

FEDERAL EMERGENCY RELIEF ADMINISTRATION

Twenty-thousand Needy Colored School Children Get Lunches Under Relief Program in Mississippi—Three-thousand in District of Columbia.

By Edgar G. Brown.

More than 290,000 school children in 45 states and the District of Columbia received free milk or free, hot lunches including milk during the school year 1933-1934, the results of a survey made public by the FERA reveal. This total represents 7.5 per cent of the enrollment in the school systems from which these data were obtained. Three States, Alabama, Illinois and Michigan did not report.

The survey clearly indicates, according to Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Emergency Relief Administrator, some of the real and permanent social benefits of the FERA program which have been made despite the depression throughout the country, particularly in the Southern States.

The Federal Emergency Relief Administration first gave official lunch and free milk project for needy and undernourished children in the States following its successful introduction in the District of Columbia by the relief officials. Mrs. Roosevelt, shortly after arriving at the White House in 1933, became the chief sponsor of this health and educational program from the capital city.

Miss Mary A. Mason, advisor to the FERA on food requirements and a leading authority on home economics, has just received a report from Miss Ernestine Frazier, nutritionist director of Mississippi, showing 20,172 colored children out of a total of 45,367 who have received hot lunches and milk free during the past school year.

In Houma, Chickasaw County, Miss., which is typical, 206 Negro children out of 450 received a hot lunch and one pint of milk as the daily school schedule.

Pictures from the Egremont school in New Albany show a large class of healthy and happy colored boys and girls seated on long benches before the scrupulously clean, able with steaming plates of vegetables and a bottle of milk with a long straw, giving mute, but convincing proof of the old adage that not only is seeing believing, but tasting most enjoyable.

Free lunches are provided in Washington junior and senior and high and vocational schools to pupils authorized as eligible by the District Emergency Relief Administration, of which Miss M. Alice Hill is director. In the elementary schools, these lunches are supplied by a central kitchen under the supervision of Mrs. Katherine M. Ansley. The principals of the respective schools determine those pupils in need of free lunches.

The following report of the district of Columbia schools from the office of First Assistant Superintendent Garnett C. Wilkerson shows there are over 3,000 colored children receiving these free lunches: Elementary School District of Columbia, Divisions No. 10 and 13.

Report on number of hot lunches served needy Colored School Children.

Tenth Division.

Briggs, 45; Bruce, 60; Chain Bridge, 29; Garrison, 47; Grimke, Old Phelps Bldg, 31; Harrison, 108; Military Road, 21; Monroe, 71; Morgan-Wilson, 76; Montgomery, 75; Phillips, 75; Reno, 35; Stevens, 93; Sumner-Magruder, 33; Toner, —; Worley, 48.

Total, 10th Division, 847.

Eleventh Division.

Banneker, 55; Bates Road, 18; Cleveland, 44; Cleveland Annex, —; At Cardozo—32; Cook, John F. 31; Crummell, 111; Douglas-Simmons, 71; Jones, 45; Logan, 122; Morse, 21; Mott, 128; Slater-Langston, 92; Twining, 20; Young, 51.

Total 11th Division, 841.

Thirteenth Division.

Ambush, 95; Bell, 150; Birney, 120; Bowen, Anthony J., 161; Burville, 168; Deanwood, 130; Garfield, 50; Giddings, 126; Lincoln, 42; Lovejoy, 60; Payne, 100; Smothers, 53; Syphax, 87; Smallwood, 77.

Total 13th Division, 1,419.

Grand Total, 3,107.

Number of colored pupils receiving free lunches in the junior and senior high and vocational schools of the District of Columbia.

Armstrong High School, 13; Cardozo High School, 21; Dunbar High School, 21; Browne Junior

High School, 25; Francis Junior High School, 43; Garnei-Patterson Junior High School, 12; Randall Junior High School, 39; Shaw Junior High School, 55; Terrell Junior High School, 52; Phelps Vocational School, 19; Washington Vocational School, 39. Total 339.

POLICE BRUTALITY SWEEPS HARLEM, NEW YORK.

