

54 Prisoners Facing Freedom

HOUSTON MARTYRS SOON TO BE FREED BY THE WAR DEPT.

Long and Persistent Fight By National Association and Other Agencies Bring Results

EIGHTEEN GET RELEASE NOW

Report That Prison Sentences of Members of 24th Infantry, Alleged Participants of Houston Riot, Reduced

New York, May 23.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has made public a letter from John W. Weeks, U. S. Secretary of War, reporting that the prison sentences of every former member of the 24th Infantry, still imprisoned for alleged participation in the Houston Riot of 1917, has been reduced, and that, according to the present revisions of sentence, every one of the men will have been eligible for release over a period from now until 3 years and 7 months from now. The letter from the Secretary of War to the N. A. A. C. P. is as follows:

War Department Washington

May 13, 1924.
Ag 253, 1 (5-12-24) Pris.
Mr. Walter White,
Assistant Secretary, N. A. A. C. P.,
69 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.
Dear Sir:

In harmony with the understanding with you, I am furnishing you the following information relative to the so-called Houston rioters.

Of the fifty-four of these men who were in confinement in the penitentiary when the board of officers visited that institution, thirty were serving life sentences. As the result of the recommendations of the board of officers, made after a most careful and exhaustive investigation and consideration of each case on its individual merits, ten of the thirty men under life sentences have received reductions in their sentences that will make them eligible for release on home parole during the calendar year 1925; and the remaining twenty have received reductions from life to thirty years, which will make sixteen of them eligible for home parole in 1927, and four of them eligible for home parole in 1928.

In passing upon these cases great weight was laid upon the evidence presented at the trial and the conduct in confinement of the prisoners concerned; and the investigations showed that the men whose sentences were reduced to thirty years were the more deeply involved in the affair, and had the poorer records of conduct in confinement. Of the other twenty-four prisoners involved in the Houston riot, serving sentences of less than life at the time of the investigation of the board, eighteen are eligible for parole during the calendar year 1924, and six will be eligible for home parole in 1925.

As this recent investigation has resulted in reductions in sentences in every case of the so-called Houston rioters, with the exception of six who are eligible for parole not later than August, 1924, and as the latest date (under the modified sentences) on which any prisoner will become eligible for home parole is August, 1928, it is considered that the War Department has been most liberal in its treatment of the prisoners.

Under a rule of the War Department governing the subject, the case of every military prisoner is considered for clemency at least once each year; and neither the recent investigation by the board of officers, nor any action taken upon its recommendation, will preclude the consideration annually of the case of each one of the prisoners involved.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) John W. Weeks,
Secretary of War.

In making public this report, the N. A. A. C. P. made the following statement:

"To summarize the above letter the facts, in brief, are: 18 of the Houston martyrs are eligible for immediate release; 16 of them—10 serving life sentences and 6 long terms, will be eligible for release within a year; 16 will be eligible for release early in 1927; and the remaining four early in 1928, or three years and seven months from now. The men were committed to Leavenworth Prison in December, 1917 and have thus served six years and 5 months.

"While the results obtained thus far

are not all for which the N. A. A. C. P. and cooperating agencies hoped and worked for, nevertheless there is cause for rejoicing in that those who have the longest sentences yet to serve have only three years and seven months.

"The N. A. A. C. P. and those agencies which worked so faithfully in this effort yet feel that full pardon which was asked for should have been granted these men. It will be noted from Secretary Weeks' letter that these cases are to be reviewed annually. The N. A. A. C. P. is gratified at the results secured. At the same time it will continue its efforts for further reductions of sentence."

