

Negro Disfranchisement Distorts Power

URBAN LEAGUE REPORT SAYS EMPLOYMENT BETTER

Lansing Opens Shops to Negroes. Worcester and Tampa Lose.

T. Arnold Hill, director of the industrial relations department of the National Urban League, has issued the following bulletin on employment conditions for May:

Unemployment is vanishing. Industrial commentators say so and employment tabulations show it. The gauge the Urban League uses is likewise to be depended upon. When Negroes are called back to jobs vacated during business depressions it is a very certain index that others have already been re-employed. This has been happening in all parts of the country where the labor of Negroes was used before business got bad; and there is also evidence that they are again finding opportunities in lines of work new to them.

Out in Minneapolis the Ford assembling plant is adding a few colored men. Detroit, where production of automobiles is at one of the highest points in the history of the industry, reports that "most men have work or can find it." In Springfield, Ill., where the Urban League placed 33 per cent more men in May than in April there is said to be "much unemployment yet, but times are better." From Los Angeles comes the report that a gain of 8 per cent was made in jobs filled by one office. Conditions here were relieved by the emigration of families to Central California to chop cotton. In Winston-Salem the tobacco factories have added workers and in Boston 25 colored men, members of local No. 46 of the Compressed Air and Foundation Workers' union were employed on the new Sears-Roebuck company building. From Harrisburg, where conditions have been continuously below par for a year or more employment showed a "marked advance in May and Negro men were greatly benefited."

New Jobs

Elevator girls and waiters were put to work at the Mill House, one of the most popular hotels in Columbus, Ohio; a firm in Kansas City, Mo., accepted a colored girl for its office; and a company in the loop district of Chicago employed its first colored stenographer. Temporarily three radio employees were placed in the government's signal corps plant in Chicago. In this city also 21 men and women were employed at selling. These were students of a school in salesmanship conducted by the Chicago Urban League from which 39 were graduated in May.

This encouraging report comes from Lansing, Mich., "Our largest automobile plant, which a few years ago would not hire Negroes except as janitors, is gradually increasing the number in their employ and placing them indiscriminately about the plant." Baltimore gave temporary employment to 150 Negroes in the city's street cleaning department. It was thought to be a political gesture, but 75 were still at work in May with indications that they would have permanent employment. In Philadelphia, St. Louis, Hot Springs, Ark, Fort Wayne, Charlotte, N. C., Newark, Jackson, Mich., and Cleveland, the building trades and street repair occupations used large numbers of Negro men.

Union Labor

The calling off of the threatened Pullman porter strike with the cooperation of President Green of the American Federation of Labor, was the most significant relationship between Negro workers and the organized labor movement. While Boston tolerates restrictions against Negro union members, on a construction job there colored union men are at work. In Springfield, Ill., colored union miners and hod carriers are said to be dropping away from the union. In a Brooklyn plant employing 70 pressers, all union pressers struck, none of the colored pressers were members, but some went out with the strikers. The union agreed to waive

the joining fees and all the seventeen colored pressers went into the union. In some cases wages increased from \$25 to \$40 per week.

Losses Sustained

A force of 600 men brought from the south to Worcester, Mass., suffered curtailment when labor troubles arose. Our correspondent reports as follows: "There is a project to build a huge reservoir along the Ware river; this water supply will be part of the metropolitan water system to be connected with the West Boylston reservoir by a tunnel. A Philadelphia contractor brought 600 Negroes from Georgia, but about a month ago a Massachusetts contractor took over the work. He was not favorable to employing Negroes, and on complaint that there had been trouble in the community with the men, he has taken on the white men who have applied for work, and let an equivalent number of Negroes go. As I understand it, this letting off process has covered a period of a month, and there are still many Negroes employed." Although Tampa, Florida, shows signs of increased business activities, Negroes are not getting their old jobs back, according to the following, "Negroes of Spanish descent are often experienced cigar makers. Some of them claim that after eight months of unemployment factories are opening but they are refused employment until white Spanish people, Italians and other fairer people are employed."

