

# 200 Klansmen Parade, Hold Meeting Here

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Rumored Gathering of K. K. K. Delegations Finds Large Audience Awaiting Appearance of Robed Visitors. Parade Through Business District Precedes Meeting.

## BURNING OF CROSS IS OMITTED WHEN COUNCIL ACTS TO PREVENT IT

Protest, However, is Embodied in Closing Remarks of Speaker. Physical Encounters Cause Momentary Confusion After Robed Klansmen Leave Meeting Ground.

Rumors that Ku Klux Klan delegations, in large numbers, were scheduled to parade the streets of Hastings Saturday evening, proved authentic when a white-robed procession of more than two hundred Klansmen formed on the outskirts of the city and marched through the business district, preceded by two of their members on horseback.

Informed, in some manner, of the scheduled ceremony, hundreds of people lined the main business thoroughfare and witnessed the parade.

### Parade Is Orderly.

There were no demonstrations as the robed Klansmen, with arms folded, marched between the tightly massed lines of spectators.

The Klan meeting, which followed the parade, was held on the vacant ground east of Highway No. 3, near the King Midas mill. Mounted members of the secret order patrolled the outer edge of the field and prevented the immense audience that had assembled in the vicinity, from gathering too closely about the circle of white-clad figures in the center of which a huge cross had been erected.

Special policemen, appointed by Mayor Sieben, acted as traffic officers in directing the steady stream of automobiles that poured onto the grounds from all directions.

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### Mayor, Policeman Ejected.

Before the meeting, Mayor Sieben and a special policeman were escorted from the grounds by Klansmen, following a brief controversy over the burning of the cross. The mayor informed the Klan spokesman that the fire department, which had been summoned to the scene, was under orders to extinguish the burning emblem and that the orders would be complied with.

The Klansmen made no attempt to burn the cross after receiving Mayor Sieben's ultimatum but a remonstrance was registered by Rev. W. E. Thompson, pastor of the Methodist church here and Klan speaker of the evening, when he said in closing: "I want to warn you city officials of Hastings and the fire department as well that if this cross is not permitted to burn here tonight, then no bonfire or blaze of any kind shall be tolerated within the limits of the city of Hastings if I can prevent it."

The Klansmen left the grounds in orderly procession after the meeting, completing their "blazing cross" ceremonial at the Cook farm south of the city.

### Fists Fly Unexpectedly.

An unfortunate brawl, in which two men were treated rather roughly and several others were more or less bruised and cut, developed between supposed Klan sympathizers and anti-Klansmen after the robed delegations had left the vicinity of the meeting place. Medical attention was required to repair the damages of the physical encounters but none of the injuries sustained is thought to have been serious. No charges were filed against any of the participants in the regrettable affair after a discussion, which should properly have preceded the physical melee, settled the disturbance amicably at the city hall.