YOUNG VIOLINIST GIVES HER FIRST RECITAL

Miss Evelyn Battles, violinist, pupil of Grace Leidy Burger, assisted by Miss Rachel Rice, soprano, gave an excellent recital, Monday evening at the North Side Y. W. C. A. Her program was well-chosen and interpreted with marked musicianship and ability. Miss Rice has a pleasing soprano voice. Miss Inez Battles gave fine support as accompanist. The program was as follows:

Sonatina—Allegro	Schubert
Concerto	Seitz
Allegro Moderato	
Adagio	
Rondo	
At Dawning	Cadman
By the Waters of Minnetonka	
	Lieurance
Berceuse	Godard
Tarantelle	Drdla
Arii Ecstasy	Speaks
Swan	Saint Saens
Souvenir	Drdla
Mazurka	Mlynarski

WILL STUDY IN PARIS

Philadelphia, Pa., May 23.—(By the Associated Negro Press).—Dr. Harry Barnes, chief of the ear, nose and throat service of the Douglas hospital and assistant chief of Jefferson hospital, has sailed for Europe to take a special post graduate course in the University of Paris.

WARM DEBATE OVER SUPPORTING DYER ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Methodist Episcopal Conference, Composed Largely of White Delegates, Divided in Opinion.

FINALLY PASS RESOLUTION

Springfield, Mass., May 23.—(By the Associated Negro Press).—One of the most spirited discussions in the course of the long conference of the Methodist Episcopal church being held here came up in connection with the passage of a resolution endorsing the Dyer anti-lynching bill. Proponents of the resolution which was introduced by the Rev. Gammon Morris of Gastonia, North Carolina, plead for its passage on the ground of law enforcement. Opponents held that such legislation was an invasion of state's right. This latter view was most effectively presented by Judge Henry Wade Rogers of the New York East conference, former dean of the Yale Law School and now judge of the circuit court of appeals of the state of Connecticut.

Among those to speak for the resolution were the Revs. A. R. Howard of South Carolina and A. J. Mitchell of Annapolis, Md. Dr. Elmer L. Kidney of the Pittsburgh conference joined Judge Wade in the opposition. Discussion was closed by Dr. F. H. Butler of the Delaware Conference and secretary of the Epworth League work for colored conferences, who called particular attention to the points anent state's rights advanced by Judge Wade. Dr. Butler reminded the conference that in all its action thus far it had hewed close to the line of law enforcement, deploring in various ways the laxity of enforcement seen in the prohibition law and reminded the conference that the failure of the Eighteenth Amendment could in large measure be traced to the indifference shown toward the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments. He won the conference over to law enforcement, no matter whom it might hurt. The resolution was passed, which means the appointment of a commission of five members to work for the passage of anti-lynching legislation.

DEMPSEY-WILLS FIGHT PERHAPS

(Lincoln News Service)
New York, May 23.—Tex Rickard recently announced that he has matched Jack Dempsey and Harry Wills, "The Black Panther," for a world's heavyweight championship fight at Boyle's Thirty Acres, Jersey City, on September 6th, next.

A STORY OF THE MARTYRS OF 1822

A Story of Ante-Bellum Days, Dealing With Slave Insurrection at Charleston

By Francis J. Grimke

PART V

(By The Associated Negro Press)

PLOTTER TAKES CRUCIAL STEP IN SELECTING LEADERS

indicated that he was a man of firm nerves and desperate courage. Peter was intrepid and resolute, true to his engagements, and cautious in observing secrecy where it was necessary; he was not to be daunted nor impeded by difficulties, and though confident of success, was careful against any obstacles or casualties which might arise, and intent upon discovering every means which might be in their favor if thought of beforehand. Gullah Jack was regarded as a sorcerer, and as such feared by the natives of Africa, who believe in witchcraft. He was not only considered invulnerable, but that he could make others so by his charms; and that he could and certainly would provide all his followers with arms. He was artful, cruel, bloody; his disposition in short was diabolical. His influences among the Africans was inconceivable. Monday was firm, resolute, discreet and intelligent."

From this picture painted by bitter enemies, who were also their executioners, could any person, ignorant of the circumstances and the history of those men, possibly guess, with the exception of Gullah Jack, to what race the originals belonged, or think you, that such a person would so much as dream that they were in fact, as they were in the eye of the law under which they lived, nothing more than so many human chattels, subject like cattle to the caprice and the cruelty of their owners?

Such, nevertheless, was the remarkable group of blacks on whom had fallen Vesey's choice. And did they not present an assemblage of high and striking qualities? Here were coolness in action, calculation, foresight, plausibility in address, intrepidity, courage, nerves of iron in the presence of danger, inflexible purpose, unbending will, and last though not least in its relations to the whole, superstition incarnate in the character of the Negro conjurer. Masterly was indeed the combination, and he had no ordinary gift for leadership, who was able to hit it off at one surprising stroke.

