

SHRINERS HOLD ANNUAL MEET IN COLUMBUS

Select Chicago as 1929 Meeting Place

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 24.—“Signs and grips and passwords mean nothing to us as a Race unless progress is the sign, unity the grip and uplift the password,” declared Caesar R. Blake Jr., imperial potentate of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order-Nobles of Mystic Shrine of North and South America, in his response to addresses at the Empress theater by city and state officials last Wednesday morning when hundreds of Shriners were welcomed to the city to hold their 29th annual imperial council.

Object of Shrinedom

“We are, as Shriners, deeply interested in the advancement of our racial group,” continued Mr. Blake.

“We are relieving the widows and the distressed of our order. We are commanding the respect of our presidents, governors, senators, congressmen and others in high walks of life. Even southern railways are now bidding for our transportation of delegates from the Southland to the imperial council, a condition that has not existed heretofore.”

Imperial Potentate Blake in his words of response touched on the psychology of leadership and quoted freely the sayings of Walter Lippman to substantiate his thought. He said: “People in the mass are exceedingly easy to lead—either in the safe path or far astray—by catchwords, slogans, platitudes—in short, by bunk. The minority of our group who think or try to think for themselves, must always expect to find every new and corrective statement of truth transferred into a truism and used as a formula for popular consumption.”

Nobles Invade City

Last Wednesday evening a vanguard of more than eight hundred Desert Sons had arrived in Columbus from every section of the United States for the 29th annual session of the imperial council. Instantaneously the capital city of the Buckeye state and the convention city of the commonwealth relinquished all claims on its rights of eminent domain. She gave them up without a whimper last Monday when head officials of the Shrine order arrived.

Between time of the three-day sessions of the imperial council there were important meetings held at St. Mark's Masonic temple, 19th and Long Sts., when legislation vital to racial uplift were enacted.

Mardi Gras Parade

Wednesday evening the big attraction was a gorgeous Mardi Gras parade and electrical display of patrols, Shrine bands, marching clubs, chanters and Oriental bands. This was followed by a dance at Pythian and Masonic temples. The Daughters of Isis, ladies auxiliary, entertainment and exhibition drill by various teams of their organization at Memorial hall.

At 1:15 Thursday afternoon the Shriners staged their annual parade, an event into which the “Weary Travelers of the Desert” injected all of their vim, vigor and vitality. They really made the occasion an impressive exhibit in keeping with the noble spirit characteristic of Shrinedom. A competitive drill at Neil park, American association ball park, concluded the spectacular parade.

Chicago Wins First Prize

A purse of \$1,500 was awarded patrols that participated in the drill contest. The first prize was given to the patrol of Arabic temple of Chicago; the patrol of Persian temple, Indianapolis, won second prize. The organization to corner the third prize was the patrol of Sinai temple of Cincinnati, Ohio. Another attraction at the park was Sinai temple's brass band, under the direction of Bandmaster B. W. Ferguson. With the performance of their youthful and phenomenal drum major, Joe Lester, the band from Cincinnati proved to be a most entertaining feature.

The big formal Shrine hall at Columbus' million-dollar auditorium, Front and Town Sts., was Thursday night, where the aristocratic guests tripped the fantastic toe to the strains of one of the best jazzomatic bands in the country.

Sight-seeing trip, including a visit to the Masonic home at Urbana, the state penitentiary and Wilberforce university, made up much of Friday's program of the Shriners.

Officers Named

All members of the Imperial Divan were re-elected. They are Caesar R. Blake Jr. of Charlotte, N. C., who was re-elected for the 11th consecutive time as imperial potentate; Harry Knight, New York, imperial deputy potentate; Clarence W. Baxter, Indianapolis, imperial chief rabban; I. H. Bradbury, St. Louis, imperial assistant rabban; A. W. Brazier, New Orleans, imperial high priest and prophet; S. S. Richardson, Daytona, Fla., imperial Oriental guide; Charles D. Freeman, Washington, D. C., imperial treasurer; Levi Williams, Jersey City, imperial recorder; James R. Williams, Pittsburgh, imperial first ceremonial master; Stewart C. Jefferson, Chicago, second ceremonial master; Isaac N. Carper, Charleston, W. Va., imperial captain of the guard; Henry A. Crowder, a new addition to the divan, was elected imperial outer guard. He is of Birmingham, Ala. R. C. Fisher, St. Louis, Mo., was chosen as imperial publicist.

Distinguished Visitors

J. Finley Wilson of Washington, D. C., grand exalted ruler of the Elks, and Judge W. C. Hueston of Gary, Ind., president of the educational board of the Elks order, were present at the Thursday session of the Shriners' convention and were heard through the flaming addresses they delivered. W. T. Woods, grand mas-

ter of Masons of Alabama, whose grand lodge has done more than any other in a financial way toward aiding the Shriners in the legal battle against white enemies, was also upon attendance of the imperial sessions.

Bishop Dale of Charlotte, N. C., assistant vice commander of the American Legion of North Carolina, which is the only Legion state organization that has one of our Race in that office was very much in evidence during the convention last week. He was appointed secretary to Imperial Potentate Caesar R. Blake for the 11th consecutive year.

Dale is a member of Col. Charles Young post of the Legion at Charlotte, which will be represented at the national convention of the Legion in San Antonio, Tex., in October by the only drum and bugle corps of our Race in the Legion in America.

The next session of the Imperial council, Ancient Egyptian Arabic order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, will be held in August, 1929, in Chicago, Ill.