

What Will Become Of Negroes When the Reds Get In?

A Book Review
By Loren Miller

"The Negroes In A Soviet America"—5c Pamphlet Published by Workers Library Publishers—P. O. Box 148, Staten D., New York City.

There is a pretty widely held opinion among Negroes that America is headed for a change in governmental set-up. There are few regrets either because the average Negro is well aware of the fact that he has fared badly under capitalism. The one question that bobs up when the matter of change is being debated, is: "What will the Reds do when they get in?" That's a sensible question too. For years politicians have been making capital out of the Negro question. Many of them used it to feather their own nests and then promptly forgotten their Negro supporters once they attained their own ends. In this work they have always had the help of ambitious Negro henchmen. The consequence is that any person, white or Negro, who comes to the Negro people with what he calls a solution of the Negro question, is looked at with some suspicion. There is a very legitimate demand that he explain just what he proposes.

In Thick of Fight

Interest in the Communist position on the Negro question has been helped along by the very obvious fact that Communists are always in the thick of the fight for Negro rights. Their persistent friendship has led to a demand for an answer to what the Reds plan to do when they get in. James W. Ford, Communist candidate for vice president in 1932, and James S. Allen set out to answer the question in their five cent pamphlet, "The Negroes in A Soviet America," published by the Workers Library Publishers.

Ford and Allen maintain that only a Soviet America can guarantee Negroes their rights. For, they point out, only in such a society would the incentive to oppress and exploit minority groups disappear. In fact, unless all exploitation and oppression were done away with the socialist state itself could not exist. Once a Soviet America is attained, the new workers' and farmers' government would undertake a campaign to root out all vestiges of the past, which keep people apart. It is idle to suppose that the triumph of the Reds tomorrow would change the hearts of those who have been taught to hate Negroes. But the new government would, and could, undertake an educational campaign to banish the old prejudices and misunderstandings. Any person who knows how powerful our radios and movies and newspapers are influencing public opinion can understand what a concerted campaign of this kind could do in a few years.

In Poverty Together

Negroes have other grievances than those that center around prejudice. For one thing, they are now living in dismal poverty. So are the poor whites. One of the first things a Soviet America would do would be to set the wheels of industry turning again to produce all of the necessities of life that are now so lacking. The practice of killing hogs and plowing up wheat would be abandoned post haste. Instead the new government would make every effort to produce food and clothes and the necessities of life. Not only would these things be produced but they could be distributed to those who need them because there would be no owners demanding profits before the distribution. America is rich in machines and trained men to run the machines. A Soviet America would bring the two together and any technician will admit that in a short while there would be a plenty for everybody. Negroes, as partners in the new state, would share in whatever is produced.

But, Allen and Ford say, this new America cannot be wished into existence. After all, American capital are not anxious to give up their fat livings. Time and again, they have demonstrated that they will stop at nothing to stay at the top of the heap. They're for majority rule as long as they can manipulate the majority to their own advantage. Capitalism will vanish only when Negroes and white workers and farmers make up their minds to pitch in and build a revolutionary party to overthrow it. There is nothing un-American about this procedure. The United States was founded in revolution and the slaves were freed only when northerners and Negroes raised an army and disposed of the slave holders.

Choice Not Hard

At any rate, it must be admitted that times are going from bad to worse. Statistics adduced by Allen and Ford show that the standard of living is dropping for all workers. Other statistics show that Negroes are losing out in land ownership. Lynching continues unabated. Police brutality flourishes in every city. Negroes simply have to take a stand. They can't prefer a country in which they are being shoved deeper and deeper into the mire. The Communists plan a new society in which the old evils will be done away with. The choice should not be hard.

Italy Makes Bid World Opinion At Geneva

Ethiopia Pleads For Protection
From League

clash, Italy blamed Ethiopia and demanded reparations, including the payment of 200,000 thalers and a salute in Addis Ababa to the Italian flag. Ethiopia rejected the claim for reparations, but offered to place the money in escrow in the matter were submitted to arbitration, and to abide by the decision of a neutral commission.

Italy spurned the offer to submit the dispute to arbitration and prepared for war. Ethiopia appealed to the League of Nations in January of this year.

The League of Nations repeatedly sought to duck its obligations under the provisions of the League covenant, cited in the Ethiopian appeal. The memorandum was shunted at the January meeting and again in April. In May, the concentration of Italian troops in East Africa had reached such alarming proportions that the League could no longer completely ignore its obligations and set up a conciliation commission to determine responsibility for the Ualual affair. This commission was given until July 25 to reach a conclusion. The commission, consisting of two Italians, and a Frenchman and an American, chosen to represent Ethiopia, failed in its first efforts. It broke up. Ethiopia insisted that responsibility for what happened could not be determined unless the question of the ownership of Ualual was settled. Italy objected to considering this point of the dispute. At Italy's insistence, the League had removed original maps denoting Ualual in Ethiopian territory. League members met again, authorized the selection of a fifth conciliator and ruled out the point as to which nation Ualual belonged.

