

I N V I S I B L E E M P I R E

KNIGHTS and LADIES

of the

K U K L U X K L A N

OF

C A N A D A

WHEREAS, the CITIZENS of the INVISIBLE EMPIRE, resident at BELLEVILLE in the Province of ONTARIO, have PETITIONED, praying for themselves, their associates and their successors, that a KLAN of this ORDER be instituted in the CANTON of BELLEVILLE, in Hastings DISTRICT Number, in the REALM of Ont. under the name of Maple Leaf KLAN, Number 9; and they having given ASSURANCE of their FIDELITY to this ORDER; of their COMPETENCE to render the SERVICE required; and of their READINESS to take upon themselves, their associates and successors, the DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES thereof; and also of their SERIOUS DETERMINATION and PURPOSE to rightly use and not abuse the POWERS, PRIVILEGES, and PREROGATIVES conferred upon them, as such; and to be FAITHFUL and TRUE in all things committed to them;

KNOW YE THEREFORE, that WE, the IMPERIAL COUNCIL of the INVISIBLE EMPIRE, KNIGHTS and LADIES of the KU KLUX KLAN of CANADA, on this, the 10 day of January, 1929, under the authority possessed by us, do issue this CHARTER to the aforesaid PETITIONERS, their associates and successors, under the name and number aforesaid, from the day and date hereon, to be effective on the date of its acceptance by the said KLAN, as certified below;

AND WE DO AUTHORISE and EMPOWER the said CITIZENS to do and to perform all such acts and things as are prescribed by the RITUAL, LAWS, DEGREES, EDICTS, MANDATES and USAGES of this ORDER, and to enjoy all the RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES and PREROGATIVES authorised by the CONSTITUTION thereof;

PROVIDED ALWAYS, that the said, above named CITIZENS, their associates and successors, do accord and do cause to be accorded, due respect and strict obedience to the aforesaid IMPERIAL COUNCIL and to the aforesaid RITUAL, LAWS, DEGREES, EDICTS, MANDATES and USAGES and to the CONSTITUTION of this ORDER; otherwise this CHARTER shall be of no force or virtue, and may forthwith be cancelled, suspended or revoked and all the rights and privileges conferred thereby be annulled.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, we have caused to be affixed herein the GREAT IMPERIAL SEAL of the INVISIBLE EMPIRE, and do hereunto set our hands:

Done at the Eastern Regional Headquarters, in the City of Toronto, Province of Ontario Dominion of Canada, on the day and date above written.



George Marshall Director, Eastern Region.
Charles E. Bennett Director, Western Region.
A. England Imperial Caliph
J. L. ... Imperial Scribe.

This CERTIFIED that this CHARTER was read to and duly accepted and adopted by the above named KLAN, in regular assembly, with all stipulations and conditions herein stated or implied, on the day of 19 .

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Louis Marshall</u> | <u>Belleville</u> |
| <u>A. Bell</u> | <u>"</u> |
| <u>A. Thompson</u> | <u>"</u> |
| <u>F. Bell</u> | <u>"</u> |
| <u>S. Morgan</u> | <u>"</u> |
| <u>M. Thompson</u> | <u>"</u> |
| <u>M. Gerow</u> | <u>"</u> |

Excellent Minerva Exalted Cyclops.

Annie E. Mason
Styella Scribe.

Telegram

Oct 26, 1965

GONE AND WELL FORGOTTEN

The Klan's Canadian Flop

By DuBARRY CAMPAU
Telegram Staff Writer

IT TOOK ALMOST SIXTY years for the Ku Klux Klan to spread over the border into Canada after its birth, in bigotry and bitterness, 100 years ago this Christmas Eve.

Conceived in the Southern states as a means of re-subjugating the Negro after he gained his freedom in the Civil War, the Klan eventually also turned its attention to persecuting Jews, Catholics and non-Anglo-Saxon immigrants.

It was this aspect of the Klan's activities that made it possible for it to find sympathizers for its causes among prejudiced Canadians.

"Down with the Pope!" was already a well known rallying cry in parts of this country long before the first Klan organizers arrived.

Three men from the U.S. came to Toronto in 1924 to set up Klan headquarters here. They were Dr. J. H. Hawkins, Richard L. Cowan and C. L. Fowler, who gave themselves the top KKK titles, charged substantial initiation fees and dues to new members and proclaimed the organization's ideals for Canada.

