

OIL MAKES FORMER SLAVE RICH

THE NEGROES PLIGHT IN FLORIDA'S GREAT DISASTER

By Mary McLeod Bethune

Daytona, Fla.—Having just returned from the storm-swept area of Florida, and having received numerous telegrams of inquiry as to the true conditions existing there, especially as they pertain to our group, I hereby give forth the following information:

Morehaven

Morehaven's condition indescribable. Two-thirds of its inhabitants destroyed. Dead bodies beyond recognition. The remaining inhabitants forced to evacuate town.

Fort Lauderdale

Fort Lauderdale heavily hit. Negro's condition here serious. Homes, foodless, swollen faces, lame limbs for rheumatism brought on by exposure. Homes surrounded by water.

Miami

Miami's Negroes very fortunate as to death toll. Hard hit as to property. Only one Negro's death reported. Storm swept around Negro section. Almost all churches destroyed.

In all the history of my life I have never witnessed such destruction and such sorrow. When I got into Fort Lauderdale, it seemed that little town had been swept away. Numbers of men, women and children were still huddled in their little cabins and huts, in ponds of water. Their faces were swollen from exposure, and many of them were lame, having contracted rheumatism. There were mothers refusing to leave their little homes with their children, because they have no place in which to house themselves and were trying to find dry places on planks and fragments of house tops—white people and Negro people alike.

The heroic spirit of readjustment, patience and resignation with which they are accepting conditions was a revelation and a benediction to me.

I found that food, clothing and medical care, as far as possible, were being supplied from the relief organizations. The Negro people were receiving the same kind of help that the white people were receiving. We need strong, capable committees of Negroes to work with the committees of whites, but they are rapidly being formed. Particularly in Fort Lauderdale do we need nurses, provided with rubber boots, who can plunge through the water to reach these sufferers.

Hundreds of the refugees are being provided with tickets by the railroad officials and general authorities to any part of the country where they have friends or relatives, until conditions are better.

A tent to take care of the fever case has been erected at Fort Lauderdale.

We brought hundreds of Negroes from Hollywood, Fort Lauderdale and smaller towns along the coast, having been provided with tickets, food clothing, enroute to other sections of Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas, and wherever they could find homes with relatives or friends.

The organization for the handling of sufferers in Miami is very good. The American Legion is dealing with all races alike. There is a general supply station for whites, and a general supply station for Negroes. The one for Negroes in Miami is well organized under the leadership of Capt. Scott, (colored). Mrs. Rosa Brown, colored, is a graduate Red Cross nurse, sent down from Jacksonville by the Peoples' Industrial Insurance company, with all her expenses paid, is doing splendid work there, with the assistance of other volunteer nurses. Working with them are the club women, Church organizations and civic organizations. We found Dr. Kershaw and the other physicians of Miami well lined up and giving all aid to the Negro group that was necessary. Mr. Vanderhorst, Manager of the Peoples' Industrial Insurance company, has spent all of the week in this devastated area, giving valuable service in the work of caring for the refugees. Rev. Evans and the other ministers of the city are doing all they possibly can in this work. The grounds of the church Rev. Evans pastored, and the remains of the church, are being used as headquarters for a relief station for Negro people. Mr. W. M.

Mitchell, supervisor of the Peoples' Industrial Insurance company is rendering most valuable service in co-operation with the city authorities in seeing that workers are not overpaid and all volunteer service possible rendered.

The heroic way in which these people are co-operating with the authorities of the cities in clearing up and relieving those who are worse off than themselves, is commendable.

God has been wonderfully good to the Negro people of Miami, in the sparing of their lives. The death toll in Miami for Negroes, as far as we have been able to learn, is one. We cannot make such a statement, however, concerning Fort Lauderdale, Winter Haven, Morehaven, Liberty City and other smaller towns.

In the congested sections, where the little three-room cottages are almost jammed together and where the poorest classes of people reside, God wonderfully blessed them.

I think the most pitiable conditions that I have seen Negroes in, is in Fort Lauderdale. The conditions at Morehaven are indescribable. Two-thirds of the inhabitants went under, and those who were left have been forced to evacuate.

