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## DEATH OF WHITE BOY STIRS CRUSADE TO END PEONAGE EVIL

North Dakota Demands Abolition of Vicious System After One of Her Sons Dies in Convict Labor Camp

## EXPOSE SOUTHERN SLAVERY

Claim Boy Held in Practical Slavery Was Beaten to Death by the Overseers—Many Negro Lads Suffer Same Fate

(Crusader Service)

Langdon, N. D., April 6.—Out of the death in a Southern convict camp of a white farmer boy who started out to "see the world," has arisen the extraordinary situation of North Dakota, as a state, protesting to Florida, as a state, against the conditions which made the tragedy possible.

Out of this protest in turn has sprung the probability not only that the law will avenge the boy's death, but that Florida will bring to an end the "peonage" system that has involved thousands of Negro workers and hundreds of wayfarers in that state through many years. Gov. Hardee has, indeed, declared his purpose of demanding this action at the session of the Florida legislature, which begins next week.

The farmer boy who was the first cause of this unusual series of events involving the first real protest by whites against the system which has for so long victimized the Negro populations of the South, was Martin Tabert, of a well known family of Munich, Cavalier county. He died on February 1, 1922, in a lumber camp in Leon county, Florida. For six months his death meant nothing to anybody but his family. Then was begun an investigation which brought about these results:

The state of North Dakota solemnly charged that Tabert came to his end as a result of the forced convict labor system legalized in Florida.

North Dakota solemnly charged that he died as the result of "abuse and torture inflicted upon him while he was unjustly held in a state of practical slavery." Tabert's friends here say he was beaten to death by a heavy whip in the hands of the convict labor "whipping boss."

North Dakota solemnly demanded of Florida that it shall make impossible the commission of such abuses in the future; in other words, that Florida repeal its convict labor laws at once.

In the fall of 1921 Martin Tabert, twenty-two year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Tabert of Munich, decided he would spend the remainder of the season in the central states and the winter in the south. Up to that time nearly all of his life had been spent on the farm a few miles from Munich, a small town in the southwestern part of Cavalier county.

All went well with him until he reached Florida and there found a labor condition different from anything known to him, and he shortly "went broke." He was then a stranger in a strange land with no one to appeal to for help or advice. Instead of turning back and working his way home, or writing for help, he evidently decided to go on. In doing that he made the fatal mistake of riding on a train in Florida without a ticket.

Sentenced to Ninety Days

On December 15, 1921, he was arrested by a deputy sheriff in Leon county, Fla., for stealing a ride on a railroad train. He was then taken before an official who fined him \$25, or in lieu of payment sentenced him to serve ninety days. He was unable to pay the fine and wired his brother. The telegram sent is as follows:

"Tallahassee, Fla.—John Tabert, Munich, N. D.—In trouble and need \$50 to pay fine for vagrancy. Please wire money in care of Sheriff.—Martin Tabert."

Upon receipt of the telegram, John Tabert took it to the parents and it was decided to write, send him more money than he called for, and urge him to come home. On December 21, 1921 a letter was sent to him, registered, and in care of Sheriff Jones. The letter contained a draft on the First National Bank of Munich for \$75.00. According to the postmark on the letter it was received by the sheriff at Tallahassee, Fla., on Dec. 24. It was returned to Mrs. Ben Tabert stamped "Returned to the writer unclaimed from Tallahassee, Fla." There was also written on the envelope "Returned by request of sheriff. Party gone."

Letter Tells of Death

The return of the letter thus post-marked caused the Tabert family at Munich to believe that Martin had found some way of securing a re-

## ASSISTANT SECRETARY N. A. A. C. P. IN OMAHA

Walter F. White, of New York City, assistant secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People arrived in Omaha Sunday morning and was met by Henry W. Black, president of the local branch, who took him to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jasper E. Brown, near neighbors of John Reid and Wade Green. Can you beat this for a harmonious color scheme?