These included not only anathema to Roman Catholics, Jews and Negroes but also abolition of the use of the French language in this country, doing away with separate schools and a halt to the further immigration of non-white, non-Protestants.

Despite a promising start, the Canadian leaders fell out among themselves, basically over a division of the loot from dues and the profits from the sale of white robes and hoods to members.

By 1925 there were three separate Canadian Klans, although none but their own members recognized much distinction between them.

They designated themselves as the Ku Klux Klan of Kanada, Kanadian Ku Klux Klan and the Ku Klux Klan of the British Empire.

This last branch had a resounding set of aims:

1. Loyalty to King and Empire;
2. Upholding of true Protestantism;
3. Stern opposition to political Rome;

4. Upholding of the womanhood of the nation and its protection against colored or foreign peoples;

5. The abolition of the Yellow Peril;

6. The abolition of anything tending to bring ridicule to the Protestant church.

Except for holding a mass meeting of 1,000 in London, Ont., in October, 1925, sending a threatening letter to the Mother Superior of an orphan asylum in Fort William and persuading the village idiot to dynamite a Roman Catholic Church in Barrie the next year, the Klan didn't get much work done around Ontario for several years.

In 1930 a fiery cross, the Klan's best-known symbol, was burned on Hamilton Mountain. In the same year 20 of the Klan's sheet-draped members took a white girl from the home of her Negro fiance's family, where she was a guest, and delivered her to the Salvation Army. She and her fiance were married a few days later.

The ineffectiveness of this last effort may have discouraged the Klansmen of Ontario, for nothing was heard of them again for 25 years. Then, last summer, it was rumored they were behind a burning cross and threatening anti-Negro slogans which appeared in Amherstburg.

One of the original Canadian organizers, Hawkins, found greener pastures in Saskatchewan, where he went in the late 1920s. The per capita wealth of the province was at that time the highest in Canada and a post-war flood of immigrants, mostly Roman Catholics, had been pouring in.

The original WASPs — White Anglo-Saxon Protestants — were uneasy about these foreigners and not unwilling to accept the Klan's allegations about their innate wickedness. Obscene and fabricated books purporting to describe the shocking conditions of convent life were both the titillating and required reading of Klan members, and expeditions were organized to seek out tiny graves near Catholic institutions.

By 1928, the Klan claimed 245 groups in Saskatchewan. Premier James Garfield Gardiner, with the encouragement of Prime Minister King, attacked them with common sense and statistics. His logic, however, had less to do with the disappearance of the Saskatchewan Klan within the next few years than financial scandals within the organiza-

tion, its efforts to exert political influence and, most of all, the Depression, during which people had far more to worry about than the church of their neighbor's choice.

In 100 years, the Klan, wherever it has existed, has never had a leader of repute. They have been uneducated, unsuccessful men whose working clothes never became them as well as their white sheets and hoods.

The Klan has adapted its ends to accommodate any prejudice it could exploit — although its means — bullying, terrorism, threats, castrations, beatings, burnings, bombings and lynching — have remained the same.

It was inevitable that the Klan would rise again in the U.S. when civil rights and desegregation became all-important issues in the 1950s. For ignorant and inept whites, the Klan could provide a refuge from which — again in safe anonymity — they could assail the Negro. Quite apart from the ingrained prejudices which beset the ill-informed, many of these men have a genuine and well-founded economic fear of having to compete with the Negroes on equal ground. This, despite their protestations of their belief in racial purity, is the real reason for their opposition to granting the Negro his full civil rights.

Economic security undoubtedly entered into the fears of the wheat farmers on the prairies. It is not difficult for

rabble-rousers to play upon this while ostensibly rallying people to a racial, religious or patriotic cause.

Opportunism is the guiding star of all hate-oriented organizations. Since the migration to England of Negroes from the West Indies and Africa, the Klan has made efforts to establish itself there — not, happily, with much success — and only this month three of its members there were imprisoned.

In Washington now, members of the Klan are appearing before a Congressional committee. Unable to hide behind their sheets and pillowcase hoods, they are hiding, instead, behind the fifth amendment, refusing to give testimony on the grounds that it might incriminate them.

The Imperial Wizard, Robert Shelton of Tuscaloosa, Ala., even to his followers must have lost some of his regality and magic as he sat in the committee room, shorn of his regalia, afraid to answer questions. Unlit by a fiery cross, dressed in a business suit, he looks just like what he has really been all along — a bigoted ex-tire salesman.

