

Commissioner Forrest made his point that race relations might be according to the Bible and the Constitution but they didn't do it that way in Bartlesville.

New Board Chairman's Views.

E. R. Christopher, chairman of the new board, who is postmaster, deprecated any significance being attached to his acceptance of the appointment. It was just a civic appointment that he had accepted as a public service, like serving on a committee of the Chamber of Commerce. The library had become run down and he thought it was a chance to build it up. Miss Brown was a school teacher before she became a librarian, and he understood that she had never had library training, except the experience she had had in her more than 30 years of service. Until this thing came up he had never read the Nation. Later he had looked at one issue. Personally, he had no objection to it, but there was a question whether there was enough interest in it to justify spending the taxpayers' money for it. However, the board had decided to renew the subscription and keep it at the librarian's desk to check the demand for it. City Manager Jones was the man to make any statement about it.

City Manager Jones had nothing to say. It was not an administration matter. Members of the library board were the ones to do the talking. All he had had to do with it was that the library board had asked him to advise Miss Brown that she had been discharged.

Mrs. Warren, chairman of the citizens' committee, was slightly ill at ease because she, just a housewife, had been practically pressed into the position. She would like to have it understood, though, that Miss Brown was not dismissed for racial or subversive reasons. It was entirely on account of her insubordination in refusing to answer the commissioners' questions unless they were put in writing. She was not asked if she had refused to remove those magazines from the shelves. If she had been, she would have given the same answer. The magazines had not been removed by the new librarian. They had merely been placed under her desk. You could get them if you wanted them. After all, the question was whether the new ordinance was legal, and she would be much obliged if her name was left out of it.

Mrs. Warren's committee has as its secretary Henrietta B. Wills. Other members of the committee are Mrs. Bessie Smysor, Mrs. J. H. Ribble, Mrs. M. J. Kirwan, Mrs. Frank Sissons and W. D. McGinley. Mrs. Warren and her committee claim to represent "a large group," not more specifically defined. The defense committee claims to have the backing of about 200 persons in its fight and in the litigation that has been started.

Members of the defense group say the fight has been fomented in part by some members of the American Legion, Pro-American, which is a Republican women's club, Daughters of the American Revolution and United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Librarian Had No Contract.

Miss Brown had no contract and was not under civil service. Her salary latterly had been \$3000 a year. When she was discharged on July 16 her pay was continued to the first of August.

Officials and others who were concerned to have the Nation and the New Republic barred make much of the claim that these publications have not actually been thrown out but only removed from the open shelves where anybody could pick them up and read them. The subscriptions have been continued, but they are in the discreet hands of the librarian and available to mature patrons. The mature patrons, however, complain that they are made uncomfortable by the scrutiny to which they are subjected when they ask for those publications. Or maybe they only imagine it. It may be that the fear of being put down as Communists makes them sensitive.

The case, brought in the names of Miss Brown and Mrs. Arlene Essary against the mayor, city commissioners, city manager and members of the new library board, asserts that the new ordinance is null and void, that the old board is still fully qualified and acting and that Ruth W. Brown is the duly appointed librarian and entitled to custody of the books and records. The case will be heard Nov. 9 on an order to show cause by an outside judge.

Miss Brown, sedate and demure, deprived of her livelihood at the age of 59, sits these autumn days in her cottage near the library and waits.