Mr. White, who is visiting the branches in several cities, held a conference with the Executive Board of the Omaha Branch Monday night and with a group of citizens at St. Paul's Presbyterian church Tuesday night. He also spoke at the Y. M. C. A. Tuesday afternoon. He left Tuesday for Lincoln where a large meeting had been arranged for him in the City Auditorium. Thence he will visit Denver, Pueblo, and other Colorado points returning to Omaha to address a mass meeting at Grove M. E. church Sunday afternoon, April 15. Mr. White is an effective speaker and standing room is generally at a premium wherever he speaks.

## UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT REVERSES ITSELF

Prominent New York Lawyer Declares Victory Won by N. A. A. C. P. in Arkansas Cases Sets Precedent.

## EFFECT IS FAR REACHING

Scipio A. Jones, a Negro Lawyer, in Forefront of Victorious Four-year Battle for Victims of Peonage.

New York, April 6.—New York lawyers have been commenting on the far-reaching results of the victory by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in the Arkansas cases, in which the United States Supreme Court reversed the decision of the lower court which had condemned five colored farmers to death.

Walter Nelles, a prominent New York lawyer, writing in the Law and Freedom Bulletin issued by the American Civil Liberties Union, states that the Supreme Court not only reversed a lower court in the Arkansas case, but hails the Arkansas decision as the one of the most far-reaching in regard to the principle of habeas corpus that the Supreme court has ever made.

Contrary to the decision in the Leo Frank case, the Supreme Court has held in the Arkansas cases that despite legal forms, if a mob has dominated a court room, a fair trial has not been held. As Mr. Louis Marshall, counsel for Leo Frank stated to the N. A. A. C. P.: "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the chief of the corner. — Due process of law now means, not merely a right to be heard before a court, but that it must be before a court that is not paralyzed by mob domination."

The case is held especially important for Negro citizens in that it makes possible contest of any case in which it can be shown that a mob influenced decision.

The N. A. A. C. P. paid tribute to

lease. They wrote for further information and received the following replies:

Clara, Fla., February 15, 1923.

Dear Sir: Replying to yours of the 9th, with reference to the death of Martin Tabert. Beg to advise that we have all able-bodied men prisoners from Leon county leased for a term of one year. We, of course, have to clothe, feed and house these prisoners. About once a month the state prison inspector goes through our camp and makes careful inspection. We also furnish a doctor. When Martin was taken sick the doctor advised that he would not take his medicine regularly. He first had malaria fever which terminated in pneumonia. He was sick but a short time and one of the prisoners was taken off the work to wait on him. Martin Tabert was sentenced in Tallahassee on December 14th to serve a term of three months. We do not understand why the sheriff of Leon county should have told the people he had gone and did not accept the money for his release. This you will have to take up with him.

Trusting we have given you the information you desire, we are Yours very truly,  
PUTNAM LUMBER CO.

Tallahassee, Fla., Feb. 17, 1923.

Hon. Norris H. Nelson, Munich, N. D.  
Dear Sir: Your letter of February 9, 1922, received, and beg to say that

Scipio A. Jones, the colored lawyer of Little Rock, who has had charge and was in the forefront of the four-year legal battle culminating in the victory before the Supreme Court. This case is regarded by the N. A. A. C. P. as the most important legal battle fought, as it was the most costly, nearly \$15,000 being expended to obtain the action before the Supreme Court.

It is now thought probable that the condemned men will never suffer the death sentence which has three times been averted.

## PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Wm. Franklin, Pastor

A large congregation was present at the 11:00 o'clock service Sunday. The pastor preached from the text, "If Christ be Not Risen Your Faith is Vain." Several were added to the church.

The monthly conference Wednesday evening was well attended, and instructive. The Board of Deacons was increased by four.

The Elite Whist Club met with Mrs. T. P. Mahammett on Monday afternoon. Mrs. A. L. Hawkins won the prize. An elaborate luncheon was served by the hostess.

