

TRUE NEWS STORIES ROUSE OUR CITIZENS

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son. "Mr. Turner promised to meet us in the governor's office at 12 o'clock," suggested Mr. Wright, "so we will suspend judgment, knowing how bitter the Chicago Tribune is towards our people, until we see Mr. Turner at the state house."

The committee waited in the rotunda of the capitol until the hour appointed to meet the governor, but Mr. Turner failed to put in his appearance.

After the committee had kept its appointment and finished its mission, they resorted upon the best method to correct the evident impression contained in the interview, that in feeding it hurriedly, many of our people in Chicago could think the expressions of an individual member of the Race came as the voice of the committee.

Finally it was agreed to telegraph the Tribune a repudiation of the interview on behalf of those in Springfield, and request its publication. Mr. Wright then drafted the telegram to the Tribune editor and it was promptly signed by all.

On Sunday morning, July 8, the Tribune published the following:

"NEGROES OBJECT TO INDORSEMENT OF SEGREGATION

"An interview in this morning's Tribune, credited to a member of the committee to present a memorial to Gov. Lowden on the East St. Louis riot, does not represent our views when it approves segregation, separate schools, or anything else but equal rights for all citizens," says a telegram from members of the committee in Springfield.

It is signed by Edward H. Wright, Louis B. Anderson, R. R. Jackson, R. H. Abbott, and B. H. Lucas. Another member of the committee, the Rev. Archibald J. Carey, called up the Tribune and said: "We have been fighting segregation for twenty years. Many, in reading hurriedly, think the interview with an individual member of the Race came as the voice of the committee."

The Defender's representative procured statements from each member of the committee, including Mr. Turner, regarding the interview. Following are their statements:

ROBERT S. ABBOTT, Editor, Chicago Defender: "No man, woman or child, white or black, who has ever heard of me, would credit me with approving such sentiments as contained in the interview printed by the Chicago Tribune, alleged to have been made by a member of the committee which presented the memorial to the governor.

"The fact that my paper has been barred from sale in certain southern cities, because it stands up unafraid and battles for every right to which the entire Race is entitled, under the Constitution and the laws of the land, is the best evidence that I can produce that such vicious doctrine could not for one moment be sanctioned by me."

EDWARD H. WRIGHT, assistant corporation counsel: "I have no sympathy with the doctrine of voluntary concession on the part of the Race, which would result in depriving him of one right that any other citizen enjoys. I want no segregation of any kind—no separate schools, no exclusive public playgrounds, no separate public institutions of any kind."

"For more than twenty-five years I have been fighting for representation and equal rights for the Race in Chicago; hostile newspapers may misrepresent me, and unscrupulous political scoundrels in my own Race may traduce me, but I will continue to fight for justice for my people and for their absolute equality before the law."

LOUIS B. ANDERSON, alderman, 2d ward: "Fortunately the Chicago Tribune, on the same day and on the same page with the purported vicious and unbelievable interview, printed a resolution which I introduced and had passed in the city council, in relation to the East St. Louis riot.

"It called on all citizens, of whatever race or creed, to unflinchingly respect the law, and to accord to all men every right and privilege guaranteed by the Constitution and the laws of the land.

"I do not believe any man or woman with one drop of Negro blood in their veins would sanction any sentiment, no matter by whom expressed, that advocates the curtailment of the rights of the citizen on account of color."

REV. A. J. CAREY, pastor, Institutional Church: "I have been fighting segregation all my life, and I am too old and seasoned in the fight to quit.

"I understand that Mr. Turner was the member of the committee who took the copy of the memorial to the Tribune office. It would require a great stretch of my imagination to believe that Mr. Turner was correctly quoted. I know the tactics of the Tribune and am inclined to the belief that they put into Mr. Turner's mouth the malignant thoughts that they themselves entertain towards our Race."

REPRESENTATIVE R. R. JACKSON: "Whether correctly quoted or not, that interview which is reputed to have been had with a member of the committee and published in the Tribune, has done the Race an injury from which it will take some time to recover.

"I cannot believe that any man of the Race, to say nothing of those composing that committee whose entire lives have been one continuous battle for the rights of our people, could utter such sentiments. I am loath to believe it, and I hope it will be shown that the member of the committee bearing the copy of the memorial to the Tribune office has been misrepresented."

REPRESENTATIVE BENJAMIN H. LUCAS: "Our people should know, if they don't, that the Chicago Tribune has no love for the Race. They have for years, through its columns, traduced and besmirched the Race whenever and wherever the occasion has arisen.

"It may be, and I hope it is true, that the alleged interview is the wild wish of the Tribune and not the expressions of any member of the Race who is regarded by the public as a Race leader.

"I am unalterably opposed to segregation in any form, and likewise opposed to any man, white or black, who would dare advocate it."

S. E. TURNER, Editor, Illinois Idea: "I am the member of the committee who delivered to the city editor of the Chicago Tribune the copy of the memorial presented to Gov. Lowden on Saturday.

"I had a casual conversation with the gentleman to whom I delivered it. It is absolutely untrue that I made the statements which the alleged interview credits me with having made. I did not say that the Colored people wanted to be segregated. I did not say that we wanted separate schools and playgrounds.

"During my conversation with the Tribune's representative there was nothing said by me that could in the slightest degree be construed into the meaning or intent which the alleged interview intended.

"I desire to unload on anyone the sole responsibility for the memorial to the authority from the committee to say if of the committee was to de-

to impress the white people, and thus allay a strongly growing feeling of unrest and prejudice towards the Race."

The Other Lie

The other infamous story was about the saloon keeper being murdered. Chas. A. Maronde, 70 years old, 5161 State street, dropped dead from fatty degeneration of the heart. The Tribune in an article interwoven with the word "Negroes, whites, blacks," etc., nearly caused a riot on July 4. The white people became incensed over the article and with much feeling still in the breasts of the members of the Race over the way that their brothers had been treated in East St. Louis, they began to arm themselves. Word went the rounds that a riot was feared. Many people left that section of the city and went to their friends' homes, while brothers and fathers awaited the attack. None came because the Chicago Defender, having been tipped off earlier in the morning, got hold of Louis B. Anderson and he, with Editor Abbott, informed the police. That night when a Defender reporter made the rounds two officers or two plain clothes men could be found on every corner. Nothing came of the story. Had the police not been prompt in their efforts to keep down trouble the Lord only knows what might have happened.

At the coroner's inquest it was ascertained that Maronde died of fatty degeneration of the heart. This statement was made by the coroner's physician, Dr. Springer (white). Minnie Schmidt, who had been employed by the deceased for the last twenty-seven years, says that the account published in the Herald was correct and the only one that was correct. The statement in the Tribune was absolutely untrue. There were no threats of any kind and the police service was unnecessary. Mrs. Florence Stehl, who is the dead man's daughter, corroborates the statements of Miss Schmidt. The three statements, along with that of Dr. Claudius Bell (the first physician of the Race to use the X-ray in this city, and who has been Mr. Maronde's family doctor for twelve years) has been sworn to before a notary public.