

EDITORIALS

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Race prejudice must go. The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man must prevail. These are the only principles which will stand the acid test of good citizenship in time of peace, war and death.

Omaha, Nebraska, Saturday, July 6, 1935

NEW DAY DAWNS FOR LIBERIA

ONCE again the United States has accorded diplomatic recognition to Liberia and the two countries have resumed the cordial relations that existed prior to 1930. Furthermore, Washington is to give its moral support to President Barclay's plan to reform labor and health evils, and will be seen in the familiar role of best friends and protector.

To colored Americans who for five years have viewed Liberia's desperate plight with grave concern, announcement of reapproachment is a most cheering piece of news in more ways than one. But what occasions widespread elation is the knowledge that, thanks to the sympathetic interest of Uncle Sam, the Republic of Liberia will continue to be a free and sovereign state. For Liberia to have been deprived of its political independence and territorial integrity would have been a sad blow to Negroes everywhere.

President Edwin Barclay, who in the past, has borne the blunt of the none too favorable reactions growing out of the Liberian crisis, emerges today as the little republic's strong man. He has overcome opposition both from within and without. Despite warning from the League of Nations that unless Liberia accepted the plan formulated at Geneva the black nation in all likelihood would lose its sovereignty and autonomy President Barclay flatly turned it down. He contended powers delegated to the Chief Adviser were too dictatorial, and that as Chief Executive of the nation he intended to be the court of last resort and no outsider.

In May, 1934, Great Britain, reaching the conclusion that Liberia did not intend to accept the League plan, appealed to the American Government to take the initiative in giving Liberia a suitable reconstruction program. Secretary Hull evinced admirable judgment in sending to Liberia his assistant, Harry A. McBride, who had served as financial adviser to the Liberian Government with distinction, and who enjoys the confidence of the Liberian people from the President down. The adjustment conferences between President Barclay and Mr. McBride formed the foundation for subsequent developments and final recognition. The Department of State next sent to Monrovia as Charge d' Affairs, Frederick P. Hibbard who had been keeping in daily touch with the Liberian situation. His intelligent and conciliatory approach helped to smooth the way in the Liberian capital.

Aside from the health and labor reforms urged upon Liberia, its finances had become badly tangled arising from its financial default since 1932 of payments to the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, which has lease of a million acres in Liberia for the growing of rubber. The American concern had lent Liberia \$5,000,000. In recent months President Barclay and Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., made new agreements. Firestone is to receive from the government five instead of seven per cent interest and payments are to be resumed. It was directly after the Liberian Legislature had ratified these agreements that Washington accorded Monrovia recognition.

President Barclay's plan to reform is said to embrace many of the important points included in the League's plan. However, the chief adviser will be responsible to him instead of to the League or anyone else as originally provided. Backed by the American government, and with diplomatic relations renewed, Liberia's future appears particularly bright.

Negro Subway Conductors

NEGROES as conductors on the subway! A long-cherished hope became an actuality in New York City at midnight Sunday when members of the race were put to work on the city-owned Eighth avenue subway. They received notice too late to get fitted for uniforms, but proudly donned the regulation cap. Seven are said to have been assigned to cars by Monday afternoon with prospects of the number being swelled to thirteen before the end of the week.

The advent of the Negro subway conductor is epoch-making in New York City. Here-to-fore only white men have been considered eligible for employment as conductors and motormen on local surface, subway and "L" lines. Even the bus carriers find some excuse for not employing Negroes, although thousands of the group patronize them daily.

Were the new Eighth Avenue Subway owned or controlled by private interests it is doubtful whether the Negro would enjoy the economic recognition he now receives. It has been due to an unwavering, intelligent campaign waged by Harlem leaders that has motivated municipal authorities to throw down

the barriers which so long have made impossible the employment of colored men as conductors and motormen. For months Alderman Conrad Johnson and other interested citizens appealed to members of the Transit Board and various city officials for a square deal on behalf of all who took the civil service examinations, pointing out that in the case of Negro applicants gross discrimination sometimes had been practiced.

Announcement was recently made that out of 130 to pass the Civil Service test for conductors thirteen were Negroes.

