

THE HEART OF OMAHA'S BUSINESS DISTRICT

Division of Negro Economics Justified

Secretary Wilson of the Department of Labor, in His Report to Congress, Says the Economic Condition of the Negro Wage Earner Has Been Helped.

CAUSES OF NEGRO MIGRATION

Secretary Recommends Continuance of Division of Negro Economics as Necessary Institution During Period of Reconstruction.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The report of the secretary of labor to congress is of great interest to Negroes. It shows that the U. S. government through the department of labor is really solving some of the great problems seriously affecting the economic condition of the Negro wage-earner.

In referring to the establishment of the division of Negro economics, the secretary of labor says:

"In the previous fiscal year the attention of the department of labor has been repeatedly called to specific problems involving race relations. During 1916 and 1918 perplexing questions had arisen and investigations had been made without regard to Negroes. With the greater industrial efficiency demanded by the war it became apparent that a more harmonious adjustment of labor relations between whites and Negroes was imperative, especially in view of the fact that the latter race makes up over one-tenth of our total population and includes about one-sixth of the working population. It has long been the policy of the department to avail itself of the best expert knowledge obtainable in the administration of such problems as have arisen."

Staff Appointment Urged by Both Races

The appointment of a Negro as adviser to the secretary on matters relating to the Negro race was urged by many white persons as well as Negroes and was favorably recommended by the advisory council of the de-

partment of labor. After consultation with many persons of both races, the secretary appointed Dr. George E. Haynes as his adviser, with the title, director of Negro economics.

According to the secretary's report, this step was taken not only because the advice of an expert was necessary but because it was generally felt that a race which makes up such a large share of our industrial army and has contributed so generously to our military and naval forces is certainly entitled to a seat at the secretary's council table when matters affecting its interests are being considered.

Duties Defined.

"The function of the director of Negro economics," says the secretary, "is to advise the secretary on matters affecting the Negro wage-earners and to outline and direct plans toward greater productions in agriculture and other industries. The work of this division since its establishment has amply justified its creation and my policy has been to refer to it for advice concerning administration of all problems peculiar to Negroes as wage earners."

The Work of Field Organization.

Congress is informed that state conferences with local organizations have been held in North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Ohio, Florida, Mississippi and Illinois and have received the strong support of the governors and state councils of defense as well as many fraternal, religious and educational associations; that co-operative committees of whites and Negroes have been organized in seven states, namely: Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia and Kentucky; that the appointment of such committees is now in progress in five additional states—Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Pennsylvania and New Jersey; and that county and city committees have been appointed in seven of these states. This work is carried on under the supervision of the director of Negro economics and by a staff of state supervisors of Negro economics with the view of promoting good feeling between the races whereby Negro labor can be used to its greatest productive efficiency under the most favorable conditions.

These committees have worked in close co-operation with the federal state directors of the U. S. employment service.

Negro Migration of Great Concern.

Congress is also informed that a very extensive report on the migration of the Negro has been made by the department of labor under the supervision of Dr. James H. Dillard, president of the Jeanes and Slater funds for Negro education in the south. The investigation was begun prior to the appointment of a director of Negro economics. However, the report was submitted to the director of Negro economics for final preparation and revision. This report is now in press and will be available for distribution in the near future.

Lynching.

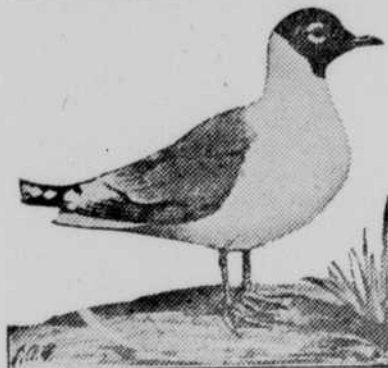
"Among the circumstances disclosed by Dr. Dillard's investigation," says the secretary, "was the fact that the exodus of Negro workers has been the largest where lynchings and other forms of race friction had been the greatest." Later reports from the field indicate that such evils are retarding the efforts of the department of labor to allay labor unrest and to distribute properly the labor supply throughout the south.

"While the functions of the department do not extend to recommendation of specific means for dealing with this menace, and while its correction lies wholly with the several states, it seems proper to point out that it is a constant cause of unrest and that it is making harder the work of the department of labor to increase the efficiency of Negro wage-earners by improving their conditions. It is a duty to point out the effects of such evils and to state that only its total abolition will serve to replace unrest with contentment. In the fulfillment of this duty the department urges universal assistance in promoting co-operation between the races for the harmonizing of their relations and for the vigorous and unflinching enforcement of the law."

For Rent—Unfurnished room for light housekeeping. Hutten Flats, 1107 North 19th street. Webster 2177. Mrs. T. L. Hawthorne.

FRANKLIN'S GULL

(Larus franklini)



Length, fifteen inches. During its residence in the United States Franklin's gull is practically confined to the interior and is the only inland gull with black head and red bill.

Range: Breeds in the Dakotas, Iowa, Minnesota, and the neighboring parts of southern Canada; winters from the Gulf coast to South America.

Habits and economic status: Nearly all of our gulls are coast-loving species and spend comparatively little of their time in fresh water, but Franklin's is a true inland gull. Extensive marshes bordering shallow lakes are its chosen breeding grounds, and as many such areas are being reclaimed for agricultural purposes it behooves the tillers of the soil to protect this valuable species. When undisturbed this gull becomes quite fearless and follows the plowman to gather the grubs and worms from the newly turned furrows. It lives almost exclusively upon insects, of which it consumes great quantities. Its hearty appetite is manifest from the contents of a few stomachs: A, 327 nymphs of dragonflies; B, 340 grasshoppers, 52 bugs, 3 beetles, 2 wasps, and 1 spider; C, 82 beetles, 87 bugs, 984 ants, 1 cricket, 1 grasshopper, and 2 spiders. About four-fifths of the total food is grasshoppers, a strong point in favor of this bird. Other injurious creatures eaten are billbugs, squash bugs, leaf hoppers, click beetles (adults of wireworms), May beetles (adults of white grubs), and weevils. Franklin's gull is probably the most beneficial bird of its group.

Passing of Emma.

Emma is dead. She died, not perhaps altogether that others might live, but she surely died to make an American holiday. Most of her life she had been petted and dined, for it was designed that she put on weight, much as the female of the species objects to embonpoint. Emma was, in her tender youth, removed from base hospital 15 to base 32. And that is just where interest for all the folks at home who have boys at base 32 starts, for surely no member of the hospital so far forgot his surroundings as not to mention Emma in his letters. So Emma grew and grew. Recently the end came. It was announced in a letter home thus laconically and graphically: "We ate Emma yesterday." She was served to the hospital attaches, and while it may be disloyal to say so, the diners say she tasted better than American pork. But weep not, you outsiders who read this, for Emma was only a wild hog—Stars and Stripes.

Inconsiderate Infantry.

One artillery unit worked hard during the afternoon of the second day of the attack to get its pieces into position. It had moved up for the second time, and had not fired a shot.

It was four o'clock when the lieutenant in command gave orders for every one to stand by. The gunners were to fire their first volley into the German lines.

Every one stood waiting for the final word when the telephone rang and word came that the infantry had advanced so far that it would be necessary to move up again before going into action.

"Oh!" said a gunner; "those infantry guys ain't got no respect for us at all!"—Stars and Stripes.

Find more wheat, it came; more pork, it came; save sugar, it was done. So Americans answered the challenge of German starvation.

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