ATTORNEY AND MRS. ADAMS SUFFER SAD BEREAVEMENT

Edith, aged 11, youngest child and only daughter of Attorney and Mrs. John Adams died Wednesday afternoon from pneumonia after a week's illness. Mrs. Adams and Edith had come from their former home in Pueblo, Colo., Saturday, May 10, to rejoin Mr. Adams and the other members of the family who had preceded them.

Tuesday following Edith had her tonsils and adenoids removed and was brought home from the hospital on Wednesday. Pneumonia developed resulting in her death. She was a bright and lovable child and the sympathy of their friends go out to the bereaved parents. The funeral will be held Saturday afternoon from St. John's A. M. E. church, Twenty-second and Willis avenue at 3 o'clock.

MAKES EXCELLENT RECORD

Margaret Dallas, 119 No. 37th St., was one of the successful participants in the Music Memory contest staged by the public schools at the city auditorium Friday, May 9th, scoring one hundred per cent—thereby winning a gold medal. Receiving 8 A's on her mid-semester report card, she was promoted from the 8th grade to the 8th B. She is to graduate from Saunders school in June at the age of twelve.

THE NEGRO WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

The regular meeting of the Home last week, was opened by Rev. J. C. Blaine, of the C. M. E. Church, who was a visitor that day.

Mr. Blaine made a wonderful talk along the line of establishing a home for children whose mothers go out to work and have no place to leave their children. We hope that every colored citizen of Omaha will help to make this a success.

Board meeting of the Home the 1st Thursday in June, all members are expected to be out.

Martha Smith, Pres.
Elizabeth M. Reed, Corr. Sec.

KLAN GIFTS RETURNED

(Lincoln News Service)
Buckhannon, W. Va., May 23.—The two colored congregations here have returned to the Knights of Ku-Klux Klan the Easter donation of \$25 to each. They are the Simpson Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church and the Hall Chapel of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. A polite note accompanied the return.

PARDON BOY LIFE TERMER

Dover, Del., May 23.—(By the Associated Negro Press).—The only pardon granted by the state board at its monthly session here this week was to James Sharp, a Negro boy serving a life sentence for the murder of a white boy. He had been confined in the Newcastle County workhouse.

VISIT SCHOOL EXHIBIT

Saturday is the last day of the wonderful school exhibit which occupies the whole eighth floor of the Brandeis store. This is an exhibit which no one should fail to see. If you have not done so before, be sure to see it Saturday. The hours are from 11 to 6. It is a wonderful sight and will delight and instruct all who see it.

BISHOPS CHOSEN TO FILL VACANCIES IN THREE DISTRICTS

African Methodist General Conference in Session at Louisville, Ky., Has Spirited Balloting for Coveted Offices.

EAST AND SOUTH ARE WINNERS

Louisville, Ky., May 23.—(By Associated Negro Press).—Ira T. Bryant, present secretary of the African Methodist Episcopal Sunday school union, won in his fight against the bishops of the church when he was re-elected by a large majority at the twenty-seventh quadrennial conference of the church now in session here. Three bishops were also elected. The Revs. A. L. Gaines of the Baltimore conference, J. A. Gregg, president of Wilberforce, and Reverdy Ransom, New York, editor of the A. M. E. Review.

The balloting was spirited and there are promises on contests over the election of Mr. Bryant, Bishop Jones winning it he declared void because of irregularity.

Others elected are Dr. John R. Hawkins, financial secretary; Prof. Jackson, Texas, secretary of education; Dr. R. R. Wright, editor of the Christian Recorder; Dr. D. M. Baxter, manager of the A. M. E. Book Concern; Rev. J. E. Coit, secretary of missions; Rev. G. J. Robinson, new editor of the A. M. E. Church Review, and Dr. S. E. Churchstone Lord, official stenographer for the conference.

