

General Race News

SAM LUCAS, VETERAN ACTOR, IS DEAD

New York City, Jan. 21.—(Special) Sam Lucas, who occupied a prominent place on the American stage for a period covering over fifty years, died in New York on Monday, January 10, at the age of 75. He had made his home in Manhattan for the past few years and had done vaudeville work from time to time up until a year or so ago, when he began to show great feebleness, although his mentality was unimpaired to the end. Mr. Lucas originated the character of Uncle Tom in the first "Uncle Tom's Cabin" company that ever toured America, and was active with most of the large musical comedy and minstrel troupes that gained prominence in the past two or three decades. He played character parts with all of the shows headed by Williams and Walker and Cole and Johnson, and had made several European trips long before any of the above named had been heard of. Sam was the composer of a number of songs which gained great popularity some twenty-five or thirty years ago, and his "Grandfather's Clock" number will live when the so-called "popular songs" of today will be forgotten. He was a charter member of the Elks' lodge No. 1, and was born in Fayette county, Ohio. He was highly educated, and it is a peculiar fact that the last song that he composed bore the title, "You Were All Right in Your Younger Days, But You're All In Now."

MAY FORM PLATOON TO FIGHT FOR ENGLAND

Toronto, Can., Jan. 21.—Efforts are being made to form a platoon of soldiers for service at the front. If the movement is successful a company may be formed. General Hughes, who has been making speeches through Canada in an effort to aid the recruiting of men for the front, heartily approved of the idea and said that if sixty race men enlisted the government would take action at once. The heads of the movement do not believe that they will have much difficulty in forming a company. Appeals have been sent to all parts of Canada.

Colored Canadians are already in the trenches fighting for the allies, but not organized into separate companies.

FIGHT SEGREGATION AT DALLAS, TEXAS

Dallas, Tex., Jan. 21.—The city commissioners and the board of health and other city officials attended a segregation meeting at the Rusk school here in opposition to the meetings that have been held by the leading members of the race against the proposed segregation law that the whites would have passed. The local organizations of the race have drafted resolutions to the mayor against the proposed ordinances. The object of the meeting was simply to hear from the white residents. These white southerners want to keep the race from buying in decent neighborhoods. Commissioner Lang urged that the whites go rather slowly. He said that hasty actions might bring forth serious results.

MAJOR CHARLES YOUNG HOME FROM LIBERIA

Washington, D. C., Jan. 21.—Major Charles Young of the United States army, who has been stationed recently at Monrovia, Liberia, as military attache, has returned to this country.

It was rumored that he would be placed in command of the Haitian constabulary, but at present he is under orders to take command of his battalion of the Tenth cavalry, stationed on the Mexican border in Arizona.

He will probably visit Wilberforce before taking up his duties.

BLACK PORTER SPEAKS EIGHTEEN LANGUAGES.

(Continued from first page.)

cyclopedia of useful facts gleaned from his journeyings in his native tongue, for his native people.

I backed George up against the marble wall of the Grand Central and fired one million questions at him, which he answered with grave patience. Here is the abstract:

"Yes, my lady, I think I am the only Abyssinian in this country. When I was ten years old my father was killed in the Abyssinian-Italian war. I drifted away from my mother whom I have never been able to hear from since.

"I felt there was a great world outside of Africa which I ought to see. Lord Kitchener, of Khartoum, took me in his entourage. I learned English, and was with Gen. Kitchener in India and Egypt, acting for two years as Abyssinian interpreter at the British embassy.

"From Egypt I went to Mecca, then through Damascus-in-Syria to Jerusalem, where I stayed six months.

"I went then to Constantinople and was in the service of Sir Nicolakoma, studying every language I heard—and you can learn many languages in Constantinople. It is a fine, beautiful city, but there are thousands of dogs running loose in the streets, which is bad.

WAS GUIDE TO ROOSEVELT.

"I was there three years and then went to Paris, also staying three years. Of all the cities I have seen I like best Paris and Berlin. The people are very kind to those of my race. They pay no attention to color of skin—only to brains and hearts.

"From Paris I went to London for two years. London is not as beautiful as Paris; too cold and full of business. I left in a year or so and went to Berlin and Vienna, where I married.

"I have been back to Africa, serving as guide to Col. Roosevelt, who is a smart man and a good hunter. I have also been guide and interpreter for W. B. Hurd in New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Bulgaria and South America.

"So far as I have seen America, it is the supreme country of the world except in one thing."

Gabriel paused here, his lean, brown face, suddenly stern and proud. If he had claimed descendancy from our admired friend, King Solomon, I should not at this moment have disputed it.) "What is wrong with America?" I asked humbly.

...COUNTRY COLOR-BLIND TO... HEARTS.

"It does not know," said he, "that the measure of a man is his character and his learning. America is the only country in the world where race and color are counted against a man, no matter what he is otherwise.

"When your country learns that the color of a man's skin does not matter—that all hearts are the same color—then your country will be the greatest country of the earth."

That is why George Gabriel is totting grips at the Grand Central, one of the recognized callings a man of brown skin may follow.

No. 20 has so often to explain to puzzled patrons why his accent is "so different." At that, the traveler sometimes don't take it in and jogs on through Forty-second street repeating absently to himself, "Abyssinia, Abyssinia—where's Abyssinia, anyhow?"

Meanwhile Gabriel, son of an African warrior, friend of great men, soldier of fortune, goes about his business of bags by day and school by night.

When his store of dimes gets big enough, or somebody comes along and nabs him up as interpreter and guide, George Gabriel will quietly disappear, and some other brown face will be smiling above the badge "No. 20."

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