

GOVERNOR ALLEN ON THE KU KLUX KLAN

KANSAS is engaged in trying out the Ku Klux Klan through an action brought in the State Supreme Court to restrain its secret activities. Naturally, Governor Henry J. Allen is much interested in the question. In an interview in New York recently Governor Allen gave such a vivid description of the Klan as he sees it that we quote at some length from it in the New York "Herald:"

In my State the thing has gone beyond a laughing matter. Every day my mail is choked with letters from people who have received threats—pitiful letters from poor people so frightened they know not what to do. Every one who has a private grudge is using the Klan to scare his enemy. Bigotry and religious intolerance are rife. Pulpits where once was preached the brotherhood of man now thunder denunciations against each other, and neighbors who in years gone by lived in peace and harmony now hate each other with a hatred which passes understanding. And they say that all this is the aftermath of a feeling engendered by the war. There is no doubt that many excellent men have joined the Klan from misdirected zeal. In New Orleans its activity is directed against the Jewish element. In other parts of the South the object is the Negro. In Kansas it is the Catholic. I myself have been branded by the Klan as a Catholic and all of my family, Catholic. They must have been somewhat surprised when they discovered that I am a Methodist, a thirty-second degree Mason, and a lot of other things which a Catholic cannot be.

What is proposed in Kansas is to have the Supreme Court uphold the State Charter Board in denying the Klan a charter, and thereby make it illegal for the Klan to carry on its organizational work. Other States take notice!