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Monitor Editor Resents Defender's Criticism of Omaha

NATION "NEUTRAL" IN FISK UNIVERSITY STUDENT STRIKE

New York Weekly Regards the Affair as Evidence of Growing Independence Among Students

McKENZIE IS DICTATORIAL

Coming Generation Will Not Tolerate Petty Bosses, It Declares, and Looks Upon Incident as Significant

(Associated Negro Press)

New York, N. Y., Mar. 27.—Neither the side of the students nor of the president of Fisk University is taken in an interesting comment on the recent outbreak among the students there, appearing in the current issue of the Nation a weekly published here, which refers to the so-called Fisk riot as being 'doubly significant as a revelation of a new self-respect and independence among American college students, white or black.'

The usual docility of the American student makes his occasional revolts more interesting, and there is significance in the fact that the most effective student strike so far occurred "in a university for Negro students."

The side of the students is taken in the following comprehensive paragraph:

"President McKenzie apparently conducted Fisk as an old-fashioned, rigid-ruled boarding school. Boys and girls could not walk together on the campus or off it; the boys were not allowed to smoke and the girls were required to wear uniform black dresses and cotton stockings; all lights went out at 10; fraternities were prohibited, and autonomous student organizations discouraged.

"But the interest in the Fisk story does not lie in such details. It lies in the larger meaning of the revolt. When Fisk began, when the Negro was obviously in tutelage, such rules seemed natural. The oncoming generation, black as well as white, will not tolerate such petty dictation. Behind the rules, was, originally, a desire to encourage economy and simplicity, but simplicity can hardly take deep root where it is made compulsory.

"Discipline is worse than license if its results is to create an irrepresible longing for the things prohibited. The young Negro has come of age and has a new self-respect; he asks in his college the same kind of social revolution as has taken place quietly in the white colleges.

"Unfortunately the race question has become involved at Fisk as well as the problem of academic discipline. To white Nashville the student revolt is a Negro uprising. To black Nashville President McKenzie has become a symbol of white domination. He seems, in an earnest effort to promote interracial good-will, to have lost contact with the race for which he was working.

"Many friends of Fisk see that to lose Nashville's money would mean less than for the university to lose its soul as an institution dedicated to the higher education of the Negro. Higher education requires a freedom of the spirit which Fisk today seems to lack."

SPRING EXODUS IS BRINGING A LARGE NUMBER NORTHWARD

Washington, D. C., March 26.—Oppressed people from the southern states have begun their spring, 1925, exodus, heading northward into Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Missouri and other points farther west. Welfare workers and employment managers of Philadelphia, Detroit, Cleveland, Columbus, Indianapolis, Wheeling, Pittsburgh and typical industrial centers of the country report an inflow of sturdy southerners, who at once become applicants for placement in the factories and mills. It is stated that employment and problems of health and housing have increased in all the northern industrial centers, and that the migration supply indicates that it will leap high in practically every northern industrial city during the coming season.

State and federal authorities, as well as privately-controlled agencies, are watching the migration movement, which is purely a voluntary one on the part of the people, and are co-operating with each other in the hope of diminishing to a minimum all problems which may arise because of this spring's migratory movement, which will probably be of large dimensions.

LEE'S PERSONAL BODY GUARD WILL GIVE UP PREACHING

Faithful Follower of the Famous Southern General Has Preached Two Sermons Weekly for Fifty Years

Richmond, Va., March 26.—The Rev. William Mack, 97 years of age, typical old-time backwoods preacher of days long gone by, who boasted that he was the personal bodyguard and cook of General Robert E. Lee, the Confederate leader during the Civil war, is going to give up preaching. The aged man has been in the religious field for the past fifty-four years and by denomination is a Baptist.

Proudly displaying, attached to his coat, thirty-five buttons and badges symbolic of honorary attendance at Confederate reunions and meetings, "Mack Lee" came to Richmond to see about his pension and "to brush up my mind a bit with those who loved Marse Robert." Here he announced his decision to retire from the pulpit. The aged man does not admit that he hears "those gentle voices calling", but merely that he "is purty tiahed an' my bref is gettin' short an' my rheumatism long."

The faithful follower of the famous southern general says he has preached two sermons a week for the last fifty-four years. He is now pastor of the Little Creek Missionary Baptist church, about six miles from Norfolk, in which city he lives. He built the church several years ago from funds he raised in a personal campaign.

RESIST JUDGE'S REMARK ON "BURNING AT STAKE" AT STATES ISLAND TRIAL

Advancement Association Asks Change From Albany and If Statement Is Verified Will Seek Magistrate's Removal

New York, Mar. 26.—Remarks of Judge J. Harry Tiernan of States Island, who reminded a Negro he was sentencing to jail for robbery, that for the same crime he would have been burned at stake in the South, have aroused widespread indignation among colored people throughout Greater New York, according to announcement by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which is investigating the utterance attributed to Judge Tiernan.