Joe Louis and the Title

WHEN announcement was made over the radio that James J. Braddock had defeated Max Baer for the heavy-weight championship of the world a mighty cheer went up in Harlem where the decision was a popular one. The fact that the former Jersey longshoreman was the under-dog in the contest was one reason Harlemites were pulling for him to win. Maybe they were also influenced by Baer's selection of Primo Carnera as probable victor over Joe Louis. But this pro-Braddock sentiment may be primarily attributable to the feeling existing at the time that the newly-crowned king of the fistic arena would willingly accept a challenge from the sensational Detroit brawler.

In picturing a meeting in the ring between Braddock and Louis in the very near future enthusiastic Harlemites were making a wish the father of thought. They did not reason like cold-blooded, un-sentimental dopesters of pugilism who make it their business to be in the know. These authorities will unhesitatingly state that there is not the slightest chance of a Braddock-Louis fight in 1935, and much will depend on future developments as to whether the two engage in fistic combat in 1936.

If such a match does not come to pass it may be a question of how much the drawing of the color line will play. At present, however, it can be said that other factors are chiefly responsible for Braddock's failure to give Louis immediate consideration. Had Baer won prospects of Louis getting a chance at the championship title possibly in 1935 would have been bright, for Max undoubtedly would have taken on the winner of the Louis-Carnera bout. Baer and his manager never have been as securely tied up in contracts with the Madison Square Garden as other pugilists, and were in a position to accept terms from rival promoters if inducements were sufficiently alluring.

When Braddock, dead broke and endeavoring to make a come-back, signed to fight Baer under the auspices of Madison Square Garden, it is a certainty he made commitments which he is legally and morally bound to keep. It is not surprising that he has turned down an offer of \$200,000 to fight Schmeling in Germany. If there is to be a Braddock-Schmeling set to it will be put on by the Madison Square Garden management. It made the return of good times and the capture of a world's championship title possible for Braddock and quite naturally expects to cash in on its investment.

James J. Braddock is almost ten years older than Joe Louis. If the latter is the fistic marvel proclaimed by fight experts, the champion's managers are going to see to it that much easy money is made before they send their protege to slaughter. In all fairness, Braddock is nothing more than a second rate fighter. As one writer declared: "While Braddock was bad, Baer was worse."

With youth on his side and with managers who have shown astuteness in his interest, Joe Louis can bide his time, scores more knockouts and continue to grow in public favor. His big chance is bound to come. John Roxborough and Julian Black have brought him a long way within little over a year. That they will eventually open up an opportunity for him to fight for the heavy-weight championship title is inevitable.

Back to The Farm

TWO recent surveys cast new light on the current status of agriculture.

There has been a small but encouraging rise in value of American farms. Between March, 1934 and March, 1935, values rose in 30 states, declined in but five and remained unchanged in the other 13.

"Back to the Farm" is becoming a reality. Where a few years ago, the farm population was being depleted by an exodus to the cities, the trend has completely reversed and streams of people are going from urban to rural areas. A number of reasons lie behind this, such as industrial unemployment, the development of profitable specialty farming, and the desire of immigrants to leave the cities for the land.

In addition, the number of individual farms is on the increase. In New England alone there were 162,000 producing farms on January 1, 1935, in contrast to 125,000 on April 1, 1930.

All in all, it is safe to say that the agricultural situation is basically better now than at any time since the depression set in.

AN Oregon housewife recently advertised for a maid to help with housework. She had few replies. An applicant refused twenty-five dollars a month, saying she was getting that "working" for the government "on relief," doing nothing.

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Happenings That Affect the Dinner Pails, Dividend Checks and Tax Bills of Every Individual, National and International Problems Inseparable from Local Welfare.

The President's new tax program was greeted with amazement by the nation; including practically all Congressmen save for the Administration floor leaders who had been informed of what was coming.

The amazement was due less to the terms of the program, than to the fact that he President should put it forward for consideration at this Congressional session, which is already far behind schedule, is weighed down with half a dozen or so other proposals of the first importance, and which seems to have little chance of adjourning before the middle of September, in spite of industry's devout wish that it would wind up its business and go home. Experts say that it would take at least a month to properly draw such a bill as the President proposes, and as much more time to get it through the Congress.

