

**COLORED COMMERCIAL CLUB
FREE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU**

The Colored Commercial club has been seeking for some time to ascertain why the Colored Free Employment Bureau, which has operated under its auspices for several years, has been dropped by the Community Chest.

Last November, Dr. D. W. Gooden, president of the club, by chance learned that the agency had been dropped. Ever since that time officials of the club have sought in vain the reason for it without avail.

When it was learned that the labor bureau had been dropped the president of the Colored Commercial club sought an audience with the Board of Governors of the Community Chest, which ended with a hastily summoned group meeting of a sub-committee of the board and a sub-committee from the club. At this meeting it was decided that the future status of the labor bureau should be determined by a joint committee from the Council of Social Agencies and the Colored Commercial club. Subsequently these committees met. The committee from the Council of Social Agencies and the Colored Commercial club could not or did not agree. In fact, the club committee on its part gave the only expression which was given, which was that the agency should continue under its auspices until such time as a stronger and better organization could be formed among the colored people to take charge of the labor bureau. The committee from the Council of Social Agencies said nothing. Later, the club's officers learned that the committee from the Council of Social Agencies without reporting to the Board of Governors of the Community Chest, had formed what is called an interracial committee, composed of seven white persons and eight colored persons to operate a labor bureau.

When the Community Chest was organized, the colored people recommended Rev. John Albert Williams for the colored member of the Board of Governors of the Community Chest. Pursuant to this recommendation he was elected to this board. Therefore, when the controversy arose about the Colored Commercial club Free Labor Bureau, the matter was referred to Rev. Mr. Williams by the Colored Commercial club. The labor bureau had been dropped without the matter ever having been called to the attention of the colored member of the board.

In these circumstances the executive committee of the Colored Commercial club insisted that in a matter affecting a colored agency the colored representative should be the one on the board to dispose of the matter; that he should have been advised as to the reasons for dropping the Colored Free Employment Bureau before it was done and that the Colored Commercial club, under the rules of the Community Chest, should have been heard before any action was taken.

When the matter finally reached the Board of Governors for determination, the colored member, Rev. Mr. Williams, proposed that the labor bureau continue for the remainder of the year under the Colored Commercial club. Mr. S. S. Caldwell, one of the white members, proposed that it be considered as dropped from the chest and that the money set aside for colored work be turned over to the committee which he, the Rev. Mr. Chinlund and Mr. E. W. Peirce of the Y. M. C. A. had formed. This latter was done, and the new agency created, we believe, without any authority under the rules of the chest, is operating a free agency, with seven white members and eight colored members. One of the white members of the new agency is vice-chairman and the active head of the committee, while another white member is secretary and treasurer of the committee. It follows, therefore, that this agency of the Community Chest is no longer, as formerly controlled by colored people.

The principle of representation in fact by members of the colored race was in issue. The Colored Commercial club elected to fight for the principle, it being a matter that the race cannot compromise and go on. The money was withdrawn from it on this issue. And the only explanation or excuse for it is that of a gesture in the form of a promised apology to the Commercial club for the wholly improper manner in which it has been treated in connection with the labor bureau.

Another important element in this matter is that all the money which is being expended for colored work in Omaha is being paid by colored people themselves. That is, the money now being used for the new labor bureau is not coming from the white people, but from the colored people.

The Colored Commercial club is going on. It is operating its free

labor bureau at 1514 North Twenty-fourth street, just as it has been doing for several years. It plans also to push its membership campaign and aid along business lines.

The question is, and it is very vital, shall we have representatives of our own race possessed of intelligence and courage connected with various agencies to speak for us or shall we have representatives from the race who are content to follow unquestioningly patronizing types of the other group who presume to lead and speak for the colored people?

The Colored Commercial club recognizes the fact that there are numerous white friends and agencies like the Chamber of Commerce has been toward it, and many others, but it insists that our own leaders and spokesmen shall present our case.

Certain it is that what has been done and the way it has been done stands without reasonable explanation or excuse.

The colored men in the Colored Commercial club have been working in the community for many years. Nearly every man in it owns his own home and pays a considerable sum in direct taxes for community maintenance. The wives of these men have labored unselfishly in all the community activities for the progress of the colored people. It is hardly to be expected that they shall be placed under suspicion by the action that has been taken in this matter without, at least, recognizing the gross injustice of it all. Nor is it to be supposed that they will rest under it. The camouflage in the nature of a free labor bureau under a committee with colored members upon it does not change the record at all.

In these hectic days, when we should be working together for the progress of all, it is a very bad thing to insult a group of men and women who have been good citizens and served well, for the sake of experiment. It may satisfy someone's unwise desires, but it is poor social economy.

We owe this statement to the public that the issue may be known and that the colored people may judge for themselves the reason why.

THE COLORED COMMERCIAL CLUB OF OMAHA.

By D. W. Gooden, President.
Paid Publicity.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY

(From the Star of Zion)
In speaking of another's faults, pray don't forget your own; Remember those with homes of glass should seldom throw a stone. If we have nothing else to do but talk of those who sin, 'Tis better we commence at home and from that point begin.

We have no right to judge a man until he is fairly tried; Should we not like his company, we know the world is wide. Some may have faults—and who has not?—the old as well as young. Perhaps we may, for aught we know, have fifty to their one.

I'll tell you of a better plan, I find it works quite well, To try my own defects to cure before of others tell; And though sometimes I hope to be no worse than some I know, My own shortcomings bid me, let the faults of others go.

Then let us all, when we commence to slander friend or foe, Think of the harm one word can do to those we little know. Remember, curses, sometimes like our chickens, "roost at home." Don't speak of others' faults until we have none of our own.

(Composed by S. F. Spruill, age 14, son of Rev. and Mrs. S. H. Spruill, Abingdon, Va.)

SECOND N. A. A. C. P. VICTORY REAFFIRMS LOUISVILLE DECISION

New York, March 18.—The second victory this year before the United States Supreme Court won by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in a decision handed down Monday, March 14th, voiding the Louisiana and New Orleans segregation ordinances as unconstitutional, reaffirms the victory won in 1917 in the Louisville Segregation Case. James Weldon Johnson, secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. commenting on the decision said:

"The Supreme Court in 1917 held that it was unconstitutional for any city or state to enact segregation ordinances," said Mr. Johnson, "the language of this decision in the celebrated case of Buchanan vs. Warley, won for the N. A. A. C. P. by its president, Moorfield Storey, was perfectly plain. Yet, Louisiana and New Orleans, just as there were no such thing as the supreme court, passed ordinances in direct contravention of this decision.

"The New Orleans branch of the N. A. A. C. P. has fought this attempted residential segregation from the outset and is now a triumphant victor. It shows not only that the South sooner or later must come to realize that there is such a thing as the Constitution and its amendments; but also that when colored people organize and take their just cause to the highest tribunal in the land they will be, as they have been, upheld.

"The supreme court has once more made plain that in the Louisville decision, through the work of the N. A. A. C. P., colored citizens of this country have been given a weapon with which they can defeat any attempt to segregate them residentially by ordinance or enactment.

"This victory follows within a week the Texas White Primary victory. Two such victories within so short a time furnish cause for rejoicing by members of the N. A. A. C. P. and its supporters, and by colored people everywhere. The continuance and extension of this work is dependent only upon the courage, determination and financial support of those sympathetic with it."

This week's installment of "The Doom Trail" was by necessity held over until next week

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