All of our churches were almost totally demolished in Miami. I cannot describe the destruction. I can only say a great storm passed our way. We are putting forth every effort possible in raising funds. We held two meetings in West Palm Beach for this purpose. The club women and civic organizations are working night and day. Relief stations are being placed at every station along the coast to give medical attention and such assistance as the refugees will need. We are sad and sorrowful, but not discouraged. Our God is able to lift the cloud from us. Our group is working hand in hand with the Red Cross. May the appeal to our friends everywhere—to SEND MONEY TO FLO. I. D. A.—be answered. MONEY is what is needed. We are not asking for separate contributions for our people, but for contributions for the people of Florida. I wish that all moneys sent by Negroes and Negro organizations be so designated, so that when the final report is made, it will be seen that we, Negroes, are trying to shoulder our share of the responsibility.

SEND ALL MONEYS TO THE RED CROSS. At present the Red Cross headquarters at Jacksonville is receiving station for the fund. There is some talk of having it changed to Palm Beach. In case you are confused, all moneys sent me will be forwarded to the proper destination.

HOUSTON (TEXAS) N. A. A. C. P. WINS FIGHT FREEING CONDEMNED NEGRO

Luther Collins, in Jail Five Years, Now Free and Back at Work.

After five years of unremitting effort, the Houston (Texas) branch of the N. A. A. C. P. has won a spectacular fight resulting in the liberation of Luther Collins, a colored man who was successively sentenced to death and then to 99 years in prison, and has spent in all five years in jail.

Mr. Collins was convicted and sentenced on the testimony of a white woman of ill repute, and the contradictions in the testimony she gave, together with evidence of Mr. Collins' good character, made it evident he was innocent of the assault charged. The Houston N. A. A. C. P. not only raised \$2,000 to carry the case through the Texas courts on repeated appeals, but interested prominent white people in the case. Financial aid offered by the national office of the N. A. A. C. P., was refused by the Houston branch which declared it could and would finance the case itself.

Recently Luther Collins' 99-year sentence was reversed and the district attorney of Fort Bend county, Texas, gave the Collins attorney authority to try the case in any county he wished. The attorney promptly named Washington county, where the attorney had practiced law for 25 years. The bond was at once reduced from \$7,500 to \$2,500 and Collins was released under bond in March of this year. Bond was signed by four of

EDITORIAL

THE election is less than a month distant. The political campaign is on full swing. In order that there may be no doubt as to The Monitor's position we desire to make it plain, right here at the outset, where we stand with reference to certain candidates.

And first, let it be distinctly understood that The Monitor subscribes to the principles of the Republican party and consequently is generally favorable to and supports the candidates of that party when we believe them to be the right kind of men—whom we believe will best serve the interests of all classes of citizens, irrespective of race, creed or color. In other words we are not chained to the party badge or label. In municipal, county and state politics we are for men, rather than parties. As a republican we prefer to give preference to republican candidates, provided that we believe them to be fair-minded and square and not unfriendly to our people. We hope we have made it plain that while we are republican we are not chained to every candidate whom the party calls upon us to support.

With two or three exceptions, The Monitor expects to support the nominees of the Republican party. The two exceptions which we wish to state at this time are the candidates for Sheriff of Douglas County and the County Treasurer. We are for John Hopkins, the democratic nominee, for sheriff and Otto J. Bauman, democratic nominee for county treasurer. We are for John Hopkins because we know that he is not a member of the Ku Klux Klan and is a high-class, broad-minded Christian gentleman, who has made good in the public office which he now holds and in which he has been fair and square with our people, as with all classes. His opponent on the republican ticket, Charles B. McDonald, is a young man whom we like personally and have known from his boyhood, but the persistent and insistent charge that he is a member of the Klan—which charge, so far as we have been able to learn, Mr. McDonald has never publicly denied—disqualifies him, so far as we are concerned, for this important position. It was for this reason that we did not support Mr. McDonald at the primaries and it is for this reason that we cannot consistently support him now.

We are rather surprised that many who were most loud in their denunciation of him as a member of the Klan, prior to the primaries, are now so humbly "eating crow" and vociferously urging his election.

Some of our people loyally supported Mr. McDonald before and at the primaries, which, of course, they had a perfect right to do and they are to be respected and commended for their loyalty to their convictions. They, of course, are consistent in supporting him now. The same cannot be said of those who were so loud in their denunciation and condemnation of him and of his supporters at that time and who are loudly beating the tom-tom for him now. If it were such an awful, unwise, dangerous and traitorous thing to vote for Charles McDonald at the primaries by those who asserted that they positively knew him to be a Klansman, how can they who professed to have this exact knowledge then support him now? The Monitor made no such charge. Others did. We had our suspicions then, and we frankly admit we have them still. Therefore, we are for John Hopkins, whom we positively know is not a Klansman and whom we believe will make a fair, faithful and impartial law enforcement officer.

