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A. K. A. Sorors Hear of Sordid Conditions

Clinic Head Brings Reports of Peonage In Mississippi.

Washington, Dec. 14, (ANP)—A sordid story of almost unbelievable conditions existing in rural Mississippi was revealed to Xi Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa sorority by Dr. Dorothy Boulding-Ferebee here recently. The talk by the physician was the report on her organization's health project held last summer in Lexington, Holmes county, Miss., in connection with National Basileus Ida Jackson's suggestion that the education Negro reach down to help those on the lowest levels in the South.

The 12 who made up the group obtained permission from health officers in the Mississippi county and the endorsement of official Washington. A clinic to immunize 3,000 pre-school children was to be established at the Saints Industrial School in Lexington. But on their arrival, an immediate change in their plans had to be made. The group found the children living on plantations in a state of peonage, which forced the clinic to come to them by car.

No Names Nor Ages. Of the 28 white planters contacted, 27 gave permission for the A. K. A. group to come on the grounds. Here improvised clinics were set up under trees or whatever was available. When reluctantly brought to these centers from cotton picking, neither their names nor their ages could as a rule be learned. Some were addressed only as "Fat back," etc., having no other, and birth dates were placed as "she was born around cotton picking time."

Another 215 of the 2,687 children examined were very ill, nothing could be done as there was neither money nor medicine available. According to Dr. Ferebee, the only answer to sickness in this part of Dixie is death. Illness brought on more illness, for their shackles were congested, in one instance 15 living in a two-room hut.

Tell of Peonage. The old "Grannies" of the plantations had horrible tales to tell. According to their stories, the tenant farmers plant all the cotton but never receive a cent of wages. The money is supposed to go into a commissary against which the farmer can draw what he needs, but the only things obtainable are flour, meal, salt, sugar, grits and fat back. At the end of the year, Negroes usually find they owe the system. One elderly woman said that on a large plantation of 600 Negroes, only five had received wages one year and one of these was a boy paid \$1.90.

Although 1934 was a good cotton year, the federal government bought a large quantity and required a list of the people producing it, when the money came farmers were called in and signed their X's but never received the cash for they were told they had simply a receipt showing they produced the cotton. Few are able to read and write. They cannot move without consent of the owner and can take nothing with them.

Have Official Killers. Rural schools are watched. A teacher can instruct carpentry, but teaching how to make a receipt or figure a tenant's share of the produce is strictly prohibited. If a Negro displaces an owner he does not punish, but calls on his "official killer" known as the "Big Bully" who induces the offender to fight with him, shoots him down, and goes on about his business.

All of the women have from 8 to 15 children, the physician said. They are encouraged to have large families to produce future workers for the plantation. These workers are intensely ignorant and live only by superstition. Practically all of the schools there were erected by Rosenwald but there has been no upkeep, and they are dilapidated and falling to pieces. There is no drinking water near their schools, forcing pupils to bring their own in bottles.

Few Schools, Poor Teachers, Rotten Pay.

In 1930, there were 502,000 Negro children of school age in the state but 299,000 had none to attend. There are 95 schools in the county studied, 29 of them being one-room. Of the 202 teachers, 21 have college degrees, 17 have two

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Knoxville Observes National Negro Achievement Week

Knoxville, Dec. 14, (ANP)—Iota Alpha Chapter, of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity here observed National Negro achievement week by visiting places of business conducted by race men and women of the city. Guest speakers were sent to Knoxville College and various city schools in an effort to inspire in the students the spirit and value of cooperation as well as racial self-respect and pride.

First and second prizes of \$3 and \$2 respectively were offered to both Knoxville College and Austin High School writing the best and second best essay. The prizes were awarded the winners at the concluding program held at Rogers Memorial Baptist church this afternoon. Knoxville College, First: Miss A. Pauline Strong, Second, Miss Ethelyn Williams. Austin High School: First, Raymond Stephens, Second, Miss Maggie Chestnutt.

Among the most notable features in this connection were the annual sermon ably delivered by Rev. Thomas A. Jenkins at the Shiloh Presbyterian church of which he is pastor. A special address by Dr. M. C. Allen of Petersburg, Va. and a radio program broadcasted over station WROL, consisted of musical numbers by Profs. Fitzpatrick and R. H. Tate, also, and address by Dr. D. Albert Jackson, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist church.

Another Longshoreman Shot

Beaumont, Texas, Dec. 14, (ANP)—Wilfred Wilson, 29, I. L. A. worker, was shot to death by Ernest Espree, strike-breaker, here Friday, after a gun duel between the two men.

The shooting took place at Calder Avenue and Mariposa street.

Espree, who had been shot at several days previously, presumably by longshoremen, was apparently ready for trouble when Wilson chased him in his car.

Espree claims that Wilson caught him, jumped out of his machine and approached him with his gun in his hand. Bullets began to fly, and almost at once Wilson crumpled to the ground fatally wounded. He had been shot in the center of the forehead and in the heart.