James Weldon Johnson, secretary of the Advancement association stated that the association had written Judge Tiernan by special delivery and had telegraphed him, asking whether he had been correctly quoted, but that no response had been received.

"The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is now in communication with members of the state legislature at Albany," said Mr. Johnson, "and if Judge Tiernan was correctly quoted, action by Governor Smith or the legislature will be asked for, on the ground that his remark shows gross unfitness for the public and judicial office he now occupies.

"Mr. William L. Patterson, of Dyett, Hall and Patterson, attorneys, has already communicated with the Bar association of New York, asking action on the case of Judge Tiernan, and the matter will be vigorously prosecuted until either some statement is forthcoming from the learned judge, or the Albany legislature takes action."

BRITISH JURIST STARTLES INDIA WITH DECISION

Decides That Englishmen May Kick Natives and Pull Their Ears to Arouse Them From Lethargy

London, March 26.—The Daily Herald recorded as a "startling decision" the verdict of a British judge at Tanjore, India, that Englishmen may pull the ears of Indians and kick them in the usual place without being subject to legal punishment for the assault. Whether Indians may do the same thing to Englishmen was not taken up in the judge's decision.

The victim was a clerk at a railway station newsstand who was sitting in front of the counter when the British district medical officer came along, pulled the clerk's ear and kicked him. In the court the defendant admitted the acts. The judge dismissed the case, finding that the acts complained of were of a "beneficial nature as it was necessary to rouse the clerk from a lethargic state into one of activity. Pulling at the ear is to be considered as handling the ear in a friendly way and kicking is merely a gesture with the leg, intended to make the clerk stand up and is never given to dishonor the man."

CHICAGO EDITOR REQUITES GENEROUS HOSPITALITY BY GROSSLY MISREPRESENTING OMAHA'S NEGRO CITIZENRY

Robert S. Abbott spends forty hours here, largely occupied in social attentions; visits few, if any racial enterprises, and writes editorial characterizing Negro citizens as shiftless, improvident and nonprogressive

EDITOR OF MONITOR COURTEOUSLY CALLS THE DEFENDER EDITOR'S ATTENTION TO INJUSTICE DONE

Robert S. Abbott, editor of the Chicago Defender, arrived in Omaha Monday morning, March 9th, about half past 9 o'clock, being met at the depot by a delegation of citizens. He was a breakfast guest at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Alphonso Wilson at 10 o'clock. Thence he visited the Douglas County court house and was shown through the building and meeting several of the county officials, all being white people. In the course of the afternoon he was taken by the committee escorting him to the offices of the Omaha Bee, the World-Herald and Daily News and to the Omaha Chamber of Commerce. It was then 4 o'clock. A dinner engagement at the residence of Mrs. S. K. Brown, at which Bishop Carey and others also were guests was kept at 5 o'clock. At 8 p. m. he filled his speaking engagement at St. John's A. M. E. Church leaving there for his host's home about midnight. A pretty strenuous day.

Tuesday morning shortly after 9 o'clock he left for Father Flanagan's Boys' Home—an excellent institution—twelve miles distant from the city, where he remained until 11:30 a. m., when he started on his return trip to the city. He met a dinner engagement at the home of J. H. Broomfield at 1:30 where he remained until nearly three. Two other social engagements claimed the rest of the afternoon and early evening. At 8 o'clock he made an address at the Colored Commercial Club, going thence to a banquet at Bethel A. M. E. Church where he spoke on his trip to South America. He left at midnight for Chicago.

We have not learned of a single Negro place of business Mr. Abbott visited while here. This was probably the fault of the committee who guided and guarded him. The fact remains that Mr. Abbott did not have the time or opportunity to collect reliable data on the Negro citizens of Omaha. And yet he had the presumption to publish as the leader in his issue of March 21, the following editorial which grossly misrepresents our race in this city and does us such a grave injustice that it cannot be permitted to pass unchallenged and unrebuked:

ASLEEP IN OMAHA

It has been estimated that there are 15,000 members of our group who live in Omaha, Neb., and of this large number only a mere handful are tak-

ing advantage of the many opportunities for advancement in this wide-awake western city. The rest seem to content themselves dragging along in a humdrum fashion, making enough perhaps to keep the wolf from the door for the day, but letting the tomorrows take care of themselves. There is little or no leadership, rather there is exhibited a crab-like tendency to pull the neighbor who is attempting to climb, back with them into the mire.

A survey of the industries and stores owned and controlled by the white citizens shows that there is a most friendly feeling for the colored worker, and a spirit to give him the fullest opportunity. Their only complaint being the unreliability and the shiftlessness of the average colored employee. The women workers being the exception. There are but few stores, professional people and business enterprises for the reason that they are unable to get the support of their own. In the matter of professional nurses the whites have the preference.

