



Report of Proceedings for the Annulment of Act 111 of 1890
by the Citizens' Committee. New Orleans, Louisiana, 1891.

REPORT
—OF—
PROCEEDINGS
—OF THE—
CITIZENS' COMMITTEE
For The Annulment of Act No. 111 Commonly Known
AS THE
Separate Car Law.

On the night of the 1st. of Sept., 1891, a few citizens representing various interests were invited to meet at THE CRUSADER office to discuss the abominable separate car statute, known as act No. 111 of 1890, and if possible to take some definite action towards offering legal resistance to its operation. An organization was effected under the title of the Citizens Committee, and on the 5th of the same month the following appeal was issued:

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AN APPEAL.

TO THE PUBLIC:

Acting upon the suggestion of THE CRUSADER, we, the undersigned citizens, come forward and tender our services in an earnest effort to vindicate the cause of equal rights and American manhood.

If honored with the confidence of the people, we pledge our best exertions to pursue the object of this mission to its legitimate end.

No further time should be lost. We should make a definite effort to resist legally the operation of the separate car law, enacted by the Louisiana Legislature at its last session.

This obnoxious measure is the concern of all our citizens who are opposed to caste legislation and its consequent injustices and crimes, and it should not be a question as to whether one or two individuals can or ought to bear the expenses of the contest.

We, therefore, appeal to the citizens of New Orleans, of Louisiana and of the whole Union to give us their moral sanction and financial aid in our endeavors to have that oppressive law annulled by the courts.

We call for such a demonstration as will plainly show the temper of the people against that infamous contrivance which has been appropriately characterized as the "Jim Crow Car."

Our countrymen, without regard to age, color or condition, may, through their offering, as medium of communication, express their indignation as well as their desire to test in the courts the constitutionality of this law.

It is saying enough that we invite a popular subscription whereby the mite of the poor may be equal in merit to the liberality of the rich; for we want this fund to constitute not only an indispensable agency to defray judicial expenses, but also a proof of public sentiment and determination.

It has been said that the Supreme Court of the United States has already passed upon the rights of States to enact such unjust laws.

We ask the people not to be discouraged by such reports; they have been invented and put in circulation by the enemy to stop the wheels of progress. Our friends hold very different views, and we are justified in asserting that the chances of success are at least on a par with the dangers of defeat. And considering that "the decisions of courts are," to a great extent, "the opinions of men" we do not know but what this time fairness may speak in our behalf.

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At all events, it is the imperative duty of oppressed citizens to seek redress before the judicial tribunals of the country. In our case we find this the only means left us; we must have recourse to it, or sink forever into a state of hopeless inferiority.

The necessity for the annulment of this separate car law becomes still more apparent when we consider the many serious annoyances and wrongs which have ensued by the existence of the supreme evil.

It is unnecessary to recapitulate. Occurrences are fresh in the minds of all. Every manner of outrage, up to murder, without redress, has followed the operation of the obnoxious law.

With such revelations we cannot but be apprehensive of worse results in the future. We feel that unless promptly checked by the strong power of the courts, the effects of that unconstitutional and malicious measure will be to encourage open persecution, and increase, to a frightful degree, opportunities for crimes and other hardships.

We here assert nothing but what is true, or what may be logically inferred from absolute experience.

Persons authorized to solicit subscriptions will be provided with blank lists upon which will appear the names of the Committee. All such blanks must be returned as directed.

Subscriptions may also be remitted directly to THE CRUSADER office for the Committee.

The names of subscribers shall be published unless otherwise desired.

The Committee shall from time to time render an account of its stewardship to the people.

Journals friendly to the cause, throughout the country, are requested to copy, and also to act as agents of the Committee to solicit and receive subscriptions.

The last request is also extended to ministers, leading men and heads of associations everywhere.

ARTHUR ESTEVES, PRESIDENT.

C. C. ANTOINE, VICE-PRESIDENT.

FIRMIN CHRISTOPHEE, SECRETARY.

G. G. JOHNSON, ASS'T. SECRETARY.

PAUL BONSEIGNEUR, TREASURER.

LAURENT AUGUSTE, R. B. BAQUIE,

R. L. DESDUNES, A. J. GIURANOVICH,

ALCEE LABAT, E. A. WILLIAMS,

PIERRE CHEVALIER, L. A. MARTINET,

N. E. MANSION, L. J. JOUBERT,

A. B. KENNEDY, M. J. PIRON,

EUGENE LUSCY,

New Orleans, La., Sept. 5, 1891.

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