

General Race News

SOCIALIST ASSAILS RACE PREJUDICES

Philadelphia, Pa.—Charles Edward Russell, author and Socialist, praises France, because "the narrow, blind hatred of race prejudice is unknown there." Mr. Russell spoke on "Race Prejudices" in the Broad Street Theatre under the auspices of the Socialist Literary Society.

The speaker declared race prejudices were rampant in this country and decried the tendency of the white race to consider itself superior to other races of the world.

This country, he said, was constantly bungling the Negro problem. He denounced the lynchings in the southern States, and added:

"Unless race prejudices are eliminated in this country the crust of the volcano on which we are sitting will give way very soon." "France," continued Mr. Russell, "has given the Negro true citizenship. In France liberty, equality and fraternity are not hollow mockeries and empty dreams. In the Chamber of Deputies black men sit side by side with whites. France has never deigned to draw a color line.

"The Negroes rallied to France's colors when she was threatened. But what if we had a war here and needed our Negro citizens? What if, when we called for them, they answered truthfully enough: 'You have oppressed us; you have killed our men and women and children; you have shown us no justice in your courts; you have trampled us down. We will not fight for you!' Would not the Negro be justified? But we know the Negro in his loyalty will fight for us despite our great injustice to him. There is no national safety for this country except in strict adherence to 'liberty, equality and fraternity.'

SEGREGATION FAILS.

Jamestown, N. Y.—An attempt was made recently to have the Common Council pass a segregation law. A number of Colored people recently came here to take positions with the Gurney Ball Bearing company, and took up quarters on Briggs street.

Thomas Mahoney and others did not like their presence, and went before the Council to tell that body that Jamestown ought to prohibit Colored people from coming here to live. Corporation Counsel Price informed the segregationists that he doubted both the wisdom and legality of such action.

According to Arthur Kettle, a director in the Gurney Ball Bearing company, the Colored men were recommended by Tuskegee Institute.

NO DISLOYALTY THERE.

Washington, April -2—In a call on Secretary of War Baker Wednesday, Governor Stuart, of Virginia, told of the offer of Benjamin Braxton, of Norfolk, to raise a complete regiment of Colored troops for the war with Germany.

The Colored people said Mr. Braxton, "never have and never will be traitors to 'Old Glory.'"

Governor Stuart mentioned the proposal of Mr. Braxton as the answer of the Colored people of Virginia to the efforts of the Germans to incite the Colored people to traitor-out conduct against the United States.

OMAHA DAILY WRITES ON NEGRO LOYALTY

It is true that this the land that held him in bondage, but it is also the land that gave him his freedom—this Afro-American whom Germany has been plotting to incite to rebellion against the government of the United States.

The American Negro, on account of the prejudice due to his former servile state and to his race still lacks the full protection of the laws and is circumscribed in privileges in some parts of the country. But he has himself suggested that his full deliverance will not come and cannot come from influences outside of America, and he has no reason to become disloyal to a government devoted to the ideals and instructed by the example of Abraham Lincoln to serve the interest of a government which William of Hohenzollern claims to hold as a fief from the Almighty.

In spite of the many stupid things that German diplomacy and cunning have conceived and attempted since the beginning of the war, one must stand in new amazement that any circle or group of men anywhere on earth, rated intelligent, should have considered it among the possible things to cause by extraneous instigation an insurrection of the Negroes of the United States. It only shows once again what fantastic deductions German statesmen draw from fragmentary and ill-digested data.

The Germans knew about African slavery in America, they knew about lynchings, they had heard about sporadic race wars in localities, they had been informed of social discrimination against the black man. They put all these things together, had no understanding whatever of many other things connected with the relations of the white and black races in this country, and concluded the black was politically inflammable. Why, they might with more chance of success tried to array an equal number of native American white people against the government.

It is doubtful if any element of the American population would more warmly resent the implications in this undertaking. The Negro is of old American stock. He loves the land, notwithstanding all he has borne and all he bears, as some white men do not. It is his country and his government, and often have the Negroes, individually and in masses, touchingly exhibited their loyalty.—Omaha Sunday World-Herald.

"CAPTURED" GERMAN SHIPS

(Baltimore, Md.)

When the Customhouse officials, employes, United States Marshal Stockham and the police seized the three interned German steamships at Locust Point early Friday of last week, a few of the Colored employes of the customs service accompanied them. It was a novel experience for the men, but each did his duty in a manner that was praiseworthy.

