

EDITORIALS

The Omaha Guide

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Race prejudice must go—The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man must prevail. These are the only principles which will stand the acid test of good citizenship in time of peace, war and death.

Omaha, Nebraska, Saturday, AUGUST 3, 1935

THE DEFENSE OF ETHIOPIA AT HOME AND ABROAD

Concrete Plan for Assistance

By John Brock, Associate Editor, Crusader News Agency

NEW YORK—CNA—The drama of war, now being enacted on the Ethiopian border, and affecting the capitals of the big powers, rushed to a climax last week.

Mussolini made it clear that nothing save the complete submission of the Ethiopian people would satisfy Italian fascism. From the accusers of "Ethiopian aggression" to "defenders of Ethiopian slaves" and "civilizers of feudal Ethiopia," Italian fascism seeks to build a moral case for its war of conquest.

Barbarous Rule of Fascism

But uncensored, behind-the-line stories paint a different picture. These stories reveal:

1. Each day at least 40 Italian soldiers are becoming invalids in North African camps.
2. Wholesale migrations of Italians are taking place across the borders of Austria to escape military service.
3. Mass unrest of Italian peasants and workers due to increased taxes for war.
4. The imminent danger of the collapse of the fascist dictatorship due to internal disorders.

It is this state of affairs which makes Mussolini bellow and rattle the sword all the louder in order to bolster the morale and drown the chorus of internal dissension.

Thus, the world views the strange sight of one of the arch-barbarians of history donning the cloak of "civilization and culture" for the purpose of perpetuating and extending a regime kept in power by filled prisons, quart doses of castor oil and firing squads.

Machinations of Big Powers

France and England, fearful of anti-imperialist feeling among their colonials, have hypocritically talked of "curbing" Italy. But their plans for "curbing", so far revealed means the peaceful submission of the Ethiopian nation to an Italian "protectorate".

The hypocrisy of these powers was exposed when a treaty signed in 1891 by France, England and Italy, granting eastern Ethiopia as an Italian sphere of influence, was made public.

With the big powers backing Italy and the control of the League of Nations established, Haile Selassie has appealed to world public opinion. He has stressed the desire for peace and a determination to fight Ethiopia as a Civilizer.

By his straightforward statements, the Emperor has won to the side of the Ethiopian people the progressive forces of all nations, including Italy. From the four corners of the earth, from Negro people and anti-fascist elements, from Christian and Jews, have come pledges of support.

So that, while Mussolini claims the title of "civilizer", those forces sincerely wishing to preserve civilization from fascist barbarism, select Ethiopia as a natural ally.

Aid Ethiopia

Documentary proof of Ethiopia's acceptance of these allies is the cablegram in answer to a message from the Provisional Committee for the Defense of Ethiopia and the American League against War and Fascism:—

Message to Emperor Haile Selassie—"Three hundred thousand black and white New York members oppose invasion of Ethiopia. Protest planned."

Answer of Ethiopia's Minister of Foreign League. Ethiopia will continue to seek a peaceful solution but will defend herself against an attempt at predatory conquest."

The question of concrete aid in defense of Ethiopia is now of immediate and pressing importance. First, must come pressure on various governments to withdraw aid or assistance to Mussolini; second, to insure an effective defense through "gifts" of munitions and other materials and human technical aid; third, support of anti-Mussolini forces within Italy itself.

But it should be born in mind that the main aid to his downfall is a strong, well organized Ethiopian military defense.

THE ENGINEERS BATTLE FIRE

The fiscal year which recently closed, according to a report of the committee on fire prevention and engineering standards of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, presented unusual opportunities for the work of the organization's engineering department.

Members of that department inspected cities in

2 states and issued 21 complete reports along with 34 special and supplementary reports. These involve cities as large as Milwaukee Rochester and Dayton. A complete report on Los Angeles is now being prepared. The engineers have exhaustively tested fire apparatus for cities planning to purchase new equipment, and have made recommendations as to the efficiency of fire departments, which have been almost universally accepted and acted upon by municipal officials.

In cooperation with the Edison Electrical Institute, through-going tests of electrical devices and wiring methods have been conducted. The Engineers have likewise played a prominent part in developing training and drill schools for fire departments.

One of the more important activities of the department has been its cooperation with the National Association of Public School Business officials. A self-inspection blank has been prepared, to be used by school authorities and fire departments. By making periodical inspections, school hazards can be discovered and corrected.

Work such as this is responsible for a tremendous lessening in fire loss. The money it costs is saved to the public manytimes over, and its beneficial effect is especially marked in the ease of the policyholder, who eventually pays less for his insurance than he would otherwise. It deserves the support and cooperation, not only of public officials, but of the public at large.