Otto J. Bauman, present county treasurer, has made an excellent record for efficient and faithful discharge of the duties of his office. Moreover, he has been absolutely on the square with our people appointing Orlo South as a clerk in his office. Mr. Bauman, in this merited recognition of our young men, has kept faith with our people, why then should we not keep faith with him and show our appreciation? One good turn deserves another and one good term deserves another. Fulfillment beats promise a thousand leagues. Otto Bauman has made good as a public official and has dealt fairly with our people. These are our reasons for supporting him.

HELP FLORIDA

When Mary McLeod Bethune speaks, colored America listens and willingly and cheerfully answers. She has visited the storm-stricken section of Florida and reports the conditions she found there, particularly as they apply to our group. Her story is told elsewhere in this issue. We are sure that it will be read with interest and sympathy and will awaken a desire in the hearts of many of our readers to contribute towards the relief of the suffering and privation which Mrs. Bethune describes.

We hope that our race in Omaha will contribute generously to the fund which the Red Cross is striving to raise and which will be impartially administered according to the needs of the afflicted.

Being far distant from the scene there is danger that we do not appreciate the need for help.

Let us think now only of Florida's need and suffering and cheerfully help as Mrs. Bethune suggests.

The Monitor will gladly acknowledge contributions, publish the names of contributors and forward whatever is given to the Red Cross.

Who will be first to give? Much or little will be appreciated.

the most prominent white and four of the most prominent colored men of the city of Houston, one of the white men being secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, two of them bankers and the fourth a prominent merchant. After a number of consultations between the district attorney of Washington county, the judge and the defense attorneys, the district attorney moved that the case be dismissed. Collins was freed early in September and is now working at the job he held before his arrest.

Had it not been for the fight made by the Houston N. A. A. C. P., Luther Collins would long since have been dead, as he had no friends to intercede for him and the public took it for granted he was guilty.

Texarkana, Tex.—(By the Associated Negro Press)—The Negro woman whom police had been looking for in connection with attempts to burn the home of James Hooper, turned out to be a fifteen-year-old white girl, Mary Swanger, daughter of L. E. Swanger. She was caught in the act. When questioned, the girl confessed that Hooper had put her up to it, by promising that if she would destroy the house by fire, he would leave his wife, collect the insurance, and then go away and build a "love-nest" for himself and Mary. She also was quoted by the officers as acknowledging that her father had had improper relations with her for months and had several times "sold" her to other men. Swanger's wife is dead and his daughter has been keeping house for him. Both men are being held.

METHODIST MINISTER MEMBER OF KLAN RESIGNS, HITS BACK

Rev. Edgar Merrill Brown, Pastor of Dietz Memorial Church, No Longer Subject of the Invisible Empire.

SAYS OBJECTED TO DICTATION

Became "Naturalized" or Joined Organization as a Civic Improvement Body.

Rev. Edgar Merrill Brown, for eight years pastor of Dietz Memorial Methodist church, Tenth and Worthington Place, who admits to a long-standing membership in the organization, has divorced himself or been suspended from the local klavern.

According to a statement issued by the erstwhile reverend "subject" of the Invisible Empire, he was influenced to become "naturalized," the Klan term for official attachment to the "Empire"—because of his well-known zeal for civic righteousness, and because the organization was represented to him as a civic improvement body.

The Rev. Mr. Brown, it seems, has not measured up to the requirements of servility demanded by the oath of allegiance given to the hooded order and resented dictation as to what he should preach and with whom he should associate. His statement in part follows:

"I became a member of the old Klan organizations some years ago before the present organizer came to Omaha, and joined it as a civic improvement body. Those who are familiar with my record in this city know that I have always been an ardent advocate of civic righteousness and was influenced by a personal friend to become affiliated with the Klan for that purpose. This friend after unjust humiliation, severed his connection with that body and has refused to have anything to do with it since that time.

"Unscrupulous Leadership."

