

**REPORT OF THE COLORED DIVISION OF THE MARYLAND
COUNCIL OF DEFENSE.**

DR. ERNEST LYON.

Doctor Ernest Lyon is one of the leading ministers in the city of Baltimore. He is pastor of John Wesley, an old historic and influential church. His early life was spent in New Orleans University. He graduated in '88, classical department, New Orleans University; later A. M. by post-graduate work; took Theology, special course, Union Theological Seminary, N. Y.; received the degree of D. D. from Wiley University, Texas; L.L. D. from Liberia College, Monrovia, Liberia. Entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church from the Louisiana Annual Conference. After serving in that conference as pastor for a period of years, as Sunday School agent of the conference, and as special agent for the Freedmen's Aid Society, he was transferred to the pastorate of St. Mark's M. E. Church, New York City, then located on Forty-eighth street. During his administration the church now on Fifty-third street was secured. Having completed the itinerary limit, he was transferred to John Wesley M. E. Church, Baltimore, Md. While in Baltimore, he served as Professor of Biblical Theology in Morgan College, and founded the Maryland Industrial and Agricultural Institute for the education of colored youths, at Laurel, Md. President Roosevelt appointed him Minister Resident and Consul General of the United States at Monrovia, Liberia, to succeed Dr. Crossland, who resigned. He remained at this post nearly eight years; during his administration the American government was induced to send a commission to inquire into Liberian conditions, which opened up a new era for Liberia. At the end of his second term he resigned the post. His services for his own government were so satisfactory to the Liberians that he was induced to accept, from the President of Liberia, the appointment to represent the Republic of Liberia in the United States as its Consul General, which post he now fills. Doctor Lyon is also financial agent for the Caroline Donovan Industrial and Agricultural School and became the custodian, five years ago, of \$65,000 accrued balance of the treasury of the American Colonization Society. While Minister to Liberia he traveled extensively in Africa, especially into the interior of Liberia, and also in England and Europe. He is a member of the National Educational Association, President of the Baltimore M. E. Preachers' Meeting, a member of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, of the West African Society, London, England, a Knight of the Order of African Redemption. He is a thirty-third degree Mason, editor of the Commonwealth, a weekly journal; chairman of the Maryland Council of Defense, colored division, a body commissioned by the Governor of the State to aid in the defense of the nation. He is director of the colored branch United States Thrift and War Savings, and one of the special orators recently appointed by the War Department to serve the nation by enlightening public opinion as to the war aims of the government. Dr. Lyon enjoys the unique distinction of having been sent to his post, while Minister to Liberia, on a war vessel. He was the guest of Rear Admiral Shadwick and dined with him on his flag ship Brooklyn, and at one time entertained and looked after the physical comfort of the men of the cruisers Birmingham, Solem and Chester. Dr. Lyon is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored Race and a member of the Negro National Business League.