MAYBE THEY WERE HONEST

The action of the House of Representatives in voting down the "death sentence" clause of the Wheeler-Rayburn utility holding company bill, has been followed by a vast amount of recrimination, denunciation and plain name-calling.

It is said, for example, that the vote was swayed by a powerful utility lobby which led the Representatives around by their noses, at the expense of the public interest. And, on the other side of the fence, it is said that pressure from political sources likewise caused Representatives who were really against the bill, to vote for it.

It doesn't seem to have occurred to any of these commentators that the Representatives may have simply voted as they are supposed to vote—on the basis of what they honestly believed to be in the public interest and compatible with their duty, and that the vote thus reflects the genuine sentiment for the nation.

There is evidence enough to suggest that as the true answer. More than a million people wrote their Congressmen about the bill—and the majority of the letters opposed the death sentence. When the hearings were held, a legion of responsible observers testified for and against the bill—and again the majority was opposed to the death sentence. Some of the best known of the Representatives, during the floor debate, spoke against the death sentence—and their arguments were not political, but social and economic.

It is certainly reasonable to assume that the Representatives who voted for the bill believed that the death sentence was good and necessary—and it is also reasonable to assume that the large majority which voted the other way were equally sincere and honest. The death sentence lost by around a two-to-one majority—and the best guessers as to the state of public opinion think that a national referendum would produce about the same result.

SANE SAFETY MEASURES

Writing in Public Safety, Robert I. Catlin points out that there are three factors involved in solving the automobile accident problem—Education, Engineering and Enforcement. He then says that enforcement represents the weakest link in the chain, and makes specific suggestions for strengthening and improving our legal machinery for coping with reckless and incompetent drivers.

First, every state should enact the "standard" drivers' license law, providing for a thorough examination for licenses.

Second, there should be more suspending and revoking of licenses of drivers who are congenitally unable to operate their cars safely.

Third, separate traffic courts should be established whose purpose should be educational as well as punitive.

Fourth, traffic schools should be set up for violators of driving laws, under the supervision of the police department. This has been done in several cities, and the work is meeting with great success.

Fifth, there should be more adequate protection for pedestrians—who are the worst sufferers from dangerously driven automobiles—such as walkways and overhead and underground passages across congested intersections.

Sixth, a Citizens' Advisory Committee should be created in every city to cooperate with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles in an effort to further increase the efficiency of traffic law enforcement, and to educate and interest the public in safety work.

These suggestions are simple and workable, and they can be put into effect in any town or city. They point the way toward saving thousands of the lives that are now needlessly destroyed by automobiles each year.

"Abolish all activities of government maintaining and operating a business."—Eugene Talmadge, Governor of Georgia.

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Happenings That Affect the Dinner Pails, Dividend Checks and Tax Bills of Every Individual National and International Problems Inseparable from Local Welfare.

—oOo—

Price levels are something in which every industry has a common interest, along with every consumer, private or commercial. Secondary reason for the establishment of the NRA—primary reason was wage and working requirements—was to peg and stabilize prices, thus assuring business a profit. NRA zealous, when the bureau was thrown into the legislative ash-can by the Supreme Court, said that the result would be price chaos which would disrupt industry and negate what progress toward recovery had been made. Opponents of the NRA, while they felt this view was obviously extreme and unjustified, were mostly uncertain as to the future price trend, said little, and waited for events to take their course.

Now Business Week has supplied a partial answer to the highly important price question, through a "confidential poll" of executives of major industries. Assurance was given to the per-son firm names would be published, thus making it possible for them to be as frank as they wished. Results of the poll, through and authoritative yet which appears to be the most made, appeared in a recent issue of Business Week—and here is a digest of it:

STEEL—Price structures low but sound, will be supported even during the dull season.

ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS—Price trend slightly downward, but ultimate effect believed good.

MINING—Prices are weak in this industry. Elimination of NRA pegging has caused a severe break in copper prices.

AUTOMOBILES—Prices will hold firm—the industry's policy of giving more value for the money each year will be continued.

PETROLEUM—Outlook is hazy. Price trends will be determined by the success achieved in enforcing crude pro-ration.

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS—Prices will hold firm during summer with a moderate rise in fall.

DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS—Butter advance forecast. Milk prices will be lower than usual next winter, due to lower priced feeds.

TOILET PREPARATIONS—Prices will hold firm. Raw material prices in this industry have risen sharply during the past year, but not due to NRA influence.

MEDICAL PREPARATIONS—While prices on individual products will be reduced to meet cut-price competition, there will be no general breaks.

TYPEWRITERS AND OFFICE MACHINERY—While prices on individual products will be reduced to meet cut-price competition, there will be no general price break.

TYPEWRITERS AND OFFICE MACHINERY—Anticipates normal business, with stable prices.

AGRICULTURE—Meat prices will probably stay for some time, with possible breaks next winter.