The west has always borne the reputation of being the home of the thrifty, so it is difficult to account for the drowsiness of our Omaha people in the light of the fact that the dominant class are ever ready to extend to them a helpful hand. In the language of the late Booker T. Washington, "Let your buckets down where you are." It is not the intention to single Omaha out as the most unprogressive of our large American cities, but it is sometimes helpful for us to see ourselves as others see us, and as our people in Omaha have the opportunity to better their condition politically, socially and economically it is too bad not to grasp it.

The editor of The Monitor has courteously called the attention of the editor of The Chicago Defender to the injustice done the Negro citizens of Omaha in the following letter which he has requested the Defender to publish:

Does Omaha an Injustice

Omaha, Neb., March 22, 1925.
Robert S. Abbott,
Editor Chicago Defender:

Will you allow me space in your columns to repair, as far as I can, the damage you have done, no doubt unintentionally, to the Negro citizenship of Omaha in your editorial of March

21, captioned "Asleep in Omaha"?

To say that I was astounded when I read it is to put it mildly. I could scarcely believe my eyes. It seemed absolutely incredible that a gentleman of your experience and reputed ability could be betrayed into writing such an article as that, even though you had ample opportunity for collecting reliable data, which it was absolutely impossible for you to do during the forty busy hours spent here as the honored guest of those, who, despite whatever faults they may have, and of which they are fully conscious and striving to amend, are not wanting either in courtesy or hospitality.

You say, sir, in speaking of our estimated population of 15,000, that "of this large number only a mere handful are taking advantage of the many opportunities for advancement in this wide-awake western city. The rest seem to content themselves dragging along in a hum-drum fashion, making enough perhaps to keep the wolf from the door for the day but letting the tomorrows take care of themselves."

Surely, sir, you the astute editor of The Chicago Defender, were sound asleep in Omaha, if you got that impression. You did not "let down your optics where you were", to adapt one of your favorite quotations.

Let us look at a few facts: Omaha Negroes own real and personal property conservatively estimated at three and a half millions of dollars. As we have no millionaires and only a very few whose holdings hover near the \$50,000 mark you will readily see that to total the aggregate this comparatively large amount must be rather widely distributed.

Home owners among Negroes in Omaha number a little in excess of 1,500 or, in other words, nearly fifty per cent of the families here either own their homes outright or are buying homes.

An official in one of Omaha's leading banks told me that his bank alone had over five hundred Negro depositors in its commercial and savings departments. Omaha has ten banks and several other savings institutions all of which have depositors from our race.

In the light of the above facts, every one of which can be verified, your sweeping statement, quoted above, is unfounded and unjustified.

(Continued on Page Two)

BRING SUIT AGAINST COLORED PHYSICIAN TO MAKE HIM BUY HOME

Property in a White Neighborhood Where Home of Colored Resident Was Bombed and Owner Driven Out

Roanoke, Va., March 26.—Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Brinkley, white, have filed a suit against Dr. S. C. Medley, prominent physician and his wife, Mrs. Bessie M. Medley, to compel them to buy property in a white neighborhood in which the home of another man was recently bombed. They filed a petition in chancery asking specific performance of a contract of sale made by the doctor and his wife before the bombing.

Dr. and Mrs. Medley some time ago entered a contract to purchase the Brinkley homestead which is located in an exclusive white residential section. A few days before the delivery of the deed, the home of Walter Wheaton, the only colored man in the neighborhood, was dynamited, and he was compelled to move and rent his home at a loss of \$10 per month. The real estate agent promptly asked that he be allowed to return the money deposited by Dr. Medley to avert the threatened race trouble, to which proposal Dr. Medley assented.

The Brinkleys repudiated the action of their agent when they secured the services of Harvey T. Hall, one of the oldest white lawyers in the state, to compel performance of the contract. Henry D. Dolphin has been retained by the doctor and a bitter legal battle will be waged.

POSTAL RATES WILL BE DECIDEDLY INCREASED WITHIN TWENTY DAYS

Salary Boosts of Postal Employees Will Be Passed on to the Public for Payment on April 15, 1925

Postmaster Charles E. Black, like other Nasby's throughout the land, is calling the attention of the public to the new postal rates to go into effect April 15.

The most striking increases in the cost of mailing after April 15 will be two cents on all postcards; two cents for the mailing of newspapers by other than publishers; 15 cents for registered matter, both foreign and domestic indemnified up to \$5.00 in addition to the regular postage; 15 cents for registration of second class articles upon which no indemnification is allowed, in addition to the regular postage. There are other striking increases which are outlined as follows:

Rate on Post Cards

The rate of postage on all post cards or private mailing cards bearing either written or printed messages shall be 2 cents each, such cards to be sent openly in the mails and to be no larger than the size fixed by the Universal Postal Union, and to be approximately of the same form, quality and weight as the stamped postal card now in general use in the United States. The size of post cards or private mailing cards, as fixed by the Universal Postal Convention, shall not be smaller than 2 3/4 inches by 4 inches, nor larger than 3 9/16 inches by 5 9/16 inches.

