

CLOSE BOSTON THEATRE TO STOP BIRTH OF NATION

Boston, Mass., May 26.—Boston, under its mayor's lead, stopped "The Birth of a Nation" May 16 after protest by citizens of both races. On three days' notice the National Equal Rights League, under its executive chairman, Rev. W. D. McClane of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, and the N. A. A. C. P., under Secretary B. R. Wilson, had 1,000 Colored people and some whites at City Hall this morning, when the censor board gave a hearing. It was "some" hearing. Mr. Wilson conducted the remonstrance for the N. A. A. C. P., which was heard first, introducing Matthew Bullock of the Urban League; Rev. B. W. Swain, pastor of the A. M. E. Zion Church; Mrs. A. Moffatt, white; Rev. D. S. Klugh, pastor of the People's Baptist Church; J. Mott Hallowell, white; E. B. Barce of the Knights of Pythias (alphabetical), and William H. Lewis. The pastors had church resolutions.

The League introduced a long signed petition from the citizens and a letter from District Attorney Pelletier, for himself and the Knights of Columbus. Then William Monroe Trotter introduced the witnesses for the Equal Rights League: Rev. M. A. N. Shaw, national president; Rev. W. D. Maclane, executive chairman; E. T. Morris, president; A. G. Wolff, secretary, and J. W. Schenck, treasurer of the local branches, also representing the William E. Carter Post, American Legion; Dr. Alice W. McKane, for Courts of Calanthe, K. of P. E. and W. H., and Ladies' Auxiliary of Company L; Rev. C. A. Ward of Ebenezer Baptist Church; Rev. J. S. Harton of Western Baptist Tabernacle; Mrs. Alex Wright of Ladies of Colored Veterans of All Wars, and Rev. C. D. Douglass of Union Baptist Church.

After this hearing, where both Equal Rights League and N. A. A. C. P. worked smoothly together on even terms by the influence of Monroe Trotter, who previously had been arrested on the play in 1915, and in 1918 had gotten Mayor Peters to stop it, and now arrived from the West in the nick of time, the board of censors witnessed a private production and then suspended the license of the Shubert Theater, so the film could not play even once.