"The purposes of the old Klan were defeated by the unscrupulous leadership. The old organization was taken over by the reorganized Klan under the leadership of a man named Fred Cook. As a member of the old organization, I automatically became a member of the new without admission fee. I attended the meetings with more or less irregularity, and as a close observer of all proceedings soon discovered that the Klan was despotically ruled, and by no means impartial in its official administration. Mr. Cook frequently chastized me for not being more enthusiastic in my efforts, publicly criticized me in Klan meetings seeking to hurt my influence and my church among the Klan members, and later tried to force me to subscribe to his program.

"I will allow no man within or without my church to dictate to me what my message as a minister of the gospel shall be. I had rather surrender my credentials as a minister who is called to preach under commission of the church and the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

"This sort of coercion is undemocratic, un-Christian and un-American. I have many friends among the Catholics, Jews and Negroes and other foreign groups in the city of Omaha and refuse to surrender my relationship with them without just cause.

"Consider Character of Doctor."

"Mr. Cook also accused me of having too many influential friends among the business, social and political interests of the city, and informed me that I would have to sever my relationship with them if I remained a member of the organization.

"On one occasion he attacked the character of a prominent doctor in Omaha who for many years has been a loyal citizen of the city and state. I defended this person and refused to concede that his statements were true. The indirect result was that I was asked to surrender my card which I was about to do. I do not care to be affiliated with any organization that assails the personal characters of men and women or attempts

Seminole, Okla.—Another Oklahoma Indian tribe has set its feet on the trail followed by the Osages from poverty to wealth.

But in this instance, not only the remnants of a once proud tribe is winning independence again, but also the descendants of those who 65 years ago were the red men's slaves.

The drilling of a series of oil gushers in the center of what was formerly the Seminole nation and now is Seminole county, Oklahoma, has revealed that 90 per cent of the farm owners and tenants in the rich new field, are Seminole Indians, Negro freedmen and mixed blood—red and black.

The discovery well was drilled on a little farm owned by Mose Janes, a Negro, son of a slave. Over night, Mose might have exchanged his corn prone for caviar had he been so inclined, for his income jumped in that brief period from nothing to \$200 a day. Mose, however, prefers the traditional humble fare of his fellows and may be found as before on the porch of his log cabin though the latter is partly screened from view by the two automobiles of rather more than medium price, by which his accession to wealth is demonstrated.

Whites, too, have felt the magic touch. The biggest well yet brought in—a 6,000-barrel—is on a farm owned by Dr. W. E. Grissold, for a quarter of a century a physician among the Seminoles and Negroes of the vicinity. The old doctor is drawing \$1,000 a day in royalties.

WANTED—BABIES

Wife of Well-Known Minister Has Directed Him to Advertise for Several Baby Boys and Girls.

Mrs. John Albert Williams, wife of the rector of the Episcopal church of St. Philip the Deacon and president of the Omaha branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has directed her husband to advertise for several baby boys and girls.

You, no doubt wonder what she wants with them. Well, she wants to give one of them \$10 in gold, and another a \$5 gold-piece and the third \$2.50 as prizes.

The executive committee of the N. A. A. C. P. has appointed Mrs. Williams, chairman of a committee of women to conduct a baby contest for the branch and help raise a fund that will make conditions better for the race. Babies all over the country are doing this. Raising funds to fight for justice.

The Baby Contest will begin on Wednesday, October 20, and end October 28, covering a period of 40 days. Have you a baby whom you are sure will be a prize winner?

Send the name of the child, its age, and name and address of parents with child's picture from which a newspaper cut can be made, to Mrs. John Albert Williams, 1119 North Twenty-first street. Secure your voting coupons, line up your workers and win a prize. The pictures of the contestants with their standing will be carried weekly in The Monitor. Any child from 4 years of age and under, may be entered in the N. A. A. C. P. Baby Contest.

No coupons will be given out until October 20th, so all may have an even start, but names and photographs should be sent in at once.

Fort Huachuca, Ariz.—Eighty men of the 10th Cavalry and 25th Infantry, who have given a total of more than 2,000 years service to the United States were recently lined up before Senator Ralph Cameron of this state. The eighty men have an average of more than 25 years in the service.

to dictate the policies which they shall pursue or threatens to control and monopolize the political life of the city, state and nation for personal advancement and glory and is not above showing favoritism to certain individuals and groups who happen to be of their same narrow mind.

"I am opposed to blacklisting and boycotting methods used by this organization across the country."