

Action of Other Cities on the 'Exodus' Question

This article includes information about Exoduster relief efforts in both Topeka and Lawrence. In Topeka, the Kansas Freedmen's Aid Association had appealed to other counties, asking them to form local aid societies to assist refugees in their respective areas. Lawrence citizens held a meeting in Fraser Hall to discuss the Exodus; the attendees recognized the legitimacy of the Exodus and were willing to provide aid and support for the emigrants.

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FOR DISSENT AND ACTION.

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TOPEKA TALKS.

Topeka, Kas., April 24.—The following explains itself; "In view of the unexpected influx of colored refugees from the Southern States to Kansas, many of whom are in a destitute condition, the dictates of humanity, as well as the honor and good name of Kansas, demand that the destitute of this class of people should not be neglected, nor permitted to suffer for the necessary wants of life, we, the executive committee of the Freedmen's State Central organization, earnestly appeal to the citizens of the various counties, cities and towns throughout the State to at once organize freedman's aid societies, and call upon the citizens of their respective localities to contribute money, food and clothing for their relief, and also appoint auxiliary committees to ascertain and report to this central committee how many can be provided with employment or homes in their respective localities to the end that they may distribute throughout the State, and thus soon be placed in a condition to enable them to support themselves. The people are mostly farmers, are industrious and not only willing but anxious to labor, and require only temporary aid. Said committees should be ready to forward contributions on call of the central committee. All communications giving information herein requested should be addressed to J. C. Hibbard, secretary, Topeka, Kan. Let it never be said that Kansas closed her doors against or withholds aid from any law abiding human being who is willing to work for an honest living. John P. St. John, governor of State; L. U. Humphrey, lieutenant-governor of State; P. I. Bonebrake, auditor of State; John Francis, treasurer of State; James Smith, secretary of State; Allen B. Lemmon, State superintendent public instruction; Albert H. Horton, chief justice; D. M. Valentine, associate justice; J. D. Brewer, associate justice; Benj. F. Simpson, U. S. Marshal; C. J. Foster, judge of U. S. District Court; Willard Davis, Attorney General Geo. W. Reed, and R. M. Case, mayor of Topeka, W. Bosworth, Bradford Miller, J. K. Hudson, A. H. Washburn, Mrs. N. C. McFarland, Mrs. Chisman, Rev. T. W. Henderson, A. Prescott, C. H. Bower.

LAWRENCE SPEAKS OUT.

Lawrence, Kas., April 24.—Frazer hall was filled to overflowing to-night, on the occasion of a meeting in regard to the refugees. Eloquent addresses were made by Hon. T. D. Thacher, Hon. Sidney Clark, Judge L. D. Bailey, Dr. C. W. Lawrence, Rev. Mr. Frank and others. The undivided sentiment of the meeting was expressed in the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we regard the exodus of the colored people of the South as the legitimate result of the injustice practiced upon them, and since so many of these people reach Kansas in poverty and suffering we should be untrue to our history, or to the common dictates of humanity, if we did not extend to them a cordial welcome, and so far as we are able to do so, relieve their distress, and aid them to find homes on the free soil of Kansas.

Resolved, That as citizens of a State secured to freedom through suffering and blood, we protest against the injustice upon the colored people of the South, and will never cease to demand for them full recognition of their civil and political rights.

Resolved, That we appeal to the people of the United States to aid in relieving the sufferings of and obtaining homes for the destitute colored people who find it necessary to flee from the land of the oppressors and seek the protection of free institutions and equal law.

Resolved, That in view of the fact that a large number of these colored emigrants are arriving in Kansas, in a destitute condition, and need our aid and direction to enable them to become self-sustaining, we believe that a State organization for this purpose should be effected at the earliest possible moment, and this philanthropic work placed in the hands of an efficient and responsible State executive committee.

Resolved, That a committee of seven persons be appointed by the chair, to have local supervision of this matter in our city, and to confer and act with other local committees, in securing a central State organization to supervise and direct this whole business.

The following were appointed members of the local committee: Dr. Lawrence, Sidney Clark, T. D. Thacher, Allen Gregg, J. G. Sands, J. Keith and J. A. Daily.