

SCOTT ANSWERS DUBOIS

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recommendation was pressed by me, Mr. Ralph W. Tyler was designated by the committee on public information to render this service. Mr. Tyler constantly called to the attention of the war department, through me, certain conditions; and in each and every case these complaints were brought to the attention of the proper officials of the war department.

My files evidence the fact that Dr. DuBois wrote me repeatedly calling to my attention complaint after complaint concerning wrongs, grievances, discriminations, etc., alleged to exist among Negro soldiers in various camps here in America. He was informed time after time with reference to the investigations which followed as a result of those complaints, and expressed in writing his satisfaction with the action taken in following up such complaints. Having gone on his "Mission" to France December 1, 1918, why did he wait five months until the May, 1919, issue of "The Crisis," to mention to me any overseas complaints? I fear that the animating impulse back of his present inquiries has not as yet been altogether disclosed to the public. An old and familiar saying, "When folks can't use you they 'knock' you" comes to my mind. Dr. DuBois knows, and his friends know, and the record proves, that as far back as two days before the meeting of the Negro Editors' Conference, which I called here in Washington, June, 1918, he was seeking my personal good offices that he might realize personal aspirations. He knows that I did everything I could to help him secure that much coveted commission in the army, which he so eagerly but vainly sought. He also knows, as the record will show when necessity arises, that there were other occasions also when Dr. DuBois probably felt I might be used for 'pulling chestnuts out of the fire' for him.

Personal Testimony as to Service Rendered Colored Americans Overseas and Over There.

While in the very nature of the case it was impossible for me or anybody else, during the war, to know everything that was going on among Negro soldiers or even white soldiers in France, yet, in my efforts to handle specific complaints that came to my notice and look after the welfare of Negro troops generally, it is gratifying to have received from Negro soldiers, Negro officers, Negro chaplains and Y. M. C. A. secretaries overseas, numerous letters on the order of the few partially quoted below:

Hon. Emmett J. Scott, Special Assistant to the Secretary of War:

No one can better appreciate your efforts than we, the Colored men of the A. E. F., who have suffered and labored under unfavorable conditions on the battlefields of France.

M. M. COLEMAN, Co. B. 806 Pioneer Inf., American Expeditionary Forces. France, October 23, 1919.

My Dear Dr. Scott: I have just had time to finish this note to you. We are not without our difficulties, but the men and officers are hitting the line hard. Much has transpired to prove that you are on the job to our satisfaction "overe here."

Yours very truly, (Signed) EDW. L. SNYDER, Y. M. C. A. Secretary, Headquarters 365th Inf., A. P. O. 766, France.

Similar testimony has come to this office personally and by letter from such officers of the 92d Division as Major M. T. Dean, 317th Ammunition Train; Captain Charles G. Kelly, 366th Infantry; Chaplain William T. Amiger, 371st Engineers Battalion, A. E. F.; and Lieut. Charles S. Parker of the 366th Infantry, the only Colored adjutant we had during the war, and from many others. And now may I also quote the testimony of Mr. Archibald H. Grimke, a member of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and president of the Washington branch of that organization.

Washington, D. C., May 19, 1919. My Dear Dr. Scott:

From the very beginning of your services in the war department nearly two years ago, I have had full opportunity to know something of the hard position you have filled with so much benefit to our race generally, and to Colored soldiers in particular. Numerous, indeed, have been my visits to your office in the war department for the purpose of presenting specific cases involving complaints and grievances of Colored soldiers in camps at home and overseas, and also cases involving discrimination against Colored men and women in the government service here at Washington.

I am, therefore, in position to state, from positive, personal knowledge, covering nearly two years of intimate contact, that you have always gone forward after making proper inquiry to develop the exact facts, in a firm,

manly, uncompromising way—urging right and justice in behalf of Colored soldiers at home and overseas, and in behalf of Colored Americans generally. Very truly yours, (Signed)

ARCHIBALD H. GRIMKE, President Washington Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

I would rather have the testimony of these gentlemen who know the facts concerning my efforts in behalf of Negro soldiers overseas, some of whom actually served "over there," than to be at all perturbed by, or to treat other than with appropriate contempt the insinuating remarks, printed and spoken, of a self-centered, self-seeking, unfair critic—the main drift of whose life has been to try to "tear down" and to destroy what other men have sought to build up for the honor and welfare of their country and their race. Discredited himself by a large portion of the Negro press of the country, he now seeks to discredit others. Surely "misery likes company," but in the desperate effort of Dr. DuBois to rehabilitate himself in the eyes of the Negro world after the severe drubbing he has received in the Negro public press and otherwise, it might be well for him to know that if he is trying to "come back" and again pose as an ardent defender of the race he shall not do so at my expense. I am fully prepared for any further onslaught he may make.