The President's plan belongs in the "share-the-wealth" category. It includes increased income taxes in the higher brackets, and stiffer corporation, gift, inheritance and estate taxes. And it would do away with tax-exemption of government bonds.

Of great significance was the attitude of the principal American newspapers, all of which expressed their views in editorials on the following day.

The more extreme opposition papers said that the President's proposal definitely aligned him with the left-wing Long-Coughlin school of national economy. Middle of the ground papers, for the most part, simply said they believed the bill was wrong in principle, praising parts of the plan and criticizing other parts. Relatively few papers approved of the proposal in toto. Representative opinion was expressed by the Atlanta Constitution, which said that the plan "conflicts with the promise oft-repeated that there would be no tax increases during this session of Congress; for Congress to remain in session for the length of time necessary to enact the program, would be a national calamity."

Many observers said that the higher taxes on income, etc., would simply stifle industrial initiative, frighten investors, and thus further retard recovery. On the other hand, the majority of commentators seem to favor the provision for taxing government securities. Senator Byrd of Virginia, a conservative Democrat, at once introduced a bill and a constitutional amendment to make that possible.

All in all, response to the bill is not what the President might have expected; and it is extremely doubtful if he will be able to muster his usual Congressional support behind it. Congressmen are being deluged with letters protesting the existing burden of taxation, and they will naturally be chary of increasing it further. In the opinion of the well-informed Wall Street Journal, the bill will go into committee, will be treated as if it were on the "must" list for the current session; but will be put over until next year when it is found that it will necessitate too long a delay.

There was one other important legislative act during the week in review. The House committee came out with approval of a Public Holding Company bill which is in sharp contrast with the bill that passed the Senate. Where the latter provided for the elimination of holding companies, the House measures propose to stringently regulate them. Immediate result of this was a rise in utility security values.

On June 15 a number of notes went out from the State Department in Washington. Addressed to the principal foreign powers, they politely informed them that their annual installments on the war-debt were due and payable.

As everyone knew, all the notes, with the single exception, represented a waste of postage and effort. Every major power owing this country money had previously informed us, directly or indirectly, that the installments would not be paid.

Exception, as in the past, was Finland, which remitted its \$165,453. It is doubtful if anything in history was done so much to promote respect for that little nation in the United States as its promptness in meeting its debt. The Senate showed its gratitude by passing a bill of appropriate \$300,000 for erection of a diplomatic and consular building in Helsinki.

America wade war loans to

twenty nations, for a total of \$10,338,000,000. Two billion 747 million of that has been returned. However, overdue interest payments continue to increase the debts which will probably remain forever in the category of repudiated obligations.

During May, the long lagging construction industry reached its high point of the year. Residential awards were larger than for any month in 3 1-2 years and ran 81 per cent ahead of a year ago. In spite of the lack of public works building, non-residential construction registered a 22 per cent advance over April.

Roosevelt Hails N. A. C. P. "Has Rendered Important Service"

St. Louis, July 6.—A message of greeting from President Franklin D. Roosevelt was read at the opening session of the twenty-sixth annual conference here Tuesday evening, June 25, in which he hailed its "important service in focusing attention on the needs and problems of the Negro race." The complete message follows:

"The White House, Washington
 TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE:
 "I wish to take this opportunity to extend greetings to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and through it to all those throughout the country who are working in the interest of our Negro citizens. The kind of voluntary activity in which this organization is engaged has helped to develop a channel for the free discussion of important issues and problems, and to increase public enlightenment.

"The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has rendered an important service in focusing attention on the needs and problems of the Negro race."

"Franklin D. Roosevelt" Ickes Says PWA Is Fighting Discrimination.

A lengthy message of greeting from Secretary of the Interior Harold I. Ickes was read to the Conference in which the director of the Public Works Administration told of the steps taken by him to halt discrimination against Negro workers on public works projects. Reviewing the two years of operation of the PWA, he declared that "there has never been a question of discrimination against any project submitted by or for the benefit of Negroes" but admitted that "with regard to employment, our problem has been more difficult." He then told of his order of September 21, 1933, against employment discrimination based on color or creed, but adding that "it soon became apparent that we had not accomplished our purpose." In conclusion his message related the steps taken by his administration to insure fair employment ratio for Negro skilled labor on the Techwood development in Atlanta and the Cedar Central Housing project in Cleveland, Ohio, through non-discriminatory clauses in building contracts.