Neither Nation to Blame
The Conciliation commission, now consisting of five members, want to work again, instructed to present its conclusions at the League of Nations council meeting, September 4. The commission came to the conclusion that neither Italy nor Ethiopia was normally responsible for the Ualual incident.

Tortures Versus Lynchings
Baron Aloisi also told of inhuman prison conditions in Ethiopia and cruel practices of torture, as unfitting Ethiopia for League membership. But Ethiopia has no prison practices more brutal than those imposed upon American Negroes in prison camps in the southern states, and there is no lynching of innocent citizens or foreigners in Ethiopia.

The Italian representative at Geneva made his denunciation of the Ethiopian government and of the Ethiopian people the basis for a demand that Ethiopia be expelled from the League. He declared that Italy would refuse to sit further with Ethiopia as an equal.

To press correspondents, he made it clear that Ethiopia must either be expelled from the League or Italy.

On Thursday, when Prof. Gaston Jeze of the French Sorbonne, arose to reply to the Italian charges, on behalf of Ethiopia, the Italian baron refused to listen, claiming that the Ethiopian representative, in the exceptions taken to the Italian charges, was insulting the Italian government.

Jeze's language was much less strong than that of the Italian used in condemning Ethiopia, but his speech indicated that Ethiopia's case is in competent hands and that Italy has little chance of diverting world attention from her destructive military policies by assembling her scholars to conjure horrible pictures of Ethiopia. Rising to reply to the Italians, the French jurist stated in part:

"A grave peril threatens the peace of the world. Time presses. This is no moment for dilatory measures. The question is whether in a few days' time a war of extermination will be under way. That's the point upon which the council must at once deliberate."

Haste Necessary
There is no question of once more embarking on a dilatory procedure, intended to take time only, the effect of which would be to give the Italian government the possibility of choosing the most favorable moment for letting loose the war it seems for long months past to be preparing, and thus place the council in the presence of an accomplished fact."

Third, permanent offense against the lives and goods of Italian citizens living in Ethiopia who were prevented from developing economic enterprises, whatsoever their nature.

Fourth, offenses and attacks against the lives of Italian citizens, even on Italian territories themselves.

In respect to all these charges, it is significant to note that they are of the latest coinage, that they did not constitute a factor in Italian policy prior to Mussolini's 1933 pronouncement on war, or even prior to the outlawing of the Ualual incident as a cause for war, and that no other nations, with territories contiguous to the Ethiopian empire, have been so grievously injured by the Ethiopians, in spite of cause for resentment on the part of the Ethiopians. Will Barber of the Chicago Tribune writes of Greek hotel proprietors in Ethiopia who draw the color line against the Ethiopians in their own country.

Slavery in Ethiopia
But even more important in Mussolini's aim to seduce world opinion from the side of Ethiopia to the effect that the Ethiopian boundary should follow roughly a line parallel to the Red sea, 180 miles inland. This line shows Ualual to be 60 miles within Ethiopian territory. As late as 1923, Italian maps denoted Ualual in Ethiopian territory, indicating the agreement of the Italians and the Ethiopians on the issue.

Ualual Clash
When the Ethiopians met the Italians at Ualual, there was a

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slavery as a legal condition.

Second, that raids continue on a large scale for the capture of individuals destined to slavery.

Third, that the slave trade is practiced even now.

Fourth, that the Ethiopian government participates in slave trade, either accepting slaves in payment of taxes or by permitting the detachments of regular troops to capture slaves.

Fifth, that along side slavery there exists the gabbar system, under which subjected populations are reduced to a real servile state.

Sixth, that the Ethiopian government has not taken any account of its obligations assumed under the League and the recommendations made to her by a commission of experts on slavery.

As opposed to these charges of Italy, there are the current reports of American and British newspaper correspondents in Ethiopia who have described the innocuous form of slavery existing there and the emperor's efforts to stamp it out.

These newspaper correspondents agree that as rapidly as possible, without economic embarrassment to themselves, Ethiopian slaves are being freed, and that responsibility for whatever is left of the slave trade attaches to Arabian slave traders, not the Ethiopians.

