

WINCHESTER'S NEGRO COUNCILMAN RESIGNS

For "The Peace and Welfare
of His City" Colerane
Gives Up Position

HISLE PUT IN PLACE

Matlack Elected Mayor and
Other Democratic Nomi-
nees are Chosen

(Special to The Herald.)

WINCHESTER, Ky., Dec. 5.—The first meeting of the new Council was held in the new City Hall here tonight, with Mayor Hughes presiding. All members of the board with the exception of Horace D. Colerane, the negro member being present. Colerane tendered his resignation which was accepted and on his request Mr. J. M. Hisle was elected in his place.

Mr. D. T. Matlack, nominated for Mayor in the Democratic primary last summer, was elected Mayor and all the other officers nominated in the Democratic primary were elected. Robert S. Scobee, son of R. P. Scobee, was added to the police force and N. H. Witherspoon, of the Winchester Bank, was elected City Treasurer.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. J. D. Gwaltney, at the suggestion of Dr. M. S. Browne.

Dr. Browne expressed pleasure at being at home again, and in connection quoted the Biblical quotation: "Entreat me not to leave thee * * * thy people shall be my people and thy God my God."

Dr. Browne said that, although he

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people seemed not to know him. "I see here representatives of Civic League, the W. C. T. U. and the Associated Charities, the noblest organization for charity in the world," he said.

What Dr. Browne Said.

"A year ago, the Associated Charities met here with the Council a half an hour earlier than the appointed time in order to secure an appropriation before I came. I was hurt that your thought I would not have voted for the aid of the poor and needy."

Dr. Browne said in part:

"It is my pleasure to congratulate the citizens of Winchester on the election of a Mayor and Board of Councilmen and city officers, a majority of whom are successful business men, free from the thralldom of the ward politician, who has so long disgraced and impoverished cities.

"Here and now I pledge myself to follow, to back and actively support any and every one who shows capacity, honesty of purpose and devotion to duty.

"Our slogan should be 'harmony, optimism, determination, efficiency and no waste' also we must have the 'backing' and moral support of the people.

"You, fellow citizens, must show your interest in clean city government by your presence at our meetings and by entering into the discussion of important subjects of legislation.

"Now and always we need, not carping criticisms, but encouragement: the active support of hands that falter not; hands that shall work in swift unison; hands that are inspired by a common purpose; by civic pride; civic self-respect; civic righteousness."

Offered Bribe of \$3,000.

In speaking of his experiences as Councilman, he said:

"A man once came to me and offered me \$3,000 as a bribe if I would advocate certain measures. No one would have dared do such a thing, who knew me. Councilmen talked the matter over, with a view of exposing the attempted briber, but my health was so bad I could not stand the strain of having the matter threshed out, as I knew I would have to bear the brunt of public opinion, for a time at least.

The matter of the negro Councilman then was brought up. Dr. Browne in his talk before the Council said that he "would not" be ashamed to sit with Horace Colerane." He said Colerane was honestly elected, and he was in favor of law and order.

He said Colerane was "one of the best and straightest men in Winchester" and referred to him as "an honest, upright God-fearing Christian man."

In conclusion he said:

"I might have been a negro myself and how could I have helped it if I had been " A petition was presented to me but I refused to sign, because I would have been signing a lie in declaring I would not serve with Colerane."

"I am trying to follow in the footsteps of the Master and I am in favor of doing right by the lowliest, as well as the wealthiest citizen.

"Because I am a friend of the down-trodden race, in its proper place, Horace Colerane gave his resignation to me, and asked me to present it to the Council."

Dr. Browne then read Colerane's resignation, which was in substance as follows:

Colerane's Resignation.

"I was duly elected on November 4 as a member of the City Council from the Fourth ward. I received my certificate of election from the clerks of the Court after the votes had been canvassed by Messrs. Brock and Pace. I qualified for the office of Councilman from the Fourth Ward.

"There has been great agitation concerning a negro sitting in the Council. We have a Democratic form of government. I had in mind to withdraw from the Council by voluntary resignation on January 1.

"However, to best promote the good, peace and prosperity of the city, without regard to color, creed or previous condition, I hereby tender my resignation to take effect at once.

Backs Hisle As Successor.

"Believing that the Fourth Ward ought to have some representative to have a voice in the city government, allow me to suggest the name of Mr. J. N. Hisle as my successor. I have faith in him as a perfect gentleman, and one who will look to the advancement of the city's welfare.

Mr. George moved that Colerane's

resignation be accepted; this was seconded by Mr. Nunan and was adopted unanimously. Dr. Browne placed Mr. Hisle's name in nomination and the nomination was seconded by R. M. Scobee.

Mr. Hisle was unanimously elected.

Mr. C. B. George submitted a resolution, thanking Mr. Browne for adjusting the matter, which was seconded by R. M. Scobee and unanimously carried. It was as follows:

"Be it ordained by the Board of Council of the City of Winchester that we as members of the said Board heartily commend the action of M. S. Browne in adjusting the matter of the colored Councilman and believe his action will meet with general approval."