"We believe these contracts will point the way to doing away with discrimination against Negro labor, and the results so far warrant belief," he said. "I assure you, however, that if such does not prove to be the case, we shall try other methods to accomplish a result that closely engages our interest."

Wagner and Costigan Greet Conference.

Greetings were also read to the assembled delegates from Senators Robert F. Wagner and Edward P. Costigan, authors of the Costigan-Wagner federal anti-lynching Bill. Senator Wagner declared that "the majority of members of Congress are determined to continue the campaign for the passage of federal anti-lynching legislation until that end is attained." Senator Costigan expressed the hope that "your next convention will record the proven quickened conscience and sense of justice of America at least through the enactment by Congress of the long pending proposed federal anti-lynching legislation." Both senators were prevented from attending the Conference by pressure of public business in Washington.

Absent Officers Hail Association's Success.

Miss Mary White Ovington, director, treasurer and one of the Association's founders, wrote: "I am sure that the conference will be a great success. The need for work in the cause of the American Negro was never greater, but I believe that the indifference to his fate, against which we have had continually to fight, is not as great now as it was. To overcome indifference, in both races, has been our task for twenty-five years. We have all done something and you and your co-workers will do much more."

Dr. Louis T. Wright, Chairman of the N. A. A. C. P. Board of Directors, who was prevented from attending the conference by his duties as police surgeon in New York, expressed gratitude "to the branches, the executive staff, the national officers and the Board of Directors, for the many sacrifices in time, money, and in physical effort, which alone enabled us to win many im-

portant battles in our fight for human right. Today we face a changing world and the association is needed by black America more than ever if we are not to lose many hard earned advances—and I am confident that the wisdom of your collective judgment will materially improve our social, economic and political status."

Scores New York Public Utilities For Barring Negroes

St. Louis, July 6.—Speaking here Wednesday night at the 26th annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Hubert T. Delany, Commissioner of Taxes and Assessments of the City of New York, a director of the Association and a member of the commission appointed by Mayor Fiorella H. LaGuardia of New York, to investigate the conditions which caused the recent Harlem riot, scored the policy of white retail stores and public utility companies in taking money from Negroes and yet refusing them employment.

"We have stores in Harlem which live upon the 200,000 people of the community, refusing to give employment to those who support and make possible the operation of these stores. We have utility companies such as telephone, gas and electric, and transportation who extract millions of dollars from the community, some of whom give no employment to Negroes at all, and most of whom employ far fewer Negroes than is represented by the proportional earnings they derive from the community. None of these companies, including the milk distributors, have Negroes in other than menial jobs."

"While I do not wish to touch specifically upon the events of March 19, I am convinced that discrimination in employment, the lack of housing facilities, police brutality, occasional injustice in the courts, each played their part in the disturbance which occurred, which was by no means a race riot. It was an active expression of a resentful community against those who have exploited them and have failed to enable a people, though willing, to be able to provide for themselves the necessities that citizens of any civilized community need."

He stated that these conditions were not new in New York and were present in every large urban center, in the United States in worse measure. "The government of the city of New York does not condone segregation and discrimination," he said, "nor does it have laws that permit segregation and discrimination. Yet if such an outburst could occur in the city of New York with both the letter and spirit of the law on a higher plane that it is found in any other city in the country, how much more possible it is for outbursts far more serious to occur than the one in Harlem. To merely talk of these conditions is not enough. We must fight aggressively for their extermination. These fights cannot be won with mere words."

N. A. A. C. P. Conference Day Sessions Lively.

The day sessions of the N. A. A. C. P. Conference were among the most interesting in years. On Wednesday, Rev. Roy L. Young, president of the Meridian, Miss. branch held the close attention of the delegates as he recited the frame-up of Brown, Ellington and Shields by the Kemper County Miss. authorities. The Meridian delegation of three and the Jackson, Miss. delegation of two, pledged that the colored people of Mississippi would get behind this cause and call upon the rest of the country to help fight for the liberation of these men.