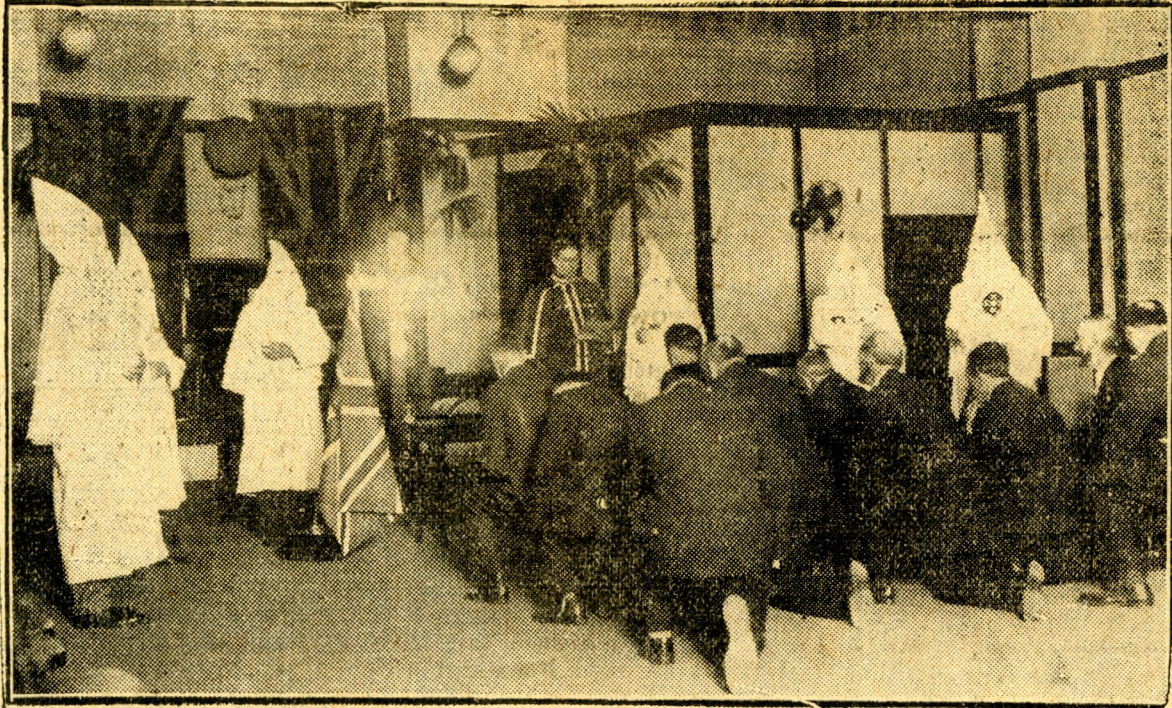
Even in Canada the Klan might have got a better hold if its leaders had been disciplined enough and stalwart enough to keep from bickering with each other and to keep their hands from the till.

However, like nations, organizations probably get the leaders they deserve.



CANADIAN KL ANSMAN (1925)
Too many fingers in the till doomed the venture.

1925



Above is an exclusive photograph of late and has now branches in Hamlic meetings and a parade in fu'l re- of the reception of a class of new wilton, Niagara Falls, St. Catharines,galia are planned for the near fu- members into the ranks of the Ku Klux Klan of the British Empire at London, Woodstock, Brantford, Sar-ture. The picture is the only one of Toronto. The Klan has made strides nia, Kitchener and other points. Pub-an initiation ever taken in Canada.

K. K. K.

(2nd 738)

Tweed. Ont

Tom. Meraw

You are not obeying
the law. Right your ways
and pay full measure
to all.

High Chief
Ex- Glasgow



P.S.

If not look for trouble
it is already near.

8-24

230 Colman St.

arrived June 27.

Belleville June 8th 39.

Mrs. Gerald Boyce
236 George St.
City.

Dear Mrs Boyce:-

Your letter with membership card received, many thanks. I am sending a few more Belleville pictures which probably you have. Time like ourselves make many changes. The Klan (K.K.K.) if I remember rightly was active from 1925 - 1936. perhaps a few years longer, and did a good work, when and where it was needed, strictly protestant and of good character. If you do not like to have these pictures, a match will do the deed. But do not connect them with the actions of the U.S.. The organizer was from Nova Scotia. Perhaps this is all I should write:-

"Death makes no conquest of this conqueror
For now he lives in fame, though not in life."

"This is from King Richard III"
Happened to open a book and thought this was very appropriate for the K.K.K.

Yours sincerely
(Thos) Everett Bell