What the Record Shows.

My record in the war department speaks for itself. I am not ashamed of it. I have no excuses or apologies to make. True it is, "I could not do everything," as he confesses for himself, yet I challenge any man to show wherein I have failed to perform my whole duty. While no one expected or could expect that a civilian official in the war department could altogether control every untoward incident or harsh or untactful handling of soldiers overseas, it was always expected at least (and I have so interpreted it as my duty) that such an official should go forward in the matter of presenting the complaints and grievances of such men when brought to his attention, and should do all in his power to cause a thorough investigation and bring about, if possible, a prompt and suitable remedy.

The following recommendations, among others, have been brought to the attention of the war department by me and urged as offering an opportunity for better morale among Negro officers and soldiers overseas:

- 1. That the Negro soldiers of the labor and engineer units be given the same opportunity for promotion and advancement as are given the white soldiers.
2. That all Negro laboring units be given Negro noncommissioned officers.
3. That all Negro units be supplied with Negro chaplains.
4. That military police be selected from the Negro soldiers as well as from white soldiers.
5. Also a change in the matter of drilling the men on Sunday without special permission from commanding officers.
6. That trials by summary court-martial in the case of these particular units be discontinued. The non-control of social questions outside of camp limits unless requested by the French authorities. This particular order referred to a certain effort which had been made to commit the military officials to the solution of social and other questions non-military in nature.
7. That racial discriminations among American soldiers both at home and overseas be in no way countenanced by the war department.
8. That promotions of Colored officers in combat units be made as such promotions be earned, etc.

Challenges Dr. DuBois to Present "Bill of Particulars" of Presumed Delinquencies and Asks Some Leading Questions.

I challenge Dr. DuBois to show in any of the numerous memoranda I have written, or among the numerous public addresses I have delivered in all parts of this country—without a penny's charge to any one who came to hear my message—concerning the interests of Negro soldiers and civilians, any line or paragraph that falls short of a firm demand for justice and fair play. And, now, having specifically indicated a few of my efforts and activities in the war department with reference to overseas complaints, I, too, shall publicly ask a few questions:

- 1. Inasmuch as Dr. DuBois left for France December 1, 1918, and waited practically five months (May issue of the Crisis) before becoming indignant about the treatment of Negro troops overseas, I want to ask—if he (DuBois) know of the conditions complained of and manifestly thought I was in a position to have those wrongs corrected, why, in the name of Justice and High Heaven did he not bring them directly to my attention?
2. How many of such overseas complaints did he bring to my attention as he easily could have done as a "correspondent" and as Mr. Ralph W. Tyler, accredited war correspondent, actually did?
3. What did he himself do to help

the situation overseas and to have the wrongs corrected? Is it not a fact that when the opportunity was offered for him to counsel with Colored officers in group that he refused to do so, preferring to be in a position to criticize later rather than to be "a present help in time of trouble"? If he did not wish to report the grievances of Colored soldiers to me personally as being beneath his dignity, did he not have access to every regimental and divisional headquarters in France the same as other "correspondents"?

4. Did he make any effort while in France to have the injustices complained of ameliorated, or did he await his return to America, 3,000 miles away from France, to protest?

I challenge him to cite specifically what overseas complaints among Negro troops he ever brought directly to my attention or to the attention of my office, where, according to his own testimony, such complaints should have been brought and pressed for correction.

I call for his "bill of particulars." I eagerly await his reply.

REPORT OF INAUGURAL MEETING OF HAMITIC LEAGUE OF THE WORLD

(Continued From Page One.)

there the Colored man produced largely and was, therefore, able to launch out into commerce, and he would advise the people of the colony to do likewise before attempting anything else.

Mr. Thorne then addressed the meeting at length, proving that we in this country were far from idle; that through the instrumentality of one of his brother representatives in the legislature loan banks had come into life in 1914 and had proved themselves of great benefit to the small farmers of the colony. Several members themselves engaged in agricultural pursuits and the chairman also spent much time largely in this direction and found it to be a mixed blessing. Many things operated against them and one of these was that the government sometimes held unemployed lands in close proximity to such holdings and in the times of floods kokers sometimes gave way and all the crops, which took hundreds of dollars to develop, were destroyed. He would like to remove from the mind of Prof. Cush or any one else the idea that the local people made no effort to better their position, and he, for one, would advise him to go cautiously in investing his money, particularly in rice, for even Booker Bros. could not compete with the East Indians on the Cofentyne coast and had to close their rice mill as a consequence. He had made up his mind to join the league and to give it all the support he could, for it came at the right time.