Roscoe Dunjee, militant editor of the Black Dispatch of Oklahoma City, and president of the Oklahoma State conference of branches, told of the Jess Hollins case and the magnificent fight made to save him. He said the fight had infused a new spirit in Oklahoma Negroes.

Irvin C. Mollison, president of the Illinois conference of branches, detailed the numerous victories in civil rights cases won by the Chicago branch against restaurants, taverns and buses, and gave a resume of the Leander McCline extradition case won by the Chicago branch. Eight lawyers, he said, devoted much of their time to the legal work of the Chicago branch.

Ward Rodgers Tells of Negro Farmer's Plight.

On Thursday Ward H. Rodgers, a white Texan, recently arrested for organizational work among Arkansas sharecroppers, and Mrs. Brown, a Negro farm woman from the central South, provided one of the liveliest discussions of the conference when they told of the plight of the Negro farmers. Their remarks were followed by prolonged applause.

Layton Weston of St. Louis spoke on the problems facing the Negroes engaged in transportation: dining car men, porters, trainmen, and others, and called for support for them by all organizations.

On Thursday evening John P. Davis, of Washington, D. C., secretary of the Joint Committee on National Recovery, reviewed the entire new deal program as it related to colored people in his characteristic fashion and flayed those who have



AUTHOR

Gorge Wiley Henderson, whose recent book, "Ollie Mis.," published by Frederick A. Stokes, is receiving the praise of book lovers and critics of the nation. (ANP Photo)

kept the Negro outside of such recovery as has been made.

Pickens Pays Tribute to Mrs. Bethune

On Friday night, the 21st, Spring-arn M edal was presented to Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, president of Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida, by Mr. William Pickens, field secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. Dean Pickens paid high tribute to Mrs. Bethune's work as an educator and to her fearless espousal of the rights of colored people in the south and particularly in the state of Florida. He recalled her work in the interest of the N. A. A. C. P. and her assistance in building up the branches in the state of Florida.

At 1:45 p. m. Sunday June 30, Walter White, the association's secretary spoke over KMOX.

The sessions of the conference closed with a giant mass meeting at the municipal auditorium, Sunday afternoon.

St. Louis Mayor Welcomes N. A. A. C. P. Conference

St. Louis, July 3.—Mayor Bernard P. Dickmann of this city welcomed the delegates and visitors to the 26th annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Tuesday evening in the auditorium of Vashon High School. In a short and straightforward speech he assured them that St. Louis was happy to entertain an association whose purpose was "to make 14,000,000 Americans economically, politically and socially free." He outlined what St. Louis was trying to do for its colored citizens, stressing particularly the new hospital and nurses training school now under construction.

Henry D. Espy, president of the St. Louis branch, welcomed the association on behalf of the colored citizens and the branch.

Delegates were present from 26 states and the District of Columbia.

Comedian's Family Visits

Los Angeles, Calif., July 3, (ANP)—Mrs. Cora Dickerson, mother of Dudley Dickerson, ace comedian at Sebastian's Cotton club, with her two daughters Hotense and Alyce, from Chickasha, Oklahoma, are summer visitors.

Work or Play As a Vacation Program

By R. A. Adams
 (For the Literary Service Bureau)
 Often indolent youngsters and indulgent mothers quote the axiom, "All work and no play will make Jack a dull boy." But while the utility of this old saying is questionable it is patently true that all play and no work will make Jack an indolent, shiftless and dependent boy.

The parents of a fifteen-year-old boy disagreed as to the boy's vacation program. Father insisted that the boy should do some work in order to develop in him initiative and self-dependence. He argued he should earn money to cover his vacation expense and help supply necessities for the next school year.

Mother took the opposite view. She contended that after nine months of confinement and hard study, brother needed rest, and recreation, in order to be fit for the work of the next year. She answered Father's contention concerning "initiative" and "self-dependence" with "He will have time enough for that when he's finished high school." She seemed not to recognize that character is the composite thing made up of our various habits, and that character is formed in youth.

Mother had her way. Brother worked hard on the base ball grounds, on the tennis court and on fishing tours. Often he was so tired he was compelled to sleep till noon. But Father's contention proved correct. He was handicapped because he failed to develop initiative and self-dependence. And in a few years brother confessed that Dad's views were right.

These thoughts merit consideration, especially at this time.