

COLORED PEOPLE TO URGE PURCHASE OF NEW SCHOOL

To Appear With Opponents at Meeting of Commis- sioners Tonight.

What might result in an exciting meeting of the commissioners will be held tonight, when negro voters and property owners will appear before the board to urge and protest against the purchase of the Bristol normal institute building for the use of the colored school children of the city. Two factions of the colored people, each with adherents among white people, have been to see the Board of Mayor and Commissioners, each with its argument in favor or against the purchase. The Negro Men's Business League of the city attempted last Friday night to effect an agreement between the two parties, in order it is said to have the faction in favor of the purchase unopposed, but the anti-purchase colored people did not appear at the meeting. The board at its last meeting stated that the hearing for both sides would be held tonight.

The Bristol normal building was built in 1900 by the Presbyterian church of the North for the colored children of the city. It cost, including the grounds and \$1,000 donated by Maj. A. D. Reynolds, of Bristol, \$16,000. It is now offered to the city for \$8,000, and the purchase price to be paid on the city's own terms. A residence in which the principal of the school lived is not included in the offer.

The faction in favor of the purchase is led by R. E. Clay, president of the Negro Men's Business League, and is said to have the support of a number of prominent citizens and property owners among the white people. R. E. Clay said yesterday that of the 77 colored voters in the city, 56 are in favor of the purchase and will in a large measure be represented at the meeting tonight. They have suggested that the city purchase the building, which is on McDowell street, and also retain the present wooden building for colored school children on Woodlawn avenue.

The commissioners have expressed no views on the matter, but it is believed that they will be largely influenced in their decision by the meeting tonight.