The Colored men in the seizing party included: Wilbert James Henry, William Adams, William O. Wilson, Walter Green, James B. Briscoe, Thos. Tinsley, Albert Ross, Thomas Wheatley and Cornelius Burton.

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AMUSING THE COLORED BROTHER

(Desert News.)

It is not at all a perverted impulse, indeed it is one that is quite human, to desire to do that particular thing which the law may have forbidden when the conscience tells one that the act itself is not wrong. The mere fact that the law assumes to apply coercion and punishment in a matter where the person feels himself clearly within his rights, naturally stimulates him to increased activity in defying it. Had the right never been assailed or called in question, the probability is that in many cases it would never have been exercised.

The attempt to enforce a questionable statute in South Carolina is producing exactly the results above suggested, in the case of the exodus of numbers of Negroes to the North. This movement in several of the Southern States has been previously noted and commented upon in these columns, and it takes on a new interest by reason of the attempt now being made to invoke the law's aid to limit it, so far as the state named is not in itself forbidden or interfered with, but there is a provision under which those who solicit them to leave the state are punishable. Two Negroes have recently been arrested for the "offense" of persuading about 60 of their race to move out of the state; and the result is, as any one might have anticipated, that the emigration has at once assumed larger proportions than ever. Besides the feeling that there is something thrilling in defeating the intent of a restrictive law and getting away with it, there is the perfectly natural rebelliousness against being restrained in freedom of proper action. The more determined the officials to compel the would-be travelers to stay at home, the more keenly resolved they are to go when they please.

It is improbable that such a law can ever be sustained if brought in a test case before the country's high courts. The Constitution guarantees certain individual rights among which may be considered the right of the citizen to contract wherever he pleases for his own labor, and to the citizen of each state all the privileges and immunities of the several states. The sooner the South Carolina officials take cognizance of the fact, and either repeal or forget the existence of their remarkable statute, the less trouble they will make for their commonwealth and the fewer the halos of heroism with which the escaping "undergrounders" will gleefully adorn themselves withal.

TWO NEW NEGRO REGIMENTS

Word reached the war department at Omaha last week that two new Negro regiments will be formed, one cavalry and one infantry, and that recruiting for said new regiments begins at once.

NATIONAL NEGRO HEALTH WEEK

Next Sunday is Negro Health Sunday and with it Negro Health Week begins. The National Negro Business league and the Tuskegee Negro Conference for 1917 are jointly responsible for Negro Health Week. The 1917 Negro Conference specialized in discussion of Negro health and got squarely behind the proposal for Negro Health Week previously made by the business league.

The Colored people all over the nation are asked to unite in observing National Health Week in the belief that in carrying out the suggestions outlined in a booklet issued by the committee which is managing the week they will be doing the best possible service to themselves and to the race.

The program is as follows:

1. Move out and burn up all unnecessary rubbish, unused old clothing, and waste. Take all the furnishings out of the house and sun them for a day.
2. Brush down the walls and ceilings. Scrub the floors and unpainted woodwork with strong lye and hot water.
3. Paint or whitewash. Sun well.
4. Clean up the yards. Whitewash the fences. Add one quart of salt to five gallons of whitewash.
5. Repair the stable, barn and henhouse. Whitewash. Clean out all filth.
6. Look after the ceilings and wells and make sanitary the toilets at the school houses and churches.

TO BEGIN ON \$150,000 BUILDING

St. Louis, Mo.—Work will soon begin on a \$150,000 building for the Colored Y. M. C. A. It will be four stories high, contain one hundred bedrooms, gymnasium, baths, reading rooms, cafeteria and recreation quarters. One of the largest Colored contributors to the project are Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Malone, who have paid in a 5,000 contribution. This is believed to be the largest single subscription ever contributed by a member of the race for a Colored institution.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD PROVIDES COMFORTABLY FOR NEGRO LABOR

Houses Over Some 200 Colored Laborers From the South.

Jersey City, N. J.—The old Pennsylvania railroad station in Jersey City has been turned into a dormitory to house some 200 laborers of that company. Comfortable beds have been supplied, together with shower baths and other facilities for the comfort and health of the workers. The men are said to be contented with their surroundings and are pronounced by the railroad officials to be of unusually good character and to be giving satisfactory results. They are paid from \$12 to \$15 per week.

Best for the
Laundry
or
Kitchen.



Will Not
Injure
Hands or
Clothes.