

# Headquarters of General Agent

JAY CAM FREMONT.

RED OAK, IOWA, June 10, 1891.

Your obedient servant, Jay Cam Fremont, is instructed by the president and officers of the California Colored Colonization Society to issue this call for the meeting of leading and representative colored men from all parts of the United States, and also to extend an invitation to the following nations and governments: Liberia, Africa, Congo Free States, Orange Free States, Cape Colony, Madagascar, Hayti Republic, Belgium, Hawaiian Islands, Brazil, Mexico and Canada. I forwarded said invitations to the leading and representative colored men of the above-mentioned governments on the 10th day of May last, to meet in a National Colored Congress in Rynearson's opera-house in Red Oak, in the State of Iowa, on August 13, 14 and 15, 1891, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m. Therefore I, Jay Cam Fremont, General Agent, in complying with the above instructions, set the 10th day of June for issuing the following call for the said National Colored Congress to meet at place stated and on dates named:

## A NATIONAL CALL.

On account of what is believed by many of our most influential members to be an emergency of vast and vital importance to the welfare and usefulness and influence of our race, and in accordance with the power given me by the Association, I do hereby issue a national call for a National Colored Congress, of leading and representative colored men of the United States of North America, also including the foreign governments mentioned, to be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday, August 13, 14 and 15, 1891, in Red Oak, Iowa. It has been decided that twenty-one leading members from each of the forty-four States and twenty-one from the District of Columbia, making 953 representatives in all. Four committeemen are to be appointed from each State. The foreign countries will be represented by twenty to thirty members; possibly the whole number of sixty will be present. It is the desire of the Association to have three members from every educational institution among the colored people, two from every colored order and society, one from each colored church and school, principal, teachers, ministers, doctors, lawyers and editors. Leading

spirits of all business professions are requested to attend, so that this great body will rightly represent 9,000,000 to 11,000,000, or the whole colored race in this country.

Reduced rates will be made on all railroads leading to Red Oak, and hotel accommodations will be made for the comfort of the people attending this Congress. The little city of Red Oak has first-class railroad facilities. Trains come and go at all hours of the day and night. It is a city of good schools and many churches, full of spirited citizens, with a score of live business men second to none in great enterprises, and three well-edited newspapers. No better place could have been selected for your coming together.

For the sole purpose of finding the key to the solution of the race problem, in my present position, I could scarcely be justified were I to omit raising a warning voice against the approaching crisis that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my race and nation. The degrading condition and burdens placed upon the masses of my race is uncalled for and is an outrage to our boasted Christian civilization. I am unwilling to think prejudice is the sole cause of these ill-treatments. I call your honorables attention to some of the measures that will be presented for your deliberation:

1st. Why is it that many crimes perpetrated against my race go unpunished simply because of the color of his skin? Is he not a citizen? Yes. Then why not protect him as all other citizens are?

2d. Why is there no provision made for the 1,000,000 colored children's education in the sixteen Southern States? Very little interest is taken in the 935,000 attending the three-months' school. Why is it that the colored people in this country own and pays taxes on \$225,000,000 worth of property, and few of them enjoy the benefits of more than 40 per cent of their own labor?

Oh, sons of Ethiopia, arise, and form a band of more perfect union. Work together and help one another. We can do it, if we will. Therefore we ought to arrive at a correct knowledge of the educational, moral and financial condition of the whole race, and demand a just recognition equally before the law in common with other citizens. This is the highest aims of all just governments—which is necessary for the restraint of disorderly persons and for the securing of justice, which is the manifestation of organized social power—its primary and necessary functions are to maintain the peace and to execute justice between different members of society. Where there is no transgression, there is no necessity for law. Every citizen has a natural right to defend his life and property from injury. This being according to the fundamental principles of the national constitution, therefore we demand the enforcement by the powers that be.

I repeat again, the prime object of this Congress is to better the condi-

tion of the race—mentally, morally and financially,—to suppress personal, sectional and national prejudices, all hurtful rivalry and selfish ambition, and return to the noble principles founded on the doctrine of equal rights and equal chances to all and special privileges to none; to educate, to assist the weak with the strength of the strong, which will be the means of encouraging honest, intelligent, industrious men, women and children to cope successfully with all other classes.

I am not unmindful of the appealing cries of our brothers over the mighty deep—along the western shores of Africa. The Liberrain Republic needs our assistance and best efforts for the next five years to come. She needs our purse, brains and presence. The orphans and widows need our attention. Less than 20 per cent of them get their just dues from the government. On pensions, bounties and back pay the colored ex-soldiers are making the same complaint. It is estimated that there is \$40,000,000 in the United States treasury that belongs to these claimants. But little allowance is made on the part of the government. The expectations are foolishly out of proportion is the whole trouble in these cases. Our colored soldiers in the regular army are not treated as they ought to be, is the reason that there is little or no interest taken in the enlistment business among our people. Colored captains, majors, colonels and generals are not even on paper. For twenty-six years they have served their government faithfully. Promotion is forgotten. This is wrong and unjust. You are to determine how to settle the Negro question or the race problem. The Almighty is calling you to a great mission. By obeying and working with might and main, the victory will be yours, and God Almighty's blessing go with you forever.

In this National Colored Congress we want every colored society, order, church, school and profession represented. Make these three days of a jubilee and rejoicing, because we meet to take one more step in the right direction. We want two colored bands to be on hand.

All information in regard to reduced rates and hotel accommodations (enclose stamps for answers) will receive strict and prompt replies. All leading men and friends of this noble cause that cannot come send some trustworthy person or persons in their place. All monies sent to further this great cause will be spent in its best interest. It is desirable that each member of Congress should wear a titled badge during the sessions. They can be furnished by the General Agent's headquarters for 50 cents each at Red Oak, Iowa. Let every pastor of every colored church in America announce this call from their pulpits; let every school teacher do so also; let every officer of every colored society also announce; let every college student read; let every colored editor of the 290 newspapers lay before their tens of thousands of readers the call, the time, place and date of meeting; let the thousands of dailies, weeklies and monthlies print the call and present to their millions of readers, stating the fact that the new-made

citizens are going to make the year of 1891 one long to be remembered and go down on the great pages of history yet to come beside those with the years of 1821, 1861, 1863, 1875, which will form the darkest as well as the brightest pages to stand side by side as long as time shall last.

In closing the call, I will state there will be other programs out from time to time. The two evenings will be given up for entertainments. In yielding to a willing obedience in behalf of my race and country, sincerely believing it to be an act of justice warranted by our present conditions, therefore necessitating the calling together our ablest men for the purpose aforesaid, in accordance with the instructions of the President and officers of the California Colonization Society, I issue said call.

Done at the City of Red Oak, Iowa, U. S., N. A., the 10th day of June, 1891, by the General Agent.

P. O. address,

JAY CAM FREMONT,

RED OAK,

Lock Box 227.

IOWA.

**Executive Committee—**

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[Daily and weekly papers please publish.]