

The Alpha Suffrage Record

Vol I

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No. 1

THE ALPHA SUFFRAGE CLUB.

The Alpha Suffrage Club is the first suffrage club organized among Afro-American women, having been organized January 30, 1913, and is now in the third year of its existence. It has a membership of two hundred women. It has fifteen women judges and clerks of election, who have been serving the city in every election for the past year. It did the work of getting out the Afro-American women's registration a year ago. Through its members, other political clubs have been formed in Hyde Park, the South and West sides of the city.

The Alpha Suffrage Club meets every Wednesday evening at the Reading Room, 3005 State street, at 8 o'clock. All women interested in knowing how to become good citizens are cordially invited to become members. Its officers are:

Mrs. Ida B. Wells-Barnett, President; Mrs. Mary Jackson, First Vice-President; Miss Viola Hill, Second Vice-President; Mrs. Vera Wesley Green, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Sadie L. Adams, Corresponding Secretary; Miss Laura Beasley, Treasurer; Mrs. K. J. Bills, Editor.

RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, For the first time in our country's history, a champion for American womanhood has raised his voice in the halls of Congress, demanding safeguards and protection for that womanhood, and,

Whereas This same champion has also led the successful battle against the African Exclusion Amendment, and the Jim Crow Car bills in the same Congress, therefore be it,

Resolved, That this public meeting composed of thousands of his constituents do now join with the Afro-American womanhood of Chicago, in voicing its heartfelt thanks to Congressman Martin B. Madden for the faithful discharge of his duty in defending and protecting our rights, and those of the Afro-American throughout the United States.

Resolved, That as a further proof of our gratitude for his able championship of our rights and liberties in the nation and at home, we endorse our young giant Oscar De Priest for Alderman of the Second Ward and Wm. Hale Thompson for Mayor, and pledge ourselves to leave no stone unturned to secure their election April 6th; we realize that in no other way can we safeguard our own rights than by holding up the hands of those who fight our battles.

The Alpha Suffrage Club is enthusiastically working to elect Hon. Oscar De Priest as the first negro alderman to the City Council. It is therefore very proud to know that the Afro-American race throughout the country is endorsing its stand. The following editorial is taken from the New York News of last Saturday.

Fellow citizens, the womanhood of the race urges you to read this editorial over and over again. Especially the last line which says, "We as a race everywhere expect you to do your duty."

ALL HAIL CHICAGO.

Chicago, as we have said many a time before, points the way to the political salvation of the race. Her colored men are colored men first—Republicans, Progressives and Democrats afterwards. In the last twenty years, but on one spot in this entire broad United States has the black man really done anything like adequate political recognition and that one spot is Chicago. The corollary of this proposition is that on only one spot in this broad United States have colored citizens demanded anything like adequate political recognition, and that one spot is Chicago.

Oscar De Priest, a popular and capable colored man, formerly County Commissioner, has been designated over four candidates, two white and two colored, in the Republican primaries for Alderman from the Second Ward. He is and was the regular organization candidate. The white Democratic candidate nominated the same day is "Al" Russell, a saloonkeeper and himself popular with many colored people. It is said that the Democrats are trying to induce one of the defeated colored primary candidates to enter the field. We do not believe that so base a traitor to his race lives in Chicago. We do not believe that any colored man or woman of Chicago, and especially of the Second Ward, fails to grasp this grand opportunity. A colored man has never been elected an Alderman in your city. You now have it in your power to do so. The eyes of the country, white and black, are upon you. We as a race everywhere expect you to do your duty!

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH CHICAGO HONORS

MARTIN B. MADDEN

Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to the intermarriage of the races. The Negroes themselves are opposed to such marriages. But I am also opposed to legislation making such marriages a crime. If a white man and a black woman want to marry it should be a matter for them to decide. I think they would both be foolish to thus ostracise themselves from association with their own people and that is what they do when they marry. But if they want to ostracise themselves, that is a personal matter between them and it should be.

To make such marriages criminal and void would leave the children of such marriages without the protection which they need and should have. Instead of bettering moral conditions such a law would make them worse. It would leave many young girls at the mercy of brutes willing to take advantage of their virtue and then desert them to a life of shame. I cannot conceive of a condition under which white men should be allowed to cohabit with a black woman not his wife without being compelled by law to marry her or to provide for the care of her children. Why should innocent women of the Negro race not have the same protection of the law which is accorded to women of any other race? It will not do to say there is no such condition as that to which I have alluded. Everyone knows better else how does it happen that we have so many people of mixed blood in the United States,

The Negroes are willing to confine their marriages to their race, indeed they would prefer that, but they have a right to demand that the women of their race shall not be considered the legitimate prey of men of other races. (Applause) * *

The Alpha Suffrage Club tenders a public reception to Hon. Martin B. Madden, representative of the 1st Congressional District for his splendid work in the last Congress in defense of Negro Womanhood and successful fight against race discrimination, at Quinn Chapel Church, Thursday evening, March, 18-at 8 o'clock.

Grand old Quinn Chapel

The Women of the club desire to acknowledge their debt of gratitude to the pastor and officers of Quinn Chapel for the use of this beautiful and historic edifice in which to hold a reception to our Congressman.

It is both a recognition and encouragement to our womanhood and a fine tribute to the man who stood before the nation and defended the cause of the race three times already since the beginning of the New Year i.e. on the African Exclusion Amendment to the Immigration Bill; on the Inter-marriage Bill and again on the Jim Crow Street Car Bill for the District. All of these measures were defeated and largely through the efforts of our Congressman. The whole race everywhere through out the nation has benefitted and because of that fact Quinn Chapel rose to the occasion and donated the use of the beautiful auditorium as its contribution to the race's effort to honor its champion.

Program

Organ Voluntary	- - -	E. F. Morris
Opening Remarks	- - -	President
Selection	- - -	Y. M. C. A. Boys Orchestra
Reading	- - -	Miss B. Fortson
Vocal Selection	- - -	Miss Maud J. Roberts
Address	- - -	Hon. Martin B. Madden
Selection	- - -	Y. M. C. A. Boys Orchestra
Address	- - -	Mr. Wm. Hale Thompson
Selection	- - -	Y. M. C. A. Boys Orchestra
Address	- - -	Mr. Oscar DePriest
Resolutions	- - -	By Mrs. Vera Wesley Green
		Secretary Alpha Suffrage Club
America	- - -	By Audience