The Dames Club was entertained at the home of the president, Mrs. M. E. Overall, 2010 Lake St., Wednesday afternoon. The first prize was won by Mrs. Joe Brown and the booby by Mrs. S. H. Dorsey.

## COLORED COMMERCIAL CLUB

The Colored Commercial Club held an interesting meeting at the Club Rooms, 2414 Maple street, Thursday night, with Nate Hunter presiding. Much business was transacted. The functions of the executive committee have been centralized in the body, and hereafter all business will be transacted by the membership in open session. The Labor Bureau during the three months of this year has had 2522 applications for work and has secured employment for 1,058 people. The Club also endorsed the proposal to try to secure a representative of our race on the board of governors of the Welfare Federation and Community Chest. The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 26.

## RECEPTION FOR CONFIRMATION CLASS

Monday night a reception was held at St. Philips' Rectory from 8:30 to 11:00 for the members of the recent Confirmation class. Despite the rain there was a good attendance and a most delightful evening was spent.

## HAMPTON INSTITUTE GLEE CLUB WINS NEW HONORS

R. Nathaniel Dett, Composer-Pianist, Conducts Concert in Newport News With Wonderful Results.

## STUDENT ARTISTS ARE GOOD

Clarence Cameron White, Composer-Violinist, Charms Hampton Audience With Witherly of His Bow.

By WM. ANTHONY AERY.

Hampton, Va., April 6.—A large, representative and enthusiastic audience of white and colored citizens attended the concert of the Hampton Institute Glee Club, which was recently given in the Academy of Music at Newport News, Va., under the direction of R. Nathaniel Dett, well-known Negro composer-pianist, who was assisted by three of his pupils—Burke M. Mathis of Boley, Okla., tenor; Aubrey W. Pankey of Pittsburgh, baritone, and Gerald B. Wilson of Salem, Va., pianist. The thirty members of this glee club and the assisting artists did yeoman missionary service in making white and colored men and women realize the fact that Negroes can master the intricacies of difficult musical compositions and can present a wide-range program with artistic finish and extraordinary self-control.

The Hampton Institute Glee Club program, which follows, included religious classics, American Negro folk-songs and their derivatives, and modern compositions, including the work of such Negro composers as Cole-ridge-Taylor and John W. Work of Fisk University:

Religious Classics: Sanctus (Schubert), From Thy Throne (Gluck), and Beside the Manger (Ancient Carol). Negro Folk-songs: "Tis Me, Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveler, Balm in Gilead, and Daniel Saw the Stone. Negro Folk-song Derivative: Babylon's Falling (Dett). Modern Compositions: Bedouin Song (Footie), Silver Lanterns of the Night (Reddine), With You, Dear (Scott), Her Rose (Combs), Drake's Drum (Cole-ridge-Taylor), Lullaby (Work), and On, Hampton (Anonymous).

R. Nathaniel Dett played several of his own compositions, including the Barcarolle and Juba Dance from "In the Bottoms" suite; Song of the Shrine and Dance of Desire from "Enchantment" suite, and two encores, Mammy from "Magnolia" suite and Honey from "In the Bottoms" suite. He also played several accompaniments: Canst Thou Believe (Giordani), sung by Burke M. Mathis; Zion Hallelujah (Dett), Poor Me (Dett), and Dinah Kneading Dough (Dett), sung by Aubrey W. Pankey.

Gerald B. Wilson played the Gavotte in B minor (Bach) and an encore, Arabesque (Leschetizsky). Luther T. Purvis of Georgetown, S. C., recited two of Daly's well-known Italian dialect poems, "Between Two Loves" and "I've Got Her."

This was the fifth big concert which the Hampton Institute Glee Club has given this season. The others were given in the Richmond City Auditorium, at the University of Richmond, at the Virginia Medical College, and in Ogden Hall, Hampton Institute. At Hampton the assisting artist was Clarence Cameron White of Oberlin, O., well-known Negro composer-violinist, who made a direct and winning appeal to a large audience, with whom he early established cordial relations, on account of the beauty of his tone in playing Legende (Bohm), Polonaise (Mlynarski), On the Bayou (White), Pizzicato (Thome), Berceuse (Juon) and Scherzo (Van Goens).

