Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. and the Executive Committee of the Parents' Protective Association it was agreed that these two organizations should fight the matter together.

At the request of the Dayton Branch for a representative from the National Office to aid in this fight the Association's Director of Branches was sent to Dayton. Mr. Bagnall addressed crowded and enthusiastic meetings and rendered valuable assistance to the joint committee.

## Coffeyville, Kansas

Through Attorneys Elisha Scott and R. M. Vandyne the Coffeyville, Kansas, Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. won an important legal victory involving the question of discrimination against colored pupils in the high schools of that state.

For some years a number of cities in the State of Kansas had discriminated against colored pupils in high schools. Under the Kansas statute it is lawful for the Board of Education to organize and maintain separate schools for the education of white and colored children, including the high schools in Kansas City; but the statute provides that no discrimination on account of color shall be made in any other high school.

According to the syllabus of the court in this case, brought on behalf of Celia Thurman-Watts against the Board of Education of the City of Coffeyville and A. I. Decker, Superintendent of the Public Schools of the City of Coffeyville, action was brought to compel the Board of Education to admit to the Roosevelt Junior High School of that city a daughter of the plaintiff who had completed the eighth grade and was ready to enter the high school. The controversy turned largely on the question whether or not the ninth grade is a part of the high school. The court ruled that in barring the colored girl the Board of Education and the Superintendent had violated the law.

The significance and importance of the decision won in this case are that it extends the prevailing rule in Kansas against discrimination in high schools to junior high schools as well.

This case was financed entirely by the Coffeyville Branch of the N. A. A. C. P., though the decision affects the entire state. The National Office contributed \$200 to aid the Branch in its fight.

Immediately after the publication of the opinion of the court many towns of Kansas threw open to colored pupils doors which had hitherto been closed to them. For example: There was a condition in Wichita, Kansas, where colored pupils were not allowed to go into the swimming pools and where some other advantages were denied them. On the strength of this decision the Board of Education of Wichita wiped out all discrimination.

## Las Cruces, New Mexico

When the 1924-25 term of school opened in Las Cruces, New Mexico, several of the colored high school pupils went to the building as usual for several days but were not assigned. In the meantime several of the white citizens called to see some of the parents of these children saying that colored children would not be allowed to attend the public schools; that if they sent their children it would cause serious trouble.

The colored citizens called a mass meeting of all the colored people of Dona Ana County. The school question was discussed at length and it was decided to raise money to employ counsel to represent the colored citizens before the courts. The committee appointed to take the initiative in this matter consisted of Frank Boyer, A. J. Brooks, C. A. Hibbler, Mrs. Blaney Moultrie and V. J. Strait. At a second meeting held September 9 a permanent organization was perfected, and on September 16 a committee was appointed to confer with the School Board and invite them to meet with the colored committee. The School Board sent as its representatives Dean Goddard, chairman of the High School Board, and Professor Cobb, principal of the City High School.

Dean Goddard stated that it seemed to be the sentiment that separation was wanted, whereupon the Colored Citizens Committee voted unanimously that the School Board be informed not to prepare any separate quarters for colored pupils.

To a subsequent meeting of the Colored Citizens Committee Dean Goddard and Professor Cobb brought a statement of the High School Board; which read: "The principal is instructed to provide separate quarters and a teacher for colored students." On being questioned Dean Goddard stated that the action of the Board meant "segregation" plain and simple. Professor Cobb, who was also present at this meeting, added that a room had been secured, that a teacher would be secured, and school (for colored pupils) would open on the following Monday; that only one teacher would be employed; that the school would not be equal to the white school