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Psychological Moment to Demand Consti- tutional Rights

Dr. Clayton Powell, of New York,
Delivers Thoughtful
Address.

New York—The Negroes of the United States should wage a bloodless war for their rights at this crucial period of the country's history, was the opinion expressed from the pulpit by the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist church here Sunday, March 25.

The speaker referred to the demands made by the 400,000 railroad workers, who threatened to walk out at a time when America needed every car and the services of every railroad man; of the fight of the Irish for home rule during the present European conflict, and of the overthrow of the Romanoff dynasty in Russia by the common people.

Dr. Powell's views follow:

"In my opinion, this is the propitious time for us to make a special request for our constitutional rights as American citizens. The ten million Colored people of this country were never so badly needed as now. They are not only needed in the factories, business firms, and on the farms, to produce the necessities of life, but they are needed to help keep the Mexicans quiet, to help sweep the commerce destroying submarines of the Central Powers from the oceans, to help crush German militarism, and perhaps they will be needed sooner than some people expect to prevent the Japanese from landing on these shores to ask for a redress of their grievances that have been piling up for the past few years.

Get Assurances of Better Treatment.

"As a race we ought to let our government know that if it wants us to fight foreign powers we must be given some assurance first of better treatment at home. Perhaps some will say that this is an inopportune time for such talk. Some may argue that to demand our rights now when the nation is perhaps facing the greatest crisis in its history, would show a lack of loyalty and patriotism. Those who make such arguments are not acquainted with the rise and development of races.

All history will prove that most oppressed people have secured their rights when their oppressors were facing a crisis.

The Irish people thoroughly understand this philosophy of history and they are now making a supreme effort for home rule. This effort is being made at a time, too, when the English government needs all of its men and all of its resources to fight enemies on land and sea; and everything indicates that the Irish are going to get the independence for which they have been seeking for years, because they know how to seek at the proper time.

"Four hundred thousand railroad employees secured eight hours' work with ten hours' pay the other day be-

cause they threatened to walk out on a day when America needed every single car and every railroad man in the country. At a normal time the American people would not have yielded so readily to their just demands.

"For centuries the common people of Russia have been depressed and crushed by plutocracy and absolutism. In vain they have attempted to secure their liberties in times of peace, but a few days ago when surrounded by foreign foes these people rose up en masse and accomplished the complete overthrow of the colossal rotten superstructure of the Romanoff dynasty, and in twenty-four hours succeeded in abolishing all racial, social and religious distinctions. The new government has already assured the entire Russian people of their political freedom and equality before the law.

Government Has Stood by With Arms Folded.

"Why should not the Colored Americans make a bloodless demand at this crucial time for the rights we have been making futile efforts to secure for the past fifty years, instead of hurrying telegrams and special deliveries to Washington assuring the government that has persistently stood by with folded arms while we were op-



Dr. L. K. Williams, of Chicago, who is Conducting Revival at Zion Church.

pressed and murdered that the ten million Negroes may be used as targets for German bullets and shells?

"It would not cost the President, governors and representatives a single cent to ask, in their speeches and messages, the American people to abolish 'Jim-Crowism,' segregation, and the awful lynching institution, and give to Colored men political equality; but it would mean a new birth of freedom for ten million people who have always stood ready to give their life's blood to perpetuate American institutions.

"In spite of all that the big Negroes are saying to the contrary, this is the psychological moment to say to the American white government from every pulpit and platform and through every newspaper, 'Yes, we are loyal and patriotic. Boston Commons, Bunker Hill, Gettysburg, Fort Pillow, Appomattox, San Juan Hill and Carrizal, will testify to our loyalty. While we love our flag and country, we do not believe in fighting for the protection of commerce on the high seas until the powers that be give us at least some verbal assurance that the property and lives of the members of our race are going to be protected on land from Maine to Mississippi.' Let us

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The African Origin of Grecian Civil- ization

Speech of George Wells Parker, De-
livered Before the Omaha Philo-
sophical Society, April 1, 1917.

The Pelasgic races of the south traced their descent from Inachus, the river god and son of Oceanus. The son of Inachus, Phoroneus, lived in the Peloponesus and founded the town of Argos. He was succeeded by his son, Pelasgus, from whom the aforementioned races of the south derived their name. Io, the divine sister of Phoroneus, had the good fortune, or perhaps misfortune, to attract the attention of the all-loving Zeus and as a consequence incurred the enmity of Hera. She is transformed into a beautiful heifer by Zeus, but a gadfly sent by Hera torments her until she is driven mad and starts upon those famous wanderings which became the subject of many of the most celebrated stories of antiquity. Aeschylus reviews her roamings in his great tragedy, Prometheus Bound, and makes Io to arrive at Mount Caucasus to which the fire-bringer is chained. It is here that Prometheus delivers to her the oracle given him by his mother, Themis, Titan-born. He directs her to Canobos, a city on the Nile, and tells her that there Zeus will restore her mind.

"and thou shalt bear a child
Of Zeus begotten, Epaphos, 'Touch-
born',
Swarthy of hue."

Aryan parents do not usually bear black children and to show that Aeschylus was thoroly cognizant of the ethnical relationship here implied, permit me to quote from The Suppliants, another of his tragedies. The Suppliants were the fifty daughters of Danaus, the Shepherds of Egypt, and they described themselves as, "We, of swart sunburnt race," "our race that sprang from Epaphos," and when they appear before the Argive king, claiming his country as their ancestral home, their color causes him to question their claims in the following words:

"Nay, stranger, what ye tell is past belief

For me to hear, that ye from Argos spring;

For ye to Libyan women are most like,
And nowise to our native maidens here.

Such race might Neilos breed, and Kyprian mould,

Like yours, is stamped by skilled artificers

On women's features; and I hear that those

Of India travel upon camels borne,
Swift as the horse, yet trained as sumpter-mules,

E'en those who as the Aethiops' neighbors dwell.

And had ye borne the bow, I should have guessed,

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