## From Nebraska to Arkansas and Back

Experiences and Observations of the Editor on Trip to Southland Where He Saw Many Things of Interest

## "A RADIOGRAM FROM A CITIZEN OF MARS"

Little Rock is a prosperous looking, well built city although its sewage system, almost like bayous, strikes one as rather archaic. This is true of certain residence sections. The sections largely inhabited by colored folk are very generally unblushingly guilty of pavement and so far as the street lighting system is concerned one is reminded of that striking Scriptural passage, "Men love darkness rather than light." Far be it from me to even hint that the city authorities of Little Rock are men of evil deeds, but it is certainly true that they seem to "love darkness rather than light" in those sections of their city where the genial "Children of the Sun" reside.

The dual system of which I have spoken of as ubiquitous or everywhere present in the South, with its strange inconsistencies, is quite apparent on the street cars. A heliograph or a radiogram from a citizen of the Planet Mars, giving his impressions of a visit to Little Rock and other Southern cities would read like this:

"There seem to be two great races there also it is sometimes exceedingly difficult to distinguish the difference between them. There is a race called 'white' altho some of them have quite dark complexions, and another race called 'Negro' or 'black,' but the puzzling thing to a Martian is that while I can understand why the black people of whom there is a large number are called black, I cannot understand why so many people with white complexions and even blue eyes—and there is a large number of these, too—are classed as black. But such is the case in that section of the great country called the United States.

"In the section of that country called the South, these 'Black' people, who run through a large variety of colors from black to white with intermediary shades and reminds one of a variegated pansy bed, are found in large numbers. They seem to be a good-natured, good-hearted sort of people. They seem to find it necessary, however, to keep their eyes on the 'whites.' This is most noticeable on what they call 'street cars' which are very generally used by the people in all these great cities. The whites and blacks all enter by the same door into these cars. This door is a back door or at the end of the conveyance; but while all these people enter by the same door the white people are compelled to sit in the front seats,

where the black people can keep their eye on them. And when it comes to getting off of these cars the white people must go out the front door as they are not permitted to make their exit through the back door. The 'black' people seem to reserve this exit for themselves showing commendable consistency in their entrance and exit.

"Another thing that puzzled me was why some 'white' people were allowed to occupy the seats with the 'black' people and talked pleasantly with them and seemed to be very happy with them while other 'white' people were compelled to sit in front. I could not understand this at all, nor do I yet but I was told that altho the 'white' people looked white, they were in reality 'black.' I concluded that the atmosphere of the Planet Earth had impaired my vision or had wrought an optical delusion. There were many other things that impressed me as queer for in other parts of the same big country customs governing these two groups of people seem quite different."

Readers will bear in mind that this is 'An Impression of An Inhabitant of Mars Upon His Visit to Little Rock And Other Southern Cities' by Radiogram.

I admit that his impressions upon this point are very much like my own. But it is the custom of the South and they think it wise. They seem to see no inconsistency in trying to "avoid all physical contact between the races" in having a white passenger, for example, crowd his or her way with difficulty through a number of colored passengers to get to the front of a crowded car, when there would be less "contact" or even "friction" by standing quietly near the door of the entrance, and alighting therefrom after a few blocks ride. But no, that would violate slavish traditions and do violence to the prerogatives of a fanciful race superiority, while forgetting that superiority does not depend upon race or color but upon character ability and personal worth. They only are superior who do superior things and manifest superior character.