The economic plan of the league was then read for the benefit of the meeting, and it was shown to make provision for questions dealing with production by the native population, members of the race, a general commercial, economic and banking program, and all points mentioned by the various gentlemen who had spoken.

Mr. S. A. Campbell in a short speech on the need for the movement agreed with many of the points raised by Prof. Cush. He thought such a movement as the one before the meeting a commendable one.

Mr. Britton then moved, seconded by Mr. Durant, "that a branch of the Hamitic League of the World be supported in the colony." This was carried unanimously. Mr. Conrad Barrow then suggested

that a small committee of management be formed. Mr. G. Ogle nominated Mr. A. McL. Ogle as chairman, A. A. Thorne, esq., Dr. W. W. Campbell, Rev. Mr. Garner, Messrs. Barrow, Carto, S. A. Robertson and Britton. This was adopted.

Calls for enrollment were then made and the following gave their names: Mr. H. L. Palmer, Revs. Deane and Brown, Messrs. G. H. A. Bunyan, H. D. Durant, J. L. Griffith, T. A. French, W. W. DuFcan, J. A. Bradford, H. A. Britton, S. N. Collins, W. Hosannah, Duncan L. Jordan, E. H. Waddell and E. N. Beckles.

Those who had applied for membership prior to the meeting were: Rev. H. W. Grant, Messrs. S. W. Ogle, D. A. Spencer, W. N. Arno, J. B. Major, H. A. Thompson, D. J. Richmond, J. H. Loncke, J. Verbeke, McL. Ogle, jr., J. W. Ogle, N. A. Shaw, Edwin Sears, J. Baird, Thomas Henry, Edwin Glasgow and S. W. Ogle, jr.

The chairman announced that as soon as the questionnaire arrives members would be called together to discuss it. A vote of thanks was given the chairman, as also in the case of the Rev. Mr. MacNie, who had so kindly put the hall at their disposal. The meeting was then brought to a close, time not availing for further business. Much enthusiasm was shown and the success of the league is assured unless greatly unforeseen circumstances should arise.

SOUTHERN JUDGE AIRS VIEWS

Thinks White Man's Attitude Increases Crime.

(By the Associated Negro Press.) Augusta, Ga., May 23.—Before pronouncing sentence on William Morgan, charged with manslaughter, Judge Hammond said:

"Human life is too precious to be held in light regard. If there is any criticism I have to make of the Colored race it is that they are too reckless with human life. If they have a pistol they think they must use it, and they do use it.

"The white people, judges and court officials, I think," continued the judge, "take too narrow a view of the Colored citizen. They say he is respectful and a good Negro because he tips his hat to the white man. He is called a 'white man's Negro,' and they let it go at that."

This attitude, in the opinion of Judge Hammond, makes the Negro overbearing to his own people, realizing that he has the backing of white men if he commits crime.



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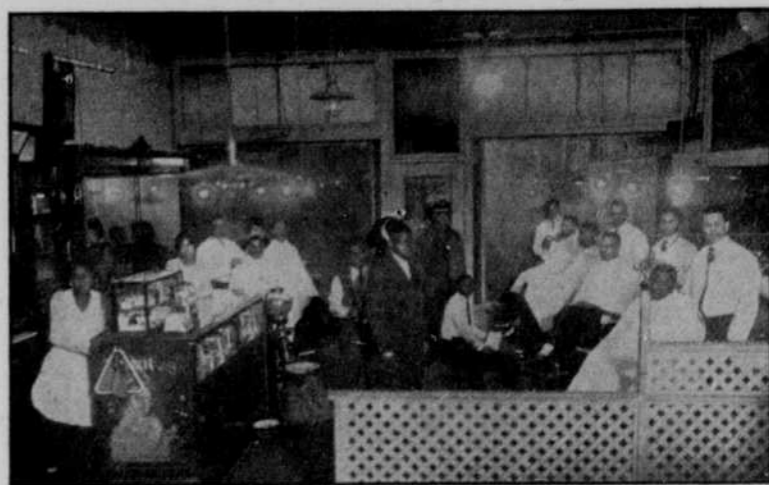
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Advertisement for The Crusader magazine, 'The Greater Negro Magazine', with a subscription price of one dollar a year and address 2299 Seventh Avenue, New York City.