Barber declares that the British are the only ones who have aided the Ethiopians in the breaking up of the slave trade across the Red sea routes. Agan Barber writes: "A Harriet Beecher Stowe would have extreme difficulty in writing an 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' about slavery in Ethiopia." The children of slaves are automatically freed by law.

Italy defines Ethiopian slavery as an offense to civilization, although within the last 100 years, no one would have so defined slavery in Italian, British, French and American possessions. When Rome was most civilized, the English were bought and sold in the Roman slave markets.

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First, Ethiopia pledged its loyal cooperation to any procedure for conciliation, but wished, Jeze said, "to denounce its adversary's maneuvers (as herein chronicled). By publication of a memorandum and document Italy wishes to produce the effect of surprise and cause Ethiopia to lose her head. Ethiopia will not allow herself to be misled by this maneuver. It is a puerile piece of tactics to endeavor to dislodge one whom one intends to despoil or suppress. Italy, having resolved to conquer Ethiopia, starts by declaring Ethiopia has gone mad."

Jeze said Ethiopia could appreciate Italy's "outrageous insults" in their real value because it recalls that "the Italian government, turn by turn, leveled at all its European neighbors in recent periods, according to the needs of its policy, the most ignominious insults."

Ethiopia is aware that had it possessed sufficient quantities of arms and ammunitions necessary for defense, as in the case of European countries, those verbal attacks, notwithstanding their violence, would not be followed by the act of war. That unfortunately is not the case

Proverbs and Parables

By A. B. Mann
(For the Literary Service Bureau)

The Bird in the Hand

Very familiar is the adage "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush". The intention is to caution against throwing away a certainty for an uncertainty. Another illustration of the folly is found in the story of the dog which dropped the bone he had in his mouth to catch the reflection of the same bone. This is tersly expressed as "Losing the substance to catch the shadow". Finally, the maxim is

Legal Notices

Attorney Ray L. Williams, Room 200, Tuchman Bldg., 24 and Lake St.

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL

In the County Court of Douglas County, Nebraska.

In the Matter of the Estate of Margaret Tucker, Deceased.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in said Court, purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased, and that a hearing will be had on said petition before said Court on the 28th day of September, 1935 and that if they fail to appear at said Court on the said 28th day of September, 1935, at 9 o'clock A. M., to contest the probate of said will, the Court may allow and probate said will and grant administration of said estate to Charlie Cage or some other suitable person, enter a decree of heirship, and proceed to a settlement thereof. Begins 9-7-35 Bryce Crawford, Ends 9-21-35 County Judge.

PROBATE NOTICE

In the matter of the Estate of Lucy Jones, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given:—That the creditors of said deceased will meet the administrator of said estate, before me, County Judge of Douglas County, Nebraska, at the County Court Room, in said County, on the 3rd day of October, 1935, and on the 3rd day of December, 1935, at 9 o'clock A. M., each day, for the purpose of presenting their claims for examination, adjustment and allowance. Three months are allowed for the creditors to present their claims, from the 3rd day of September, 1935.

Began 8-10-35 Bryce Crawford, Ends 8-29-35 County Judge.

Attorney Ray L. Williams, Room 200, Tuchman Bldg., 24 and Lake Street.

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION ON PETITION FOR SETTLEMENT ACCOUNT

In the County Court of Douglas County, Nebraska.

In the Matter of the Estate of Hattie Austin Ford, Deceased.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby notified that on the 27th day of July, 1935, Maude Thomas filed a petition in said County Court, praying that her final administration account filed herein be settled and allowed, and that she be discharged from her trust as administrator and that a hearing will be had on said petition before said Court on the 24th day of August, 1935, and that if you fail to appear before said Court on the said 24th day of August 1935 at 9 o'clock A. M., and contest said petition, the Court may grant the prayer of said petition, enter a decree of heirship, and make such other and further orders, allowances and decrees, as to the Court may seem proper, to the end that all matters pertaining to said estate may be finally settled and determined.

2. She Gave Concrete Demonstrations. The love of Dorcas for others and her interest in others did not end with expressions of interest and with good wishes. She demonstrated these by her actions—her almsdeeds, as given in the text. It is stated that "this woman was full of good works". To Peter came widows whom she had helped, weeping and showing the garments she had made for them.

3. Every Woman Should Be a Dorcas. Every woman should love and serve others. Every woman will have opportunity for such service. To be a Dorcas means the joy of service and a continuation of the good after the doer has passed to reward. There is no greater life to which a woman can aspire than that of a Dorcas—a helper of others. Dorcas—"may her tribe increase!"

4. Philanthropy. Philanthropy means love for mankind, and the whole life of this woman was inspired by such love. Only deepest interest in others could have activated her to make the contributions which she made to the well being of others.

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