Grain prices are likely to be low. These comments indicate but one thing that the NRA decision has had little or no effect on either wholesale or retail price structures. As Business Week points out, most of the replies it received attributed surprisingly little importance to the collapse of the NRA. There are no signs that business at large is going in for ruinous price-cutting on a wide scale, which would inevitably result in wage reductions and long working weeks—and industry does not want that. The consumer can be reasonably certain that his dollar will buy just about as much during the next six months or a year as it does now.

—oOo—

Students of European affairs have no lack of material these days—material that is both absorbing and appalling.

Top interest is the Italian-Ethiopian imbroglio, which progresses steadily toward war—most observers think actual hostilities will start in the fall. Premier Mussolini does most of his speaking from gun-carriages at present—and his remarks are the most

war-like in post-war history. On the other side of the fence, black Emperor Haile Selassie pledges the life of every one of his subjects to the defense of Ethiopian independence. In the meantime, foreigners are evacuating Addis Ababa, Ethiopian capital, on the advice of their consular representatives.

If war comes, Ethiopia will be able to muster an army of several million men accustomed to the almost incredibly hard country in which they live.—A recent book on Ethiopia bears the title, "The Hell Hole of Creation," and visitors to Ethiopia say that description is not exaggerated.—On the other hand, it has no artillery worthy of the name, only a few out-of-date airplanes, and even lacks modern repeating military rifles.

Italy is of course equipped in up-to-the-minute military style, with the latest in machine guns, tanks, field guns, gas, etc. Military authorities are confident she will win—though at a terrific cost of life, and over a longish period of time.

The problem is further complicated now by the appearance of Japan with a warning to Italy that Nippon intends to keep her Ethiopian markets. Japan is as much a first-class military power as Italy and Mussolini doesn't want trouble with her.

Textile Workers Strike in South Africa

Johannesburg, So. Africa, (CNA)—By mail—The ranks of the 300 textile workers of the Consolidated Textile Mills remained solid here as their strike entered its third week.

The workers are in a fighting mood and determined to stand firm until their demand for pay for the compulsory holiday on Jubilee Day (anniversary marking the 25th year of the reign of King George) and union recognition is granted. They are also claiming pay for each day that the strike continues.

Financial support for the strike has been guaranteed by the Furniture Workers Industrial Union, the Tailoring Workers Industrial Union, the Garment Workers Union and the Typographical Union.

Bar Arms to Ethiopia

London, England, (CNA)—An embargo on the exportation of arms and ammunition to Ethiopia has been in force here for several months, it was revealed this week.

The British government, dominated by imperialist interests, no less than the French, are placing such barriers in the way that munition manufacturers here and elsewhere are reluctant to accept Ethiopian orders.

Last week, Emperor Haile Selassie protested vehemently in a newspaper interview that French, Belgian, Danish and Czechoslovak officials were blocking the shipment of arms to Ethiopia even though the orders were paid for and were actually awaiting delivery at European ports.

Y. M. C. A. Closes Door Militant Group

Los Angeles, Calif., (CNA)—Because a speech by Langston Hughes, famous Negro poet, displeased conservative whites and Negroes, the doors of the Los Angeles YMCA have been closed to further meetings of the local branch of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights. Hughes is national president of the League.

Displeased Backers
In explaining the reasons for the order, Baxter S. Scruggs, executive secretary of the "Y", asserted that the Hughes speech had displeased some of those who control the Community Chest on which he asserted the YMCA is dependent for funds.

Scruggs issued his order only after a vain attempt to persuade James H. Garrot, architect and president of the L. S. N. R., to agree to a quiet withdrawal on the part of the League.

Pointing out that Scruggs has repeatedly insisted that the YMCA is a community institution, Garrot refused the request.

Protest Campaign
For the past year the League has conducted a number of forums at the YMCA and among those who have been presented in addition to Hughes was Arna Bontemps, also well known as a novelist and poet.

Taking their stand on the ground, that League members have been in many instances supporters of the YMCA, the local branch has launched a drive, seeking to make Scruggs reconsider his decision.

Coal Company, Police, Murder Miner

Critically Injure Another.

Birmingham, Ala., July 31, (CNA)—One miner was murdered and another critically injured

THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

OF
Omaha Branch, N. A. A. C. P.

