

"This and That...."

by CLIFFORD C. MITCHELL
STAMPS AND COMPLIMENTS!

Every week this columnist receives dozens of compliments from people in every walk of life and while all of

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these are appreciated and serve as an mental stimulus it is rare indeed that a correspondent sends both stamps and compliments. And I am not too ashamed to admit that sometimes I wonder where the stamps will come from to carry my following weeks releases.

M. L. Collins, editor of the Sun, in Shreveport, La., writes: "We are enclosing some stamps as a little 'help out' in mailing the excellent news matter and comment which you have been sending to us, and many others, during the past few years. Your feature, 'Digesting the News', has been published on the editorial page of The Sun regularly, (since September 1930) and it has proved quite interesting and informing to our readers who eagerly look for it weekly."

"We can add nothing to the high praise that has been justly heaped upon you, and your efforts by many editors and leading citizens but we want you to know that in our opinion you are setting

a worthy precedent as a "come-back" man and, with others, we hope that the chance to enter society again and take your rightful place as a positive factor for good will soon be realized.

"That you are fast winning admiration of those whose influence can and will help you to realize your ideals is evident. Keep the good fight up and be assured of our readiness to do whatever lies within our power at any time to help you in your fight for a chance to contribute your bit to the further development of our common country."

The first issue of the new Detroit Tribune arrived, and it is hard for me to believe the current press dispatches that its editor, J. Edw. McCall is a blind man.

"After many, many months absence two other 'exchanges' also arrive. The Spokesman, now a standard sized weekly of San Francisco, Calif., and the rejuvenated Negro World, of New York, under the editorship of Mrs. M. L. T. DeMena.

A note to our various circulation managers: Please have each and every communication, paper, magazine book or letter, addressed strictly as follows: Clifford C. Mitchell, No. 30667, Care of A. L. VanHorn, Jackson, Michigan. Be sure that the above serial number is on each paper, etc. Thanks.

Two more papers using "This and That", bringing the total, so far up to twenty-one. The new ones are the Herald of Newark, N. J., F. R. Clark, editor, and the Southern Negro World of West Palm Beach, Florida, Rev. Lloyd H. King, editor.

Acknowledgements:

At the very last moment a letter arrives from James A. Jackson (U. S. Dept. of Com.) Washington, D. C. Many expressions in it I wish to quote but I'll have to leave it for next week.

"My home town paper, Twin-City Herald, (Minneapolis) recently carried a fine tribute to my efforts in Cecil E. Newman's 'This World' column. Many thanks! "Two new books for review: 'Black Bagdad' by John H. Craig, from the Minton Baleh and Co., New York, and the 'A. B. C.'s of Great Negroes' by Charles C. Dawson, and published by him in Chicago. "The March and April Birth Control Review Magazine; April Southern Workman; and the 1932 financial report of the American Church Institute for Negroes. "Releases describing the Fourth Vocational Opportunity Campaign, (May 7th to 14th) by and from the National Urban League. "Congratulations to the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company on its successful financial year.

Book Review

"BANANA BOTTOM"

by CLAUDE McKAY

(Harper and Bros., 49 E. 33rd St., New York City.)

Banana Bottom is a small community in the West Indies and around its characters, supplemented by characters in neighboring districts, principally Jubilee, and Gintertown, Claude

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McKay has written a very interesting novel. Interesting because he pertinently describes the everyday lives of all classes of people living in the West Indies and without any reservations chronicles their actions—good and bad.

The story is built around Bita Plant, a good looking black girl, who in her early teens is raped by a native. Friends of Bita's father, a white missionary couple, take pity on Bita and practically adopt her, sending her to England for a complete scholastic education.

On Bita's return from England she finds her life program all planned out for her by the good missionary people. She becomes engaged, against her will, to a bright and promising young minister and only escapes marrying him because he was caught in a compromising position with a nanny goat and shamefully flees both Bita and the country. She next falls in love with a town dandy but shamefully the dandy admits his love for Bita but declines to do any marrying. Finally, Bita with all her education and scholastic culture, marries Jubban, her father's drayman, who possesses a peculiar power over horses, mules, and all nature. And the union, despite their cultural differences, is a happy one.

—Clifford C. Mitchell.

UPTON SINCLAIR

Presents

WILLIAM FOX

(Published and distributed by the author, Upton Sinclair, Los Angeles (West branch), California.)