Espree was shot in the cheek. His wound is not serious. Espree was held on a charge of murder after the shooting.

Lake St. Bargain Center Men's Cotton Sox, Special, 5c Pr.

years of college, 8 have one year, 61 finished high school and 91 never went to high school. The average rural salary for these teachers is \$20 monthly. High school instructors receive \$20, and after three years may be paid \$22. Whites, on the other hand, receive \$35 with a monthly increase. There is only one Negro supervisor in the entire state.

The committee concluded that the masses are fearful in need of help because of physical and mental handicaps and domination by plantation owners. Educated Negroes must reach down by actual contact and help lower classes. They must direct their own projects and spend their own money, and not leave it to other officials.

Refuses U. S. Aid. Last year when the government established federal school lunch projects intending that such food would be prepared by Negro women and served to Negro children the state backed down declaring it had no Negro women capable of performing these duties. Dr. Ferebee pointed out that whites throughout the state have all their lives eaten food cooked by these same Negro women they declared "incapable."

There was great surprise on the part of planters that intelligent Negroes were willing to go there and aid these people whom they consider as chattels. The speaker suggested that some scholarship be given for Negro students to study Negro conditions of health and economics in Dixie, pointing out that, "We need no foreign missionaries as long as we have our problem in the South."

Governor Addresses Chicago Audience

Chicago, Dec. 14, (ANP)—Governor Harry W. Nice of Maryland addressed an audience of colored Chicagoans at Metropolitan Community Center last Tuesday night. The Maryland executive declared himself in favor of equality of opportunity and treatment for every colored citizen on the country on the same basis that by other citizens received them.

Nearly a thousand persons attended the 10 o'clock meeting which was scheduled so as not to conflict with his speech at the Hamilton Club, one of Chicago's leading Republican organizations which he had come to the city to address.

Governor Nice, after an introduction by former Congressman Oscar DePriest, who described the Marylander as a man who believed in a square deal for all regardless of race, creed or color, explained that he had not come to the center to make a political speech. During the meeting in Baltimore last August of the Biennial Council of Community churches, the governor had delivered an address of welcome and had been so impressed by the speech of Rev. Joseph L. Evans, pastor of the Chicago church that a friendship had sprung up between them, so that visiting Chicago he said he desired to meet the congregation. Explaining that he was the son of a Methodist minister, he referred so easily and eloquently to the bible as he discussed the necessity of bringing the principles of religion into closer harmony with politics, and business, that Rev. Evans invited him to occupy Metropolitan Pulpit at a Sunday morning service the next time he visited Chicago.

In an interview with an ANP representative later, the governor described his attempts to serve the 160,000 Negro voters of Maryland and said he had sought to give them fair treatment because they deserved every right and privilege any other citizen of the state enjoyed. He said he had sponsored a bill which placed \$100,000 at the disposal of Morgan college, and that he had worked for an appropriation of \$50,000 for a Negro tubercular sanitarium. He called attention to the four Negro magistrates now functioning in Baltimore, to the appointments he had made of women parole officers and beautician inspectors as well as of the only coroner of color the city had ever had. He said that he had appointed colored boards to run every institution in the state established to serve Negroes. The governor expressed himself in favor of an anti-lynching bill, but declined to discuss the University of Maryland student exclusion case because it was in the courts. He added that he had made \$10,000 available for scholarships in higher education for Negro youths and that it had been used up.

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Business League Seeks Way Out

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 14, (ANP)—A way out of the present depression and how best the National Negro Business League can help in the prosecution of such a program constituted the major problems discussed at the recent meeting here of the executive committee, at which it was disclosed that the advice of the president of the League, Dr. Robert R. Moton, should be sought and his decision brought before the body at a forthcoming meeting.

To carry out this decision, C. C. Spaulding, chairman of the executive committee was appointed the emissary to confer with Dr. Moton, and Washington was selected as the place of the next meeting of the committee. Hampton, Va., will perhaps be named the meeting place for the meeting of the League in 1936. Those attending the recent meeting were C. C. Spaulding, A. L. Lewis, J. O. Thomas, Eugene P. Booze, Don A. Davis and Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune.

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Washington, Dec. 14, (ANP)—Mrs. L. Louise Carpenter and her daughter, Miss Mary Lucy Carpenter, were acquitted of the charge of arson in nearby Fairfax, County, Va., Circuit Court Tuesday. The women who lived at Herndon, Va., had been arrested and charged with burning their home in an effort to collect insurance. Attorneys raised the question that no Negroes were on the jury lists from which the jury was drawn, but three Negroes were selected on the jury which heard the case. The jury held that the state failed to show malicious intent or any attempt to defraud anyone in the burning of the building, which practically said they had a right to burn their home if they wished to. What attitude the insurance company will take was not disclosed.

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