FOR
JULY 16, 1935

TO:
The N. A. A. C. P., Omaha Branch,
Executive Board, Officers, Members:

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBMITS THAT:—

It has carefully examined the books and records of the local branch covering the period from January 19, 1935 to date of this report and finds as follows:

DEBIT	
1-19-35—Previous Administration	\$ 91.21
1-25-35—Collected to date of 1-25-35	32.00
3-18-35—Net receipts from Pickens Meeting	1.75
Memberships—not including Pickens Meeting—as follows:	
6-16-35—Dr. Wesley Jones	1.00
6-16-35—John B. Horton	1.00
6-16-35—Mrs. Mabel Fields	1.00
6-17-35—Mrs. Victoria Turner	1.00
3-7-35—Mr. Ollie Lewis	1.00
TOTAL	\$ 129.96

CREDIT	
Authorized but not of record	6.69
1-25-35—National Office	16.00
1-25-35—Postage	.25
1-25-35—Rent, St. Johns A. M. E. Church	3.00
3-18-35—National Office	7.50
3-18-35—Mason and Knox	1.20
3-18-35—Omaha Guide	8.00
4-15-35—Dr. Jones—Emergency Expense	2.91
2-4-35—Postage	1.00
6-16-35—Convention Enrollment Fee	5.00
6-18-35—Branch Fee, National Convention	10.00
6-18-35—Delegate's Expenses	33.00
6-18-35—Postage	1.00
7-16-35—Cash balance—on deposit	28.66
TOTAL	\$ 124.21

Amount unreported \$ 5.75

The following sums were authorized but do not appear of record:

Mrs. Martha Smith \$ 2.00
Two telegrams to senators 3.94
Postage paid by Dr. Jones .75

The Committee finds that the receipts listed from the five memberships have not been deposited or any disposition of the same shown to have been made. Charging this five dollars for memberships as unreported we find a shortage in the funds of the association in the amount of seventy-five cents. Adding the unreported five dollars, we find the shortage to be five dollars and seventy-five cents—\$5.75.

The Committee further finds the books and records of the Branch in an unsatisfactory condition. Attention is called to vouchers in the books of the secretary in the amount of \$30.19, while branch disbursements amount to \$95.55. In other words, disbursements in the sum of \$65.36 which does not appear in the secretary's voucher book. It is apparent that there has been a lack of proper appreciation of the duties and responsibilities of the officers to each other. Failure of cooperation is apparent. Sufficient team work is not shown.

Likewise the committee finds omissions in the minutes of sums authorized to be paid by the board and suggest the board vote out the following sums that they may appear of record:

Mrs. Martha Smith \$ 2.00
Two telegrams to senators 3.94
Postage paid by Dr. Jones .75

The committee further finds that the funds of the branch have been handled by the officers in a manner highly commendable as pertains to faithfulness to their trust; that any mistakes made were in the methods of handling and not otherwise and upon the reporting of the five dollars for membership and the accounting for the sum of \$75, the officers will receive the approbation of this committee.

Respectfully submitted,

FINANCE COMMITTEE

OMAHA BRANCH, N. A. A. C. P.

BY Charles F. Davis
Chairman

Approved and adopted: July 16, 1935

when they were set upon here by thugs in the pay of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Co. The police made no arrests.

The murdered man was Sam Childs, member of the United Mine Workers of America, and active in the fight against the company union in Bessemer. William Childs, brother of Sam, was the injured miner.

The murder gang was led by "Killer" Alexander, white, T. C. I. policeman.

When Mrs. Sam Childs visited the superintendent's office to collect the company insurance for her husband's death, she was thrown out.

In protest against the cold-blooded murder of Childs, an entire shift of miners refused to work unless Alexander was discharged. The company's answer was the firing of all the laborers. Because of the militancy of the trade-unionists here, the company has been unsuccessful in hiring scabs to replace the discharged miners.

Add Names of Two Negroes to Jury List of Ten Thousand

Memphis, Tenn., (CNA)—Reactionary elements chucked inwardly when the officials here made a feeble and half-hearted attempt to comply with the recent U. S. Supreme Court ruling on Scottsboro by adding the names of two Negroes to the list of approximately 10,000 Shelby County residents eligible for jury duty. The Supreme Court ruling, gained

by the world-wide activities of the International Labor Defense, prohibits the exclusion of Negroes from jury service.

The possibility of a Negro serving on a Shelby County jury is now one to 5,000, thanks to the efforts of the jury commissioners.

The jury officials here admitted that there have been no Negroes on County juries "since reconstruction days". Further evidence of their anti-Negro attitude was displayed when they proudly added that "A Negro inadvertently was called for jury service 12 years ago and promptly excused".

Compel African Troops to Protect Fascists

Paris, France—(CNA)—Despite the known hatred of Africans for fascism, battalions of the 8th Zouaves will be mobilized against Bastille Day parade sponsored by the People's Front Against War and Fascism, and compelled to protect the counter-demonstration of fascists and reactionaries.

Build Train With Jim Crow Seats

Berwick, Pa., (CNA)—The "Rebel", a new streamlined train which boasts of jim crow seating arrangements, is the pride and pet of its builders here. It will run a daily schedule on the rails of the Gulf, Mobile & Northern Railroad between Jackson, Tennessee and New Orleans, Louisiana. Another train similar to the "Rebel" is now under construction.