New York—The most savage wave of police brutality in the history of New York struck Harlem last Tuesday night.

One man was killed and more than 100 severely injured by police guns, blackjacks, and clubs as thousands of Negroes and sympathetic whites jammed the streets upon hearing a report that a Negro boy had been beaten to death by detectives in the Kress store located on 125th Street near Seventh avenue.

Beat Boy Savagely. Accusing a Negro boy of stealing a five cent jackknife and a handful of candy, two huge Kress store detectives set upon him and began to pummel him unmercifully. Negro shoppers in the store fearing that the boy would be killed, screamed. The detectives then dragged the boy down into the basement.

A delegation of shoppers in the store, led by Reggie Thomas, member of the Harlem section of the International Labor Defense, went to the manager to protest the beating. The manager evaded the questions of the delegation, stating that the boy was not badly hurt and had been released. The delegation refused to believe him and called upon other people in the store to join them in protest.

Squads of policemen that battered through the crowds into the store and attacked the members of the delegation. One woman was seriously injured, arrested and carried to the police station. A series of brutal beatings of innocent bystanders set crowds of people into furious retaliation against the police and the Kress store owner.

All Tuesday night until day-break Wednesday morning, thousands swarmed into the Harlem streets raging against the police, smashing the windows and storefront of the big department stores in Harlem. The Kress store is one of the many chain department stores in Harlem which refuses to employ Negroes. Particularly were the large grocery stores looted, and thousands of Negroes denied relief, discriminated against by the relief bureau authorities, seized food for their starving families.

Relief conditions in Harlem are the worst in New York. The city administration has provided a system which pays hunger stricken Negro families 25 per cent less relief than in any other section of the city. Two out of every three Negro workers in Harlem are jobless and facing starvation, according to statistics.

The violence of the Harlemites in breaking plate glass windows and smashing store-fronts is generally regarded as the resentment of the people against the starvation conditions existing in this section of the city. Two protests against the brutal attack on the boy in Kress was the outlet through which this pent-up anger expressed itself, it is claimed.

In a statement issued last week, James Ford, vice-presidential candidate of the Communist Party in 1932 and Harlem Communist leader stated:

"The responsibility for the events in Harlem falls squarely upon the city administration and the police. The reported beating up of a 12-year old Negro boy in Harlem was but the incident for letting loose the bitterness and re-

sentment of the Negro people of Harlem as a result of their starvation conditions and terrible suffering."

A statement has also been issued by the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, declaring that "race rioting, looting and provocations" are definitely opposed by these two organizations as a method of "bettering conditions" in Harlem.

The statement of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights follows in part:

"The attempt on the part of the press and the city officials to pin the blame for the recent disturbances in Harlem on the Communists and the Young Liberals is for the purpose of beclouding the issue and to cover up the mass misery and increasing degradation of hundreds of thousands of Negroes in the community. It is crystal clear from the very nature of the disturbances—the fact that the anger of the masses was directed against white stores rather than white individual shows the economic and social basis for the outbreak of anger. This is further indicated from the fact that no white workers were attacked and that one large Negro establishment was not spared. Certainly the looting of food stores is more the work of hungry people than those inflamed by race hatred."

A. W. Berry, emfwpw A. W. Berry, General Secretary, League of Struggle For Negro Rights.

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART.

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, announces an Exhibition of African Negro Art open to the public beginning March 19 and to remain on view through Sunday, May 19. Mr. James Johnson Sweeney, art critic and author of a book and articles on modern art published in this country and in Europe, has selected the 603 subjects which will be shown from private and museum collections in England, Belgium, France and the United States. The principal emphasis will be on sculpture in wood, which had so much interest for modern artists. Sculpture in bronze and ivory will also be shown as well as textiles, implements and weapons.