PRESENTS PUPILS IN PIANO RECITAL

Miss Elaine Smith presented her pupils in a well prepared program at St. Benedict's Community House, Wednesday evening. Miss Smith is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Smith, 3027 Manderson street, and has been giving piano lessons at St. Benedict's for about a year. She is a pupil of Mrs. Florentine F. Pinkston. The following program was rendered:

- "Sweeping Day" Bilbro
- Bridea Guston
- "Night Wind" Ballard
- Juanita Cole
- "Wicked Witch"
- Ellen Richardson
- "In An Old Garden" Wonich
- Modessa Richards
- "Gayety Polka" Fearis
- "L'Arabesque" Burgmuller
- Dorothy Scott
- "Charges of the Uhlans" Duet
- Mae Guston and Teacher
- "Witching Moonlight" Ballard
- "Rose of the Orient" Anthony
- Elizabeth Hunter
- "La Ballade" Burgmuller
- "Fluttering Leaves" Kolling
- Maxine Harrold
- "The Gypsies" Burgmuller
- "Tender Thoughts" Anthony
- Dorothy Sprangers
- "Dancing Moonbeams" Anthony
- Alice Spialek
- Pauline Harbin

STATE FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS CLOSES GOOD SESSION

The 23rd annual convention of the Nebraska State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, which was in session Tuesday and Wednesday at Claire Chapel M. E. church, Twenty-second and Miami streets, came to a close Wednesday evening, at which time the newly elected officers were installed and an address was given by Dr. A. H. Higgs, pastor of the church. The newly elected officers are Ada Holmes, Lincoln, president; Gertrude Shackleford, Omaha, vice-president; Rhiava Harrold, Omaha, secretary; and Daisy Gordon, Beatrice, treasurer. The organization has a membership of over 200 in about twenty local clubs. It now owns a large modern home in Lincoln, which it plans to remodel for a dormitory for colored university co-eds as soon as sufficient funds are available.

An ad appearing in The Monitor three weeks ago for an up-to-date barber secured for Mrs. Turner, 1002 South Thirteenth street, Mr. W. Robert B. Alexander, who has accepted the management of the barber shop at the above number. Advertise in The Monitor to get results.

EDITORIAL

Colored patrons of a local theater have been told that there was an agreement upon the part of the "Colored Chamber of Commerce" that colored people would not attempt to occupy seats on the first floor. We do not know where they got this information. There is no "Colored Chamber of Commerce," but there was a "Colored Commercial Club." Perhaps that's what they mean by "Colored Chamber of Commerce." It so happens that we were a member of the Executive Committee of that club during the entire period of its activity and we can therefore speak with authority with reference to its transactions. No such proposal was ever presented to the club and no such agreement was even discussed to say nothing of being assented to. Had such a proposal been presented it would have been voted down. So the statement as to any such unmanly and cowardly agreement is absolutely false.

But even though the membership of that club had been pusillanimous enough to have signed such an agreement, is there anyone in his senses big enough fool to believe that it could have any binding force upon the Negro citizenry of Omaha? Could such an "agreement" signed by a thousand "Chambers of Commerce," colored or white, nullify the constitutional law of this sovereign state? None but an imbecile would for a moment entertain such a silly contention. No individual is so influential, no organization so powerful that it may willy nilly set aside the law.

So, this silly stuff certain theaters are hatching up to justify their violation of the law is absolutely false, and even though it were true it could have no binding force outside of those who voluntarily made this agreement, and only upon them as a kind of "gentlemen's agreement." Not being a representative body they could only speak for themselves.

Nebraska's Civil Rights Bill stands, with its definite, clear-cut, unequivocal provisions to protect and safeguard the civil rights of all citizens of this state. Let all live within the law. Here lies the way of amity, good-will and safety. This is the law:

Sec. 1. Civil Rights of Persons. All persons within this state shall be entitled to a full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of inns, restaurants, public conveyances, barber shops, theaters and other places of amusement; subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to every person.

Sec. 2. Penalty for Violating of Preceding Section. Any person who shall violate the foregoing section by denying to any person, except for reasons of law applicable to all persons, the full enjoyment of any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, or privileges enumerated in the foregoing section, or by abiding or inciting such denials, shall for each offense be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and be fined in any sum not less than twenty-five dollars, nor more than one hundred dollars, and pay the costs of the prosecution.

THE NEGRO AT KANSAS CITY

By Kelly Miller

There were fifty Negro delegates and ten alternates at the recent republican convention. A goodly proportion came from northern districts. Their interests were mainly segregated and racial. The dominant issues of prohibition and farm relief did not arouse their emotions, nor stir their enthusiasm. After the manner of the southern plan, the Negro representatives were shut into themselves by domiciliary segregation. The great Methodist Episcopal conference had met in the same city several weeks previous. The colored contingency was similarly disposed of. Neither politics nor religion runs as deep as the color line. The Negro is learning painfully the purpose of the Nordic to set a social separatix which shall operate as effectively as the decimal point in arithmetic. The basic question is, what power has he to alter or affect that purpose? It operates with baleful effectiveness alike in education, religion, politics and social procedure. All of our bombardment does not seem to budge it.

The Negro delegates did not seem to figure in any effective way in the general procedure of the convention. In the main, they were lined up on the winning side long in advance. The Afro-American has an instinct for picking the winner and getting on the band wagon. The Negro contingent held its own racial caucus. It constituted only five per cent of the enrollment of the convention. The chief concern of the colored political leaders was to secure the insertion of a plank insisting upon the enforcement of the 14th and 15th amendments. The colored troops fought nobly; but to no avail. They were not even able to have these amendments bracketed with the 18th, whose enforcement was especially stressed as a party policy. But true to the verbal traditions of the party, some slight reference must needs be made to the Negro and his claims. Cerebus must have his sop. The insertion of the splinter of a plank on lynching

was only a complimentary gesture. It serves to remind the race that the G. O. P. has not altogether forgotten the black ally who was formerly held in such high regard and esteem. The insertion will not be without indirect benefit. It serves to keep afresh in the mind of the American people the enormity of the evil of lynching. I do not believe that a single Negro will be deceived thereby. It will certainly not be stressed as a campaign issue.

A colored delegate was assigned to make one of the four or five minute addresses seconding the nomination of Secretary Hoover. This he did creditably. I believe that this is the only instance where a Negro functioned conspicuously in the proceedings. The race undoubtedly impressed less influence upon the Kansas City convention than upon any like session since enfranchisement. We can hardly believe that in 1884, Hon. John R. Lynch was chosen temporary chairman. As late as 1912, the late Henry Lincoln Johnson held the fate of the convention in the hollow of his hand. It was the emphatic and unswerving attitude of this bold black leader that determined the issue between Roosevelt and Taft, which put the G. O. P. out of luck for the ensuing eight years. What a swift descent from the political heights of those days to the low level of today!

But there is a darker semblance yet. The Negro was all but eliminated as a dominant force in any of the states. Walter Cohen, the little pelican war horse was dethroned in favor of white leadership. He was personally allowed to retain his seat as a delegate merely to save the regnant party from the odium of throwing out a leading colored man without courtesy or consideration. Ben Davis lost the committeemanship in Georgia. Perry Howard alone survives, but even his temporary success has no assurance of permanency. The slightest shift in the exigencies of the situation would have relegated him to the company of his forlorn defeated brethren. Throughout the south the lily whites are in the as-

pendancy. In Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Texas, where the voice of the Negro delegates used to be heard at national conventions, alas, they are heard no more. The Negro politician has given up the ghost, without expectation, if not without hope of resurrection.

The race owes ex-President Harding an unrecognized debt of political gratitude. All had once before been lost to the Negro. When Judson Lyon was thrown off the national committee by Lincoln Johnson, there was not a single Negro representative left in that august body. Lincoln Johnson fought his way to chieftainship. But when President Harding seized the reins of power, he decided to turn over to Negro control the states of Mississippi and Louisiana. The national committee in that state belonged to Cohen, who by abnegation gave it to the very white man who has brought about his unhorsing. Such is political gratitude. But the outstanding fact remains, the Negro has been practically eliminated from trusteeship of the G. O. P. He is now holding on only by a tenuous thread which the scissors of political fate are ready to clip.

There is little likelihood that this power will be restored. The great republican party is a practical body and, excepting the Roman Catholic Church, is the most efficient organization on earth. It has no sentiment that will stand in the way of efficiency. It desires to build up a functioning republican party in every state of the union. Nowhere has this yet been accomplished under Negro leadership, certainly not since the days of Wright Cuney of Texas. The party in such states as North Carolina, Virginia, Florida and Texas thrives much more vigorously under white sponsorship. Negro leaders for the most part seem satisfied to traffic in delegates rather than build up strong local organizations which will induce every republican to vote in local as well as national elections, even under restrictions by revised constitutions. Theodore Roosevelt in his progressive campaign, adopted the policy of placing in power in the southern states the men who could best command the situation, regardless of race. But he found that they were mostly white men of local standing, courage and influence and wealth. It is needless for the would-be Negro leader to hark back to the sentimentality of a bygone age. In politics as elsewhere, it is a case of the survival of the fittest.

The loss in the south is partially offset by gains in the north. The vital difference is that the northern delegate must needs speak with a dictated voice. He is in the hopeless minority in every state and must follow the fortune of party bosses. There is little or no latitude for racial independence.

And so, now we face the coming campaign with eyes wide open. There must be devised an entirely new set of reasons and arguments for racial support of Hoover and the G. O. P. Appeal to Lincoln and Sumner and Grant will not sway Negro votes as it did aforetime. Extravagant prophecy of what the new administration is going to do for the Negro has been done to death in previous campaigns with sad disillusionment. Only the simple will bite at that bait. Denunciation of the democrats and dread of southern fire eaters, if Smith succeeds, will no longer frighten the simple. The southern fire eaters eat as much fire under republican as under democratic national authority.

There are sufficient sound reasons and good sense why the Negro should, in this campaign, prefer the republican to the democratic party, why Hoover should be chosen rather than Smith. But the Negro spellbinder must learn its spell and potency. The one which he has used for the past 40 years has lost its spell and potency.

—June 21, 1928.
Washington, D. C.

SOUTH TO STAY "SOLID" SAYS A NEGRO LEADER

Will Vote for Smith, or Any Other Democrat, Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois Believes.

GOES TO RACE CONVENTION

(From The World-Herald)
"The 'solid south' will vote for Al Smith—or any other democrat nominated. Of this I am as confident as I am sitting here," declared Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois of New York, editor of "The Crisis," and said by many to have accomplished more than any man of his race in the forcing of recognition of the intellectual power of the Negro.

Dr. Du Bois was one of 50 men and women traveling in three special cars that passed through Omaha Saturday afternoon en route to the nineteenth annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to be held in Los Angeles, June 27 through July 3.

Also of the party was James Weldon Johnson, writer, musician, composer of national note, and secretary of the association, who served as U.S. consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua; William Pickens, field secretary and colored orator, and Charles Waddell Chestnut, of Cleveland, novelist and short story writer who is to receive the fourteenth annual award of the Spingarn medal, given for the highest achievement of an American Negro. It is to be given him for his "pioneer work as a literary artist depicting the lift and struggle of Americans of Negro descent and for his long and useful career as a scholar, worker and freeman of one of America's greatest cities." Dr. Du Bois and James Weldon Johnson have been awarded the medal in previous years.

No Chance for New Party

Others included Harry E. Davis, civil service commissioner of Cleveland, and Arthur B. Spingarn of New York, chairman of the national organization's legal committee and both members of its board of directors.

"There is no possibility of a third party today, no matter how some may consider the crying need," continued Dr. Du Bois. "The disfranchisement of the white man as well as the Negro, in the south, and even today in the north, makes it impossible. The powerful influences that dominate the voting power of the individual in both parties are at work. If they don't vote the way the wind blows—they don't vote at all!"

"Smith will be nominated, or his party will fail. The people of the south are not going to make the to-do that is looked for. They will act silently, vote for Smith if he is nominated, and if by any chance he is not, for the democrat that is. A great increase in population in the south has been marked by no increase in voting power. As for the Negro of the south, take Louisiana for example, where today actual figures show that but eight hundred Negroes are registered out of a Negro population of three-quarters of a million."

Negroes Favor Smith

To Dr. Du Bois' remarks James Weldon Johnson nodded a second and said: "The south is dominated by representatives of its wealth, the average white, like the Negro, as a matter of personal welfare, follows the dictates of party domination."

Both say there will never be a change, "until a real democracy is realized and an appeal made to the intelligence of all the people."

There is a great deal of sympathy for Smith throughout the land on the part of the colored people, members of the party declared.

Politics, anti-lynching laws, segregation and such will be discussed at the coming convention in Los Angeles. The opening convention session will be addressed by Dr. Du Bois whose topic will be "The Presidential Election, Black Votes and Democracy in the United States." Some five hundred persons from all parts of the country will be in attendance there. (Continued on Page Three)

Miss Mary Belle Bryant of Chicago, Ill., has been the house guest of Mrs. R. D. Allen, 2715 Hamilton, and Mrs. Lizzie Buford, 2227 Miami street, the past three weeks.