In Little Rock hundreds of Negroes are doing superior things. They are successfully conducting large business enterprises, with capital running into the millions, and employing scores of our youth, male and female; carrying on institutions of learning of high character and standing; occupying and owning beautiful homes where children are being brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; worshipping God in stately temples; administering to the sick with skill-

## GAYETY'S SPRING SEASON

Start of Continuous Policy Will Be At Noon, Sunday

Omaha hasn't seen a Tom Mix or any of the Fox Film Corporation's sterling pictures, in months—and would not were it not for the fact that the Gayety will present a new policy for the Spring months.

Tom Mix is coming back to town soon. This popular Fox star will appear in "Romance Land" at the Gayety theatre for 7 days, starting Saturday. The film describes the adventures of two people who have an unshaken belief in the golden age of romance as it is vividly described in "Ivanhoe" and the immortal tales of King Arthur. Naturally, one of these two is Tom Mix; the other, to quote from advance notices, is an entrancing girl for whom Tom rends heaven and earth. These reports go on to say that the photoplay is jammed to the brim with dynamic action, clear photography and an alluring love Lieme, all interwoven with the bright skein of wholesome comedy.

From observation of previous screen creations featuring Tom Mix, we judge that the coming release should reach the highest point of film excellence.

In addition to the picture program Fred Webster's "Atta Girl" company will offer a new musical comedy, changing every Sunday and Thursday.

ful physicians, surgeons and nurses in well equipped modern hospitals. In these and other ways the race is moving upward and in many instances receiving encouragement from broad-minded, Christian white men and women of that section.

Of some of these institutions and individuals I will tell you later. Are you wondering what my subject will be next week? Of course you are. I am glad these articles are giving pleasure to so many readers. (Continued next week.)

## TRUCULENT TATTLING TYPE OF MALE SPECIES

Norfolk, Va., April 6.—(Crusader Service).—More than 6,000 persons of both races jammed their way into the City Hall Armory here March 23, at the initial program of the Norfolk Lyceum association. Several thousands were turned away as early as 8:30 for lack of even standing room.

Charles Satchell Morris, Jr., delivered the principal address of the occasion on the "Bright Side of a Dark Subject." Having just returned from a notable trip through the far south, he recounted his experiences in that section of the country, declaring that "The worst enemy that the race has is the cringing, subservient Negro, who knows no secrets and can keep none. His ways are dark and his tricks vain." Our people must rise superior to him and crush him by enlightened public sentiment that teaches the essential manhood of the man." He was accorded an enthusiastic reception. The noted orator will depart for a two weeks' tour through the east.

City Manager Charles E. Ashburner also spoke at the meeting. He praised our people for their progressive spirit and promised equal distribution of public improvements, asserting that any mistakes during his administration would be "of the head and not the heart."

A great jubilee chorus of 100 voices furnished special musical selections for the occasion, consisting of old plantation melodies, spirituals and classics.

The vast audience was a record breaker. It was as much a tribute to the newly organized Norfolk Lyceum association as to the eloquent young orator.

## GREAT SERVICES EASTER DAY AT ST. PHILIPS' CHURCH

The impressive services of Holy Week, including the Passion Service of Good Friday and the baptismal services Easter Even culminated in inspiring services Easter Day, with record breaking congregations, communions, liberal offerings and soul-stirring music. The church was beautifully decorated with Easter and calla lilies, hyacinths, tulips and roses. The brilliantly lighted Altar with its incense circling cloud presented a beautiful sight.

At 6:30 a. m. the church was comfortably filled and a large number of communicants received Holy Communion. At 11:00 the church was filled to capacity. The music was excellent. The special Easter anthem, "Christ, Our Passover" by Schilling, was beautifully sung, the soloists being Mrs. Lulu Hicks, soprano; Mrs. Dana Murphy, alto; and Dr. John A. Singleton, tenor. The communion service used was Cobb in F. The sermon topic was "Witnesses of the Resurrection." Forty-five persons received the Holy Communion at this service.

The children's vesper service was held at 5:00 o'clock. There were Easter hymns and brief addresses by the priest, the Church school superintendent, George H. W. Bullock, and Mr. Walter F. White. Cards and Easter eggs were distributed.