Objects in the Exhibition, have been drawn principally from west central Africa, an area nearly twice the size of the United States. It includes the following regions: French Sudan, French Guinea, Upper Volta, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Dahomey, British Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, French Congo, Belgium Congo, Angola and British East Africa. It is impossible to estimate with any degree of accuracy the age of the objects. Those

in wood, due to the perishable nature of the material and the omnivorous white ants of Africa, may not be more than two or three hundred years old. Objects in metal and ivory may precede the sixteenth century.

In commenting on the relation between Africa Art and modern art, Mr. Sweeney has said: "The art of the primitive negro in his mastery of aesthetic forms, sensitivity to materials, freedom from naturalistic imitation and boldness of imagination parallels many of the ideals of modern art. We find many characteristics of Epstein's work and that of several other modern sculptors and painters such as Picasso, Modigliani and Brancusi, that point to their respect for African art.

"Religion has been the chief stimulus of African art. In the parklands and forest fringes of the continent ancestor worship was practiced. In the denser jungles animistic beliefs predominated; trees, streams, rocks and animals were worshipped as supernatural forces in rituals which involved sculptured masks and fetishes. There are fetish-men's, masks, hunting masks, circumcision ritual masks and masks worn at funeral and memorial ceremonies—different variations of type in every tribe for every purpose, in wood, ivory, gold, wicker, cloth, straw, parchment, and endless combinations of materials. There are fertility idols and fetishes for conjuration to heal the sick or effect the death of an enemy. There are figures that represent the dead and figures to insure successful child birth.

"African Negro art, however, is not confined to religious expression. It is shown in household utensils, weapons, implements, and many other objects such as bobbins for weaving cloth, spoons, headrests, musical instruments, and tiny weights used by natives in weighing gold dust."

A volume on African Negro art will be published by the museum in conjunction with the Exhibition. It will include more than 100 half tone illustrations and three maps. The introduction is by Mr. Sweeney, who draws this conclusion: "In the end, however, it is not the tribal characteristics of Negro art nor its strangeness that are interesting. It is its plastic qualities. Picturesque or exotic gestures as well as historical and ethnographic considerations have a tendency to blind us to its true worth. This was realized at once by its earliest amateurs. Today with the advances we have made during the last thirty years in our knowledge of Africa it has become an even graver danger. Our approach must be held conscientiously in quite another direction. It is the vitality of the forms of Negro art

that should speak to us, the simplification without impoverishment, the unerring emphasis on the essential, the consistent, three-dimensional organizations of structural planes in architectural sequences, the uncompromising truth to material with a seeming truth to intuitive adaptation of it, and the tension achieved between the idea or emotion to be expressed through representation and the abstract principles of sculpture. "The art of negro Africa is a sculptor's art. As a sculptural tradition in the last century it has had no rival. It is as sculpture we should approach it."

PLAN TO SEND HARLEMITES SOUTH SCORNEO

New York, April 4.—A proposal by Edward C. Rybicki, supervising mediator of the state labor department, to send "Harlem's needy colored folk back to their old homes in the South," was scorneo here this week by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The plan as quoted above, was quoted in the Daily News and when the N. A. A. C. P. filed its protest, Mr. Rybicki denied that the newspaper had quoted him correctly. He stated that he had merely advocated that federal assistance be given those who may desire to leave for their former homes where employment might be available.

In the stories published in The News, Mr. Rybicki was pictured as proposing the plan as a solution

on the riot in Harlem, March 19. The N. A. A. C. P. letter to Mr. Rybicki pointed out that deportation was no solution to the problems raised by the riot and that as a state labor official he should be working to see that the skilled and unskilled Harlem workers are given a fair share of the employment available. The letter also pointed out that Harlem building trades workers had been discriminated against in employment on state projects, such as construction of hospitals, prisons and other structures. The Association pointed out also that American citizens have had freedom of movement and cannot be moved arbitrarily from one place to another.

LYNCHING ART EXHIBIT AT BALTIMORE OPENS

New York, April 4.—The exhibit known as "An Art Commentary on Lynching," which was shown in New York several weeks ago opened Monday, April 1, at the Maryland Institute in Baltimore. The exhibit will include practically all the striking pieces which caused such wide-spread comment during the New York show.

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