

building was decorated in colors of gold and blue Western University colors and school pennants, with college song and yells were much in evidence. Prominent speakers from Everett, Ellensburg, Seattle and Tacoma participated as well as the best musical talent from Seattle and Tacoma. Communications were read from many of the leading educators of both races, among them were letters from Dr. Booker T. Washington, Profs. Kelly Miller, J. Silas Harris, Ray Stannard Baker, each showing the vast importance of the education of the race.

The meetings were presided over by Mrs. J. D. Carter, Mr. Geo. Longress and Miss Ruth Freeman. On the closing night the Congress was made a permanent organization with the following officers: Rev. H. M. Collins, pres.; Mr. Geo. Longress vice pres.; Mrs. J. D. Carter, secretary; Mr. H. P. Lawhorn, treas.

May long live such organizations with the aims of this advancing the race in the great Northwest.

ORGANIZED LABOR VS. NEGRO LABOR IN MONTANA.

By Norma Purl-Robinson.

The question which has been uppermost in the minds of the thinking Negroes of Montana since the lynching of a Negro at Mondak in the spring of 1913, viz., "What outrage next?", was answered when Senator Willett introduced in the Montana State Legislature a bill making illegal the employment of Negro or Asiatic men in the same establishment with Caucasian women.

A committee, composed of some of the most progressive Negro citizens of Butte and Helena, waited upon a number of the representative law-makers and solicited their aid in opposing the bill. Although the bill was defeated by an overwhelming majority, the fact remains that the feeling that lead to its promulgation

is not dead. Had this bill become a law, fully one-half of the Negro men in the State of Montana would have been deprived of employment.

When approached upon the subject, Senator Willett stated that he was coerced by the demands of his unionist-constituents to take the action he had taken.

The large interests of various eastern corporations in the State, foremost among which is the Amalgamated Copper Company, and the consequent large number of men employed by these corporations has fostered the growth of unions in Montana.

As a concrete example of the effect of organized labor upon Negro labor, let us take the City of Helena, the State capitol.

In the spring of 1913, the "Placer" Hotel, said to be the finest equipped hostelry in the state, the majority of the stockholders of which are men whose names are prominent in the affairs of the "Amalgamated," was completed. At the very earnest solicitation of some of the most prominent Negro citizens, the management agreed to employ Negro waiters.

Pursuant to this promise, despite the protests and threats of the various Unions, when the doors of the hotel were opened, April 1, Negro maids, waiters, brought from Salt Lake City for that purpose, and porters were in service. Straightway, all of the Unions declared a strict boycott on the hotel. The boycott was so rigidly enforced that, after a relatively short period, the management was forced to replace the Negro waiters with white women.

The effects of this victory for the Unions were not confined to Helena alone. The "Rainbow" Hotel in Great Falls, erected at about the same time and by practically the same company, was awaiting the outcome of the experiment with Negro waiters in Helena. Had the experiment been successful, the Caucasian women in the Rainbow Hotel would have been replaced by Negro men.