The election of the Rev. A. L. Gaines to the bishopric marks the fourth successive time that episcopal honors have been given to a representative of the Baltimore conference, the others being Bishop Albert Johnson, John Hurst and W. Sampson Brooks.

The remainder of the conference will be devoted to legislation. It is believed action will be taken against dancing, card playing and other sundry ills. Senator Watson of Indiana was denounced this week for endorsing Edward Jackson, Ku Klux Klan republican candidate for governor of the state.

DIVORCES MADE HARDER BY METHODISTS

Springfield, Mass., May 23.—(By the Associated Negro Press).—According to rules just made by the Methodist Episcopal church, after a vote on a report from the judiciary committee, all members of the church, ministers and laymen, are forbidden to remarry after divorce for any other reason than statutory charges, attested to by court records. Pastors of the local churches are to be the sole arbiters in determining the culpability of the members.

NEGRO CHILDREN NEED PROTECTION OF SANE LABOR LAWS

Statistics Show Some Startling Facts Concerning Employment of Children in Various Occupations

RACE'S PERCENTAGE IS HIGH

Nearly 22 Per Cent of Negro Children Between 10 and 15 Years of Age Are Engaged in Labor Pursuits

(Lincoln News Service)
Washington, D. C., May 23.—Legislation whereby child labor shall be regulated is one of the gravest necessities which has ever confronted America's Negro population; for the future welfare of its children and their physical and mental condition, upon reaching maturity, will largely determine the type of citizenship which is to carry on the unfinished business of the present generation. A glimpse of the work status of Negro children in the United States may be held in the following figures and percentages: Of the 12,502,582 children in the United States, 10 to 15 years of age, of whom 1,060,858, or 8.5 per cent, are engaged in gainful occupations, 1,450,996 of the total are Negro children of that age span of whom 317,231, or 21.9 per cent, or more than two and one-half times the total per cent, are gainfully employed in American labor pursuits. Of this working group of 317,231, Negro boys constitute 191,877, or 26.7 per cent of their total, while Negro girls constitute 125,354, or 17.1 per cent of their total.

In comparison with other racial groups whose children are contributing to the output of American labor, the above percentages are astonishingly high. A stretch of the age span two more years makes a working group of Negro boys and girls totaling 541,348, of whom 405,577 are engaged in agricultural, forestry and animal husbandry pursuits; 44,198 in the manufacturing and mechanical industries; 10,855 in transportation occupations; 57,644 in domestic and personal service; 7,972 in clerical occupations; and the remainder in miscellaneous occupations.

Since Republican sponsors of a constitutional amendment have, in their full realization of the menace of unregulated child labor, deemed it necessary to forthwith prohibit or regulate the working conditions of American children, how essential it is to get behind this movement with all the loyalty and power at our command. Political history shows that practically all federal legislation for the benefit of women and children has been enacted by Republican Congresses; and that the bulk of opposition to such legislation has come, just as it is now, from the Democratic "Solid South." It is interesting, though distressing, in this connection, to note that while child labor is confined to no section of the country, it is at its worst in the solid Democratic southern states. In Tennessee, 17 per cent of the total child population is employed contrary to the standards set by the government regulating child labor; in Arkansas, 19 per cent; in Georgia, 21 per cent; in Alabama and South Carolina, 24 per cent; in Mississippi, 26 per cent. In the northern states the percentage is much lower, and in the Pacific coast states only three per cent of the total child population is employed in what is classified as gainful labor. Thirty states conform to the federal standard of maximum hours for the employment of children eight hours per day. Of these thirty, only three are southern Democratic states. One southern state, North Carolina, permits children to be worked eleven hours a day, and one southern state, Georgia, has no limitation.

Education, recreation, health supervision, and other attentions are needed, not in any particular section of the country, but everywhere; and with a heavy population of Negro children busily at work in farm pursuits of the Solid South, which has been so derelict in its protection of Negro children, the duty is plain to see that at the polls and elsewhere full cooperation is given to the Republican party and its program, if it is ever to be hoped that the children of today may be the real men and women of tomorrow.

Cleveland, Ohio, employs over 80 colored teachers in the public schools, one heading Latin Department in the High School.



One of Omaha's Park Scenes