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By Carl L. Cotton

Tuesday, Nov. 20, the Pullman Porters' Benefit association of America opened in its third annual convention in the assembly room of the Wabash Ave. "Y," 35th and Wabash Ave. The grand chairman, Perry Parker, being unavoidably detained, the convention was called to order by T. A. Crenshaw of St. Louis, Mo. Prayer was offered by J. W. Willis of Atlanta.

George Arthur, secretary of the "Y," was introduced and made a very interesting address. He concluded his address by extending the delegates a hearty welcome to Chicago, and in turn introduced Hon. R. S. Abbott, editor of the Chicago Defender.

Much applause was tendered Mr. Abbott as he rose to speak.

The need of an historian committee by this association was pointed out by Mr. Abbott in his address. "You should have a history of this body," said Mr. Abbott, "independent of the company's history. Some one should compile a book on the Pullman porters with pictures, etc., to show to the world that the Negro helped develop this wonderful country. Very few people know that a Negro helped Christopher Columbus land ashore. He told Christopher Columbus that this world was round and helped to work it out with him. He did not have the opportunity to go to the King and Queen of Spain, and Christopher Columbus sold his idea to the King and Queen Elizabeth of Spain. History speaks nothing of this. Ten, twenty or fifty years from now some smart white fellow will get up and say that white men in every detail built up this wonderful company. Make your own history, compile it, so that the future will not rob you of what you have done in the past."

Mr. Abbott paid his respects to a type of southern Pullman porters who think it their duty to insult colored ladies and keep colored gentlemen off Pullman cars. "Their days are numbered," he said, amid great applause.

"Look at the Irish," he said. "No Irishman ever goes back on his women under any circumstances for anybody. That is why Ireland is finally free. A manhood that turns its back on its womanhood is a slave manhood and cannot stand."

He urged the porters to be proud of their jobs. "You occupy high positions," he said, "now carry yourselves high."

The porters were told to send delegates to the countries of the world and learn more of the art of service and catering. "Go down in your pockets and send men out," he said, "and learn from France, England, Germany, Brazil and Chile, for these countries have much to teach you."

"Learn, even at your age," advised Mr. Abbott; "learn another language, because one-third of all travelers are foreigners. Learn Spanish and French and after awhile the Pullman company will send you higher."

Mr. Abbott made reference to the important part the Pullman porters had played in helping to make his paper what it is today, his struggles and rise in the newspaper world, the necessity of the men rendering service, compared the Pullman service of other countries with our own, and concluded his address by assuring the association of his being ever ready to champion their cause, and concluded with extending an invitation to the convention to inspect his plant. Mr. Abbott's address was enthusiastically received.

The grand chairman then called upon Mr. A. W. Jordan of St. Paul, who made a very able response in behalf of the association and referred to it as being a Christian organization.

Next to speak was Hon. George T. Kersey, representative Third district, Fifty-third General Assembly.

Perry Parker, the grand chairman, followed. He outlined the growth of the association and referred to it as being the greatest Negro organization of its kind in the country. There seemed to have been some question

PULLMAN MEN HOLD CONVENTION



Delegates and visitors to the convention of the Pullman Porters' Benefit Association of America, which convened at the Wabash Ave. Y. M. C. A. Tuesday morning.

The officers seated in the front row from the left to right are S. J. Freeman, director; J. M. Sexton, director; R. L. Williams, director; S. F. Smith, director; T. R. Webb, comptroller; Perry Parker, grand chairman; T. A. Crenshaw, vice-chairman; O. E. Robinson, grand secretary; J. W. Duncan, grand treasurer; T. M. Blanton, director. Grouped about them are delegates representing every state in the Union.

on the part of the public as to whether or not the association was really managed by men and for the benefit of those present, the grand chairman introduced the following in his pleasing manner: T. R. Webb, comptroller; J. W. Duncan, grand treasurer; O. E. Robinson, grand secretary; the board of directors, consisting of the following: T. M. Blanton, Philadelphia; T. A. Crenshaw, St. Louis; S. J. Freeman, New York City; Isaac F. Smith, Chicago; James Sexton, New Orleans, and R. L. Williams of Oakland, Cal. He also announced the presence of Mrs. Holloway, maid instructor of the New York Central, who had come to Chicago for the purpose of securing high class maids for service on the Twentieth Century Limited. The following porter instructors were introduced: S. Henderson of Detroit, W. P. Smith, St. Louis; Mr. Smith, Washington City. (Mr. Smith was one of the porters who was on the special train that carried President Harding on his last trip.) A. W. Jordan of St. Paul; Mr. Mitchell, New Orleans; V. D. Harris, Kansas City; L. A. Coffin, Los Angeles; Deacon Charles Jones, San Antonio; Charles E. A. Hunt, Cincinnati, and R. L. Williams, Oakland. Welfare workers were introduced as follows: Mr. H. A. Mebane, Buffalo; Mr. T. M. Blanton, Philadelphia; Mr. T. A. Crenshaw, St. Louis; Mr. Osborne, the delegate from St. Louis, was also included. Mr. T. H. Samuels, a member of the association and grand master of the Masonic fraternity of Illinois, was likewise included.

Remarks were then made by the grand treasurer, J. W. Duncan. A fitting tribute was paid to the memory of Treasurer Arthur Wells, whose unexpired time he is filling. The convention was favored with a vocal selection, "Lead, Kindly Light," rendered by Miss Emma Duncan, daughter of the grand treasurer.

Greetings from Local No. 11, A. Slaughter, chairman, and Local No. 26, G. W. Hubert, chairman, were read by the grand secretary. A communication was also read from the president of the Pullman Co., E. T. Carry. Mr. Carry has been ill.

Thomas H. Samuels, director of the Douglas National bank, extended an invitation to the association to inspect the bank. Mr. Samuels mentioned that with one exception all of the directors of this bank were ex-Pullman porters.

C. E. A. Hunt announced the presence of Mrs. Parker, wife of the grand chairman, and introduced her.

The election of officers will be announced in next week's issue. Delegates inspected the Defender plant Tuesday night. At the regular evening session the officials of the Pullman Co. addressed the meeting.