



SUNDAY SCHOOL ALLIANCE

The Sunday School Alliance held its monthly meeting with the Christ Temple Church of God, Mr. W. E. Webb, vice-president, opened the meeting in the absence of the president, Mr. H. L. Anderson. The regular procedure was gone through with after which a discussion arose over the question: "Has the Church anything to offer the young people?" Rev. John Adams took exception to some of the statements of the instructor, Mr. Parker. Rev. Curry, pastor of the Zion Baptist Church joined Rev. Adams in his views, stating that the Church had everything to offer the young people—things present, future and even life beyond the grave.

The Alliance confirmed the appointment of B. S. Sutton as a field secretary.

Quite an interesting program was rendered.

The vice-president presented the president, who came in during the meeting, for the closing remarks. The president expressed himself well pleased with the large crowd present and the interest manifested. He expressed himself as being happy that he was a part of this great organization which he had served from its beginning, eleven years ago. He then tendered his resignation, due to the fact that he is leaving the city to take up new work in Louisville, Ky.

A committee of three was appointed to draw up resolutions of Recommendations to be given to the president. Said committee was composed of Rev. John Adams, Mr. W. E. Webb and Mrs. Gray, secretary.

MEN'S LAYMEN

The Men's Laymen of the Pilgrim Baptist Church held election of officers. The following were elected: Mr. C. Thomas, president; Mr. L. Young, vice-president; Mr. R. T. Jowers, secretary.

Rev. F. S. Goodlette, state moderator, was present and held the election.

Remarks were made by Mr. C. Adams, state president of the Men's Laymen. A very pleasant evening was enjoyed.

PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

LAUNCHES \$1,000 DRIVE

The Adams Grocery entertained the workers with a reception at the church on Tuesday night. A lovely repast was served. The tables were lovely—decorated with beautiful flowers.

Mrs. R. C. Stewart, president of the Heart to Heart Club, in a modest way, pledged her support and influence and the Club which she represented to support the drive.

Rev. F. S. Goodlette, state moderator, admonished the workers to go forward and face the task with courage and faith.

A Booster Committee was appointed consisting of the following named persons:

Mr. R. T. Jones, chairman; A. B. Young, Roy Gordon, Miss Mable Longmore, Mr. B. S. Sutton, Mrs. R. T. Jowers, Miss Eva Mae Stewart, Mrs. Marshall, and Mr. R. C. Stewart.

The meeting was inspiring—an awakening was very keenly manifested.

Negroes Elected Officers In New York Trade Union

New York, Jan. 18—Six Negroes were elected to the executive board and as officers of local 280 of the Laundry Workers International Union, here last week.

They were: Mr. Wm. Richard, vice-president; Miss Sabina Martinez, recording secretary; Miss Rose Smith, Trustee; Misses Alice Duncan and Adele Williams, executive board members.

Local 280, which is affiliated to the American Federation of Labor, has offices at 143 East 103rd street, New York City.

A Remarkable Child Of Africa

The slave trade was such a lucrative business in the seventeenth century that Rhode Island, "the greatest slave-trading state in America," built 103 slave ships in the decade from 1698 to 1708, and in 1770 this state alone had 150 slave ships engaged in the slave trade. Weatherford, who states the facts in his interesting book, "The Negro From Africa To America," also tells us that many of the slave ships carried rum to Africa which was exchanged for a cargo of slaves. One of the shrewd slave traders of Rhode Island gave these instructions to his captain: "Warter yr rum as much as possible and sell as much by short mesuer as you can."

In 1761 a slave ship from Senegal, West Africa, entered the harbor of Boston. We do not know whether that particular cargo of slaves had been procured by the barter of "short-measure, watere drum," but we do know that among those children of Dark Continent there was a little girl about eight years old. She was not an attractive object—with her dirty face and unkempt hair; but there was something about the brightness of the eye that caused a servant to purchase her.

It was not with the covetous spirit of the unfeeling slave trader that Mrs. John Wheatley bought this child. Mrs. Wheatley was a woman of refinement and of a religious turn of mind. While the child was to be trained as a useful servant of the household, her mistress felt a responsibility for her education and religious training. The child proved to be unusually bright and quick to learn. In a little more than a year she was able to read the most difficult parts of the Scriptures fluently. She was encouraged in her love of books and given opportunity to continue her studies until she could read some of the Latin classics—especially Virgil and Ovid. Pope's translation of Homer was her favorite English classic. She showed some gifts for verse making and when only fourteen years old wrote these lines:

On Being Brought From Africa To America

"Twas mercy brought me from my pagan land,
Taught my benighted soul to understand
That there's a God—that there's a Saviour too;
Once I redemption neither sought nor knew.
Some view our sable race with scornful eye—
'Their color is a diabolic dye.'
Remember, Christians, Negroes black as Cain
May be refined and join th' angelic strain."

That is not great poetry, of course; but just think of it from a child only six years out of the African jungles! Phillis Wheatley was highly esteemed by many of the prominent families of Boston for her loveable disposition and unusual talents. She wrote a poem complimentary to George Washington in 1775, during the siege of Boston. On the receipt of the poem Washington wrote her: "I thank you most sincerely for your polite notice of me, in the elegant lines you enclosed, and however undeserving I may be of such encomium and panegyric, the style and manner exhib-

it a striking proof of your poetical talents, in honor of which, and as a tribute justly due to you, I would have published the poem had I not been apprehensive that while I only meant to give the world this new instance of your genius, I might have increased the imputation of vanity."

Phillis Wheatley is not included among our great poets, but when Edmund Clarence Stedman published his "Library of American Literature," he included her poem on Imagination:

"Imagination! Who can sing thy force?
Or who describe the swiftness of thy course?
Soaring through air to find the bright abode,
Th' empyreal palace of the thundering God,
We on thy pinions can surpass the wind,
And leave the rolling universe behind.
From star to star the mental optics rove,
Measure the skies, and range the realms above;
There in one view we grasp the mighty whole,
Or with new worlds amaze th' unbounded soul."

Phillis Wheatley was most fortunate in finding her home in the Wheatley family. Like many other Negroes brought up as slaves, she responded to the high ideals set before her. Writing of the death of her mistress she said:

"I have lately met with a great trial in the death of my mistress; let us imagine the loss of a parent, sister or brother, the tenderness of all were united in her. I was a poor little outcast and a stranger when she took me in; not only into her house, but I presently became a sharer in her most tender affections. I was treated by her more like her child than her servant; no opportunity was left unimproved of giving me the best of advice; but in terms how tender! how engaging! Th's I hope ever to keep in remembrance. Her exemplary life was a greater monitor than all her precepts and instructions. To alleviate our sorrow we had the satisfaction to see her depart in inexpressible raptures, earnest longings, and impatient thirsting for the upper courts of our Lord."

Speaking of Phillis Wheatley, in his book, "The Negro in Literature and Art," Brawley says:

Hers was a great soul. Her ambition knew no bounds, her thirst for knowledge was insatiable, and she triumphed over the most adverse circumstances. A child of the wilderness and a slave, by her grave and culture she satisfied the conventionalities of Boston and of England. Her brilliant conversation was equaled only by her modest demeanor. Everything about her was refined. More and more as one studies her life he becomes aware of her sterling Christian character. In a dark day she caught a glimpse of the eternal light, and it was meet that the first Negro woman in American literature should be one of unerring piety and the highest of literary ideals."

Ashland, Va.

Media Has Negro Coroner's Doctor

Media, Pa., Jan. 18 (by ANP). Dr. Lances McKnight, was appointed coroner's physician here Tuesday representing the second position tendered the prominent young medic by the city officials during the past few months, the first being a member of the Lunacy Commission to which he was appointed three months ago.

Dr. McKnight is a graduate of Howard University and has been practicing here since completing his internship at Mercy Hospital Philadelphia, in 1931.

THE COLLAPSE OF COTTON TENANCY

A Review By Frederick Douglass Patterson, President Of Tuskegee Institute

The collapse of cotton tenancy is a concise and authoritative description of the hopeless situation of tenancy on the cotton plantations of the South. The authors have condensed in this brief volume an accurate but insufficient description of the system itself, the people whose lives are dwarfed and the devastating influence on the land and "permanent" structures thereon.

The viciousness of the credit system is explained and deplored. The tenant is playing a game at which, in the vast majority of cases, he has no chance of winning. To this dilemma he returns year after year out of intimidation, ignorance or sheer routine. The authors plainly show that the absence of tangible wealth or the failure to pay out is but a part of the picture. The other manifestations are ramshackle living quarters and insufficient and unbalanced diets. High morbidity and mortality are the consequences of exposure and Goldberger's hidden hunger or pellagra due to the "three M's of meat (fat salt pork), meal and molasses. Under the devastating effect of such a program of living, the lazy and ambitious tenant can be seen in a new light, for his outlook on life is one truly without hope. Only an easy going good-natured philosophy makes his futile existence bearable. Thus the authors state that "neither ambition, nor thrift, nor self-respect can thrive in such a climate."

Polite Form Of Robbery

Not only is it impossible to develop a hardy stock of ambitious farm owners—the persistent American ideal—but it is impossible to avoid physical and moral decadence. The credit system particularly as it involves the "cropper," the lowest form of tenancy, is little more than a polite form robbery involving as it does a high rate of interest, frequently 25 percent, or a manager's fee equally as exorbitant, it not being unusual for 50 percent of the crop to be absorbed by these usurious costs.

The above situation combined with the fact that bank credit is geared to the needs of the large plantation owner rather than the small farmer, favors the ever increasing concentration of land ownership with the consequent reduction of increasing numbers of farmers to the status of tenancy.

Future Black

The outlook is not brightened by a consideration of the future of cotton itself. This crop, the mainstay of southern agriculture and at one time America's leading export commodity is facing an uncertain future in the light of production on the part of fifty nations. The quality of Egyptian cotton, the great expansion in production in Russia and the potential acreage in South America are distinct threats to the sovereignty of the United States. To share in the world market at all means low cost production. This will be attained by large scale operations on plantations of considerable size. The present efforts to perfect cotton picking machinery add to the gloominess of the picture.

The authors point out that even government control with acreage control and pegged prices have all but escaped the tenants entirely. In too many instances his lot has merely been made more miserable. This was inevitable in a system where the landlord for genera-

Billion Dollar Bonus

By Wm. Pickens for A. N. P. The reelection siren is having a Roosevelt and his administration. A few years ago he was standing like a rock against the "bonus grab,"—but now he is dangling that sugar-teat toward the vets,—for the 1935 vote.

The rest of the poor, dumb animals comprising the general public look on, many of them