Double or reply post cards each portion of which conforms in size, quality, etc., to the foregoing conditions are subject to 2 cents postage, to be prepaid on the initial portion. The reply half, when detached and mailed, is also subject to 2 cents postage. The postage on the reply half need not be affixed thereto until it is detached from the initial half and mailed for return.

Second Class

The rate of postage on second-class matter (newspapers and periodical publications entered as second-class matter) when sent by others than the publishers, shall be 2 cents for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof, for weights not exceeding 8 ounces, and for weights of such matter exceeding 8 ounces the zone rates of postage prescribed for fourth-class matter shall be applicable thereto.

DECLARES EVIL BOOKS ARE INCREASING

Philadelphia, Pa., March 26.—The Rev. Kieran P. Moran, a Vincentian Father, in a recent lecture on "Modern Books and Plays" said that notwithstanding there are a number of good books in which could be found romance, style and radiance, the number of evil books is infinitely greater. He adds: "That is the greatest cause of criminality and has a profound effect upon the civil life of the United States. Germs of evil are planted in the reading of these books exposed for sale on every newsstand."

YOUNG POET TAKES SCHOLARSHIP HONORS AT N. Y. UNIVERSITY

Couette P. Cullen Whose Literary Work Has Given Him Prominence Has Been Elected to Phi Beta Kappa Society

WILL BE GRADUATED IN JUNE

Plans for Further Study at Harvard—Contributions Accepted by Leading Magazines—Harpers to Publish Poems

New York, March 26.—Couette P. Cullen, Harlem's young poet, has been elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society of New York University. He will receive his key in June.

The Phi Beta Kappa Society is an honorary fraternity whose members are chosen from those students who receive exceptionally high ratings in scholarship and character.

Cullen who is now a senior at the university received his membership in the society because of his scholarship rating which has been above 90 per cent for the four years he has been a student at the university, and for the distinction he has gained as a poet.

He first sprang to the fore as a poet while a student at De Witt Clinton High School. There he wrote his first prize winning poem, "I Have a Rendezvous With Life", competing with all New York school children. His other poem while in high school was "To a Brown Girl". Last year he won second prize as an undergraduate poet.

Cullen's poems have appeared in most of the Metropolitan newspapers and magazines, among them are "The New York World", "Nation", "Literary Digest", "The Bookman", "Century" and "The New York University 'Arch' and the De Witt Clinton High school 'Magpie'."

Young Cullen is the adopted son of Rev. C. A. Cullen, pastor of the Salem M. E. Church, of which he is a member. He was born in New York 21 years ago and received his public school training in Harlem. Later he entered Townsend Harris High school but was forced to stop on account of illness.

Later he entered De Witt Clinton High school, where he had the signal honor of being the only colored student to rise to the heights of editor of the school magazine "The Magpie". He was elected to the Arista, the honor society of the high school in his junior year and also to the Doty Squad as its captain. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

He intends entering Harvard in September, where he will study for his Master's Degree. His book of poems is to be released soon by the Harper Company.

NEW YORK ASKS FOR A MUNICIPAL JUDGE

New York, March 26.—Ever since Albert B. George of Chicago was elected to the staff of Magistrates in the Chicago Municipal Courts petitions have been drawn to have a colored judge here in New York.

Recently a petition bearing more than 700 signatures was sent to Mayor John Hylan urging him to appoint Louis A. Levell, a prominent colored lawyer living at No. 81 West 134th street, to fill the next vacancy as City Magistrate. Thirty-five of the signatures are those of lawyers and seventy those of colored clergymen.

The petition cites the fact that one-tenth of the population of this city is colored and none of the forty-seven Magistrates are colored. The cry that "Taxation without representation is tyranny", is the slogan. The petition has the endorsement of the New York Colored Baptist Ministers' Association.

There are six magistrates to leave their benches this year.

MILLION DOLLARS AWAITS MISSING COLORED WOMAN

(Associated Negro Press)

Kansas City, Mo., March 26.—So far, Emma Johnson, 37, has not made her appearance to claim a fortune of \$75,000 in Oklahoma oil lands. A white attorney of Oklahoma was in the city this week seeking only to hand Emma three quarters of a million dollars. The woman is said to have married an Indian in Oklahoma and later to have left him. When he died some years ago half of his 160 acres went to the tribe and half was held in trust for his wife. Oil has since been found and Emma is now nearly a millionaire—if she only knew it.

