

6—On January 16, a state-wide meeting of the city and county commissioners was held, the results of which were most gratifying and stimulating.

(a). At 11 A. M. the male commissioners from the city and counties assembled in Sharp Street M. E. Church. The County Commissioners made gratifying reports of the activities in the counties, the Chairman of the Colored Division gave a summary of the work accomplished by the Council. An inspiring address was delivered by former Governor Phillips Lee Goldsborough.

(b). At 3 P. M., the Women's Section, under Miss Ida R. Cummings, held its session. The reports submitted by the various departments and clubs affiliated with the Women's Section showed that this section of the Colored Council of Defense is engaged in every phase of war activities, including Red Cross work, knitting, food conservation, education, etc. The Women's Section was addressed by Mr. Osborne I. Yellott, representing the United States Government War Savings Committee.

(c). At night a mammoth patriotic meeting was held at Albaugh's Theatre and was addressed by His Excellency, Emerson C. Harrington, and Mr. Emmett J. Scott, Special Assistant of Mr. Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War, with special authority to speak for the United States Secretary of War.

7—Our Council has been recently called upon by the medical staff of the colored hospital at Camp Meade to construct in connection with the hospital a sun parlor for the health of colored soldiers recovering from pneumonia. The amount needed has been raised and the work will be completed under governmental supervision.

8—The Hon. Francis M. Jencks, President of the Maryland Branch of the National Defense League, called upon the Council to inaugurate for colored men of draft age a school of instruction in United States military war training. Our Council has launched this class at Richmond Market Armory, and one hundred and seventy-five or two hundred colored men were trained by United States army officers twice a week, so that these colored men of draft age were prepared to assume the duties of non-commissioned officers when mustered into camp.

9—Through the efforts of the Council and its allied organizations, two pianos have been furnished the Y. M. C. A. building at Camp Meade and the instruments for a regimental brass band have been provided. Thousands of comfort kits, sweaters, cigars, tobacco, wristlets and socks have been furnished the soldiers by the Council.

10—Aside from the above specific engagements of the Council the work of organizing the counties by districts, the arrangements for meetings in the city and counties, the supplying of speakers through the Speakers' Bureau, the many requests that have come for information and help of various kinds from colored soldiers for their dependencies, have involved an amount of labor and correspondence beyond the expectation of the executive officers of our Council. The work has proven arduous and exacting beyond our thought. It has imposed upon the executive officers of the Council duties and responsibilities that have been a severe tax on their patriotism. No officer of the Council receives any compensation. The vast amount of work done, as has been outlined, is inspired by love for country, and the Council rejoices in the privilege to serve.