fulginsion, J. C. Overton, R. H. Hightower, T. L. Wilson, G. S. Goodman and E. W. Barnes.

Lone Star Shines Brightly

From Texas there was present: Jas. B. Grigsby, Clifton F. Richardson, C. A. Gilmora, O. P. DeWalt, Houston; Wm. McDonald, Fort Worth; A. G. Perkins, Galveston; R. D. Evans, Waco; Rev. Jesse Washington, Seguin; P. B. Boales, Denison; Rev. A. R. Prince, Fort Worth; Dr. N. J. Atkinson, Gretna-

ville; V. Greco, Texarkana; Rev. A. Barbour, Galveston; W. G. Bell, Beaumont; J. Harold Mosely, Fort Worth; E. F. Wallace, Palestine, and H. D. Winn, Dallas.

Women Participate

No part of the convention proceedings was more interesting than the manner in which the women present pointedly discussed issues as presented. Among the ladies in the various delegations were: Mrs. Thos. Fleming, Cleveland; Mrs. Luis Blunt, Mrs. D. J. Williams and Mrs. Myrtle B. Stinson, Forest City, Ark.; Mrs. W. J. Harvey, Memphis; Mrs. J. C. Napier, Nashville; Mrs. M. B. Cropland, St. Louis, and Chicago was ably represented by Messrs. Ida B. Wells Barnett, Dr. Mary F. Waring, Mrs. Grene Lewis and Mrs. James P. Lawson.