Easter Even, Saturday afternoon at 5:00 o'clock, the sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered to four sons of Mr and Mrs. S. T. Phillips, and the two sons of the late Algert Hopkins and wife, now Mrs. Harry Schwein. The Phillips' children are Warren Dale, Gerald Othello, Paul Irving and John Bivins. The Hopkins' children are Gordon Ackers and Harry Franklin.

## COLLEGE EDUCATION CAMPAIGN BEING VIGOROUSLY URGED

Plans Made to Reach Every Section of the United States—Members of Alpha Phi Alpha to Conduct Drive April 23 to May 6

## LEADERS ARE CO-OPERATING

Movement Started by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity For Higher Education Is Heartily Endorsed By Organization

Washington, D. C., April.—Perhaps the most forward-looking movement ever inaugurated by a group of college students is the "Go to High School, Go to College" campaign which was begun a few years ago by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and which has since been conducted annually by that organization. When the movement was launched in 1920, a week known as "Go to High School, Go to College Week" was devoted by the then twenty-six chapters of the fraternity to the conduct of a nation-wide campaign to encourage Negro youths to continue their education. In the 1920 campaign, 2,000 members of the Alpha Phi Alpha located in various sections of the United States carried the gospel of "stay in high school, and go to college" to 500 schools, 700 churches and to over a half million parents and children.

## Leaders of the Nation Co-operate.

Each year since the first campaign the movement has taken on greater proportions and evidence of its influence in the educational world is seen in the attention given it by national leaders, church organizations and the press. In a letter to Norman L. McGhee, national secretary of the fraternity, regarding the "Go to High School, Go to College" campaign, the president of the United States wrote: "The need for effective work to reduce illiteracy among the colored people is very great and manifestly it can be accomplished chiefly through the equipment of members of the colored race to do educational work among their own people."

In an issue of the Pittsburgh Courier, Dean Kelly Miller under his weekly editorial "Lest We Forget" stated: "This 'Go to High School, Go to College' week is merely suggestive of the wide field of activity in which such organizations might well engage. The Negro man or woman of the future who falls short of at least a high school education can hardly hope to operate on a high level of service. It should be a reproach to any colored youth within reach of school facilities to be without a high school diploma."

## Educational Secretaries Adopt Suggestion.

At a recent meeting of the Education Association of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, one of the outstanding suggestions adopted at the conference of the secretaries of the Christian Education Movement was to "arrange for 'Go to College Day' at a favorable time, preferably in May or June."

This year the "Go to High School, Go to College" campaign will be conducted by the now forty-five chapters of the Alpha Phi Alpha under the direction of Simeon S. Booker, general president of the fraternity; Raymond P. Alexander, R. W. Cannon, James W. McGregor and Chas. W. Greene, associate directors; Carl J. Murphy, director of the speakers' bureau; Norman L. McGhee, director of publicity, and Oscar C. Brown, director of the bureau of statistics. Every chapter of the fraternity will have a committee of five headed by its president to have charge of their local campaign. The plan of the campaign calls for the observing of April 29th as Educational Sunday in connection with which ministers of all denominations will be invited to cooperate. April 30, as Conference Day with principals and teachers of public schools, clergymen and other leaders. May 1, as Letter Writing Day, when communications will be sent to students and parents. May 2, as Parents' Day, when visits to homes will be made by members of the Fraternity. May 3 and 4, as Granular School Day and High School Day respectively. May 5, as Banquet Day, when it is hoped to have each chapter of the fraternity entertain the members of the senior classes of their local high schools where addresses will be made to them by local educational leaders. May 6 as Mass Meeting Day, when it is expected that large public meetings will be held in every city in the country at which addresses will be delivered by outstanding educational leaders.

From all indications the gospel of "Go to High School, Go to College" will be heard in every state in the union as their care now chapters or members of the Alpha Phi Alpha in practically every city of importance in the United States.