

# NATIONAL NEGRO BUSINESS LEAGUE MEETING

**The Thirteenth Annual Session of This Organization, Headed By Dr. Booker T. Washington, to Be a Mammoth One—Delegates From Every Part of the Country—Local Committee Completes Arrangements For Entertaining and Housing the Great Throng.**

## SESSIONS AT INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH

**Oklahoma Delegation to Wear Uniforms—National Negro Bankers' Association, the National Negro Bar Association and the National Press Association to Meet in Conjunction—Many Social Features Arranged—Dr. George C. Hall to Open Meeting.**

The committee on homes has been busy during the past week making assignments to delegates who are coming to the National Negro Business League, which promises to be the greatest session ever held in the history of the organization.

Perhaps there is not an organization in the country that has been such a source of inspiration to the race as the National Negro Business league, which was organized by Dr. Booker T. Washington, the wizard of Tuskegee institute, and which has contributed much to the young men and women aspiring in life. Each year men and women from all parts of the country come together and tell about their success and failures in business. Those who have succeeded tell the methods used by them to bring about the success, and this has proven helpful to those who were looking on the dark side of the business world.

In the sessions of the league every line of business trend or profession followed by the race is represented by successful men. It is not a meeting of oratory and display of eloquence, but a plain talk on plain practical matters. This has aroused a large amount of interest among the Chicago people of all races and classes, and a great interest has been manifested to contribute to the success of the meeting, which opens August 21.

Dr. George C. Hall, president of the local league, will call the session to order Wednesday morning, August 21, in the Institutional church, Dearborn street, between 38th and 39th, and after the preliminary program, including a welcome address from Attorney J. Gray Lucas, representing the local league, and Edward D. Butler, of the firm of Butler Brothers, Dr. Hall will then introduce the president of the league, Dr. Booker T. Washington, who will present a representative of the league to respond to the welcome addresses. Following this he will go right into the program and continue in session until 1 o'clock in the afternoon. Talks on "How I Succeeded" will be the feature.

### President Washington's Annual Address.

There will be no afternoon session, and the delegates will spend the time in sight seeing and visiting the parks and places of amusement.

In the evening there will be several short addresses, but the main feature will be the annual address by President Washington. These have grown to be of special interest, and it is expected that the Institutional church will be crowded from altar to door. The preference of seats will be given to the delegates of the league, those who have registered and wear the league badge. After the delegates have been seated, the rest of the seats will be given to visitors.

Thursday morning the people will be given an opportunity to witness a rare thing—the meeting of a National Negro Bankers' association. The morning session will be given to them, and for the first time Chicago people will be given an opportunity to look into faces of men of the race who are actively engaged in the banking business. Negro bank presidents, cashiers and directors of Negro banks, will figure in this meeting, which will be presided over by Rev. W. R. Pettiford of Birmingham.

The first social feature will be pulled off in the afternoon when the delegates will be given an auto ride through the city, visiting the board of trade, the stock yards, the large packing houses, the boulevards and places of interest. Sufficient autos have been secured to carry all the delegates—this will be a free ride to the delegates and members of the National Negro Business league. Provisions have been made for 1,500, which will be an interesting sight.

The session Thursday evening will be of special interest, as Julius Rosenwald, the head of the firm of Sears, Roebuck & Co., the man who has shown his interest in the race by contributing large sums to the erection of buildings for colored Young Men's Christian Association buildings. The visitors will be given not only an opportunity to see the noted philanthropist, but to hear him as well.

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## A Delightful Lake Trip.

A large number are coming to Chicago in order to get to see Mr. Rosenwald and get to shake his hand.

Friday morning will be devoted to the Business league affairs, which will practically be the closing session. The Executive committee, of which Hon. J. C. ... is chairman, will report. Officers will be elected, resolutions adopted, and perhaps the place for holding the next annual session will be announced.

Immediately after the morning session the delegates will be given a boat ride on Lake Michigan, visiting Fort Sheridan and South Chicago. This will be followed by the banquet and ball Friday night, to be given at the Seventh Regiment armory. In this the Chicago people will put on a stunt worthy of any people or occasion. Chicago society will turn out in all its glory. The ladies have been preparing for six months, and some have had their dresses in course of preparation for the past year.

Many distinguished persons have expressed a determination to be present and assist in making the meeting a success. The head of the International Order of Twelve, Knights and Daughters of Tabor, Sir S. A. Jordan of Little Rock, will be on hand and many of his cabinet officers. This is just one week before the meeting of the International session in Louisville, and they will remain in Chicago, leaving here Sunday night for Louisville. The Texas delegates are arranging for their tickets which will give them a stop-over in Chicago to see the league.

For years the Chicago people have been hearing about Mr. Blodgett, the real estate man of Jacksonville, Fla., and they will be given an opportunity to see him, for he will be present during the session of the league, as will Mr. Lewis, the insurance man from the same place; and the largest fish dealer of the race in the country, Charles Anderson of Jacksonville, Fla., has sent word to reserve a home for him.

## Oklahoma Delegation in Uniform.

There will be a large-delegation present from Florida, as well as from Oklahoma, Kansas, North Carolina, Maryland, District of Columbia, Mississippi, Alabama, Missouri, Indiana and Kentucky. The Mississippi delegates will be headed by Hon. Chas. Banks, who is the first vice president, and who is also president of the Mississippi Negro Business league. He promises a large delegation from Mound Bayou, the Negro Mississippi town.

Oklahoma's Negro town promises to put on a stunt that will put them all in the shade. The delegates from Boley will wear uniforms made for the occasion and will bring an exhibit from the state that will do credit to any fair. The Negro inventor will have on exhibition his inventions, the large watermelons, corn and potatoes will be shown. On the banner will be "This Is the Way We Do Things in Oklahoma."

An effort will be made to carry the next session to Oklahoma.

Many of the ladies will remain in the city and attend the last social function, which will be a reception by Mrs. G. C. Hall, at Frederick Douglass Center, 3032 Wabash avenue.

In most instances the delegates coming in large numbers have arranged for special sleepers, as well as for headquarters during the league.

Telegrams have been received from W. C. Gordon, St. Louis; Hon. Chas. Banks, Mound Bayou, Miss.; Hon. J. C. Napier, register of the treasury, Washington, D. C.; Dr. S. A. Furniss, Indianapolis, Ind., and Dr. S. E. Courtney, stating that good delegations will come from each place.

## Headquarters at the Y. M. C. A.

The headquarters of the local committee where homes are to be assigned and general information furnished, will be at the Y. M. C. A. quarters, 3330 State street.

A letter from Henry Allen Boyd, Nashville, Tenn., who has the arrangement for the National Press association, says that a good program has been arranged and will be carried out. The local press committee has been at work on this end, getting things in shape, and will be prepared to entertain the newspaper men in great style.

What has been said about the local press committee can be said about the local undertakers and lawyers. The Negro National Bar association will be with the league, and promises to be a great session. Hon. W. H. Lewis, assistant attorney general for the United States, will be present and deliver an address.