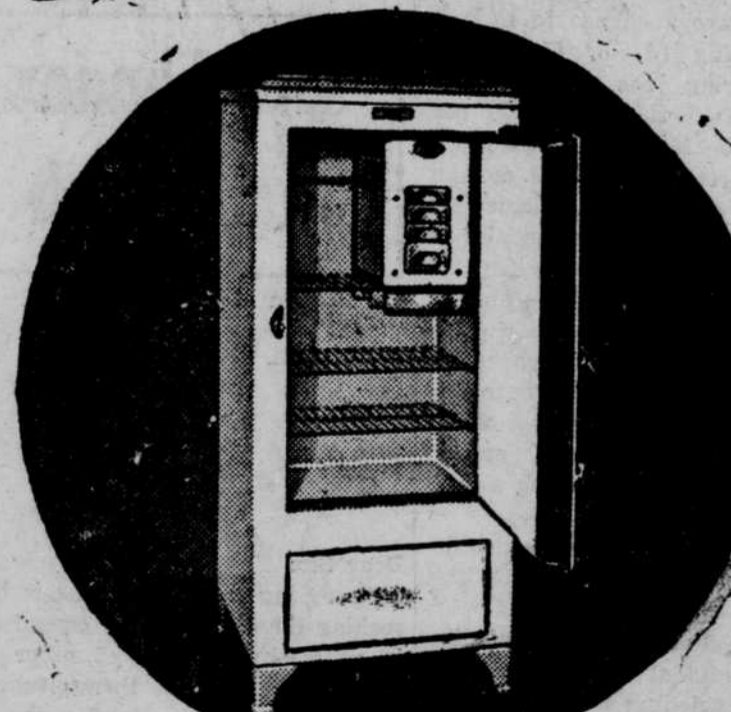
As a novel this book is easily the most interesting that I have ever reviewed and commented upon. Perhaps this is so because I love works that picture human achievements, dealing in finance and the inevitable intrigues of men seeking power and wealth.

The book is more than a novel, however. It is not depicted as fiction but as an actual expose of the conditions, presumably, that wrecked William Fox and his aspirations to control the motion picture industry of the world.

We cannot help but admire the rise of the Fox from an obscure east side New York lad to a position of dominance in industry and finance. Undoubtedly, in his own rise he took advantage of every opportunity and every condition that would enable him to become master of others but there came a time when, apparently, he extended himself unwisely, and others saw an opportunity and took it to gobble in the little Fox and his enterprises.

If the panic of 1929 had not occurred there might have been a different story to relate. At any rate a great many of the evils of present day high financing are clearly exposed and seemingly, laws are being enacted.

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SKY-RIDE ORCHESTRA LEADER



Chief Pilot Hal Kemp of the Sky-Riders, rollicking radio-broadcast from Chicago, signs on the line for Rufus C. Dawes, president of the World's Fair, to become honorary chief of all the pilots of the Sky-Ride, giant amusement feature of the Exposition. The program takes its name from the Sky Ride, now under construction on the Fair grounds. On each broadcast, every Monday at 11:00 p. m. (C. S. T.) over W. G. N., latest news of the Fair is given to listeners, and those who write to Hal Kemp are supplied with four-color souvenir pictures of the Fair as seen from the top of the Sky Ride, the highest point in Chicago.

ed right now to offset or to prevent the recurrence of some of the conditions exposed. The book concludes by picturing a possibility that William Fox might yet dominate the motion picture industry when machines will be equipped in every school, church, and home.

—Clifford C. Mitchell.

"Observations of the Week"

by John Benj. Horton, Jr.

"DIXIE ON PARADE"

Great Musical Comedy.

"Dixie on Parade", the sepia sensation of the hour, is a skilfully conceived and artistically performed musical comedy in the traditional way in which only our Negro Broadway actors could depict it. This play injects the refined performance of its actors into various effectively recreated scenes of the Dixie Negro at moments of high emotional tension. One of the most delightful scenes was the truly Southern washtub, ironing board and sweeping stunts acted by Hattie Noel Maude Russel, Jennie Dancer and Vivian Brown who complained about how tired they were of working.

The casts central characters, "Bud" Harris, and "Burt Howell", were

Then Cook and Brown nearly shook their heads off dancing only to be followed by Jenkins and Jenkins.

The songs by Jennie Dancer seemed as stolen gems from an old master's collection. Hattie Noel, comedienne, performed in a manner that was inimitable and Vic, Ace and Danny did their acrobatic stunts which kept everyone in suspense.

Never before has the theatre going public of Omaha witnessed such lively comedy, torrid music and tossing of the anatomy as "Dixie on Parade" afforded.

To this writer, any play dealing with actual events typical of certain phases of Negro life is of necessity somewhat influenced by the facts, and the more correct its natural background, the more emotionally effective is the play.

The sincerity and poignancy of this cast makes it compare favorably with all musical comedies of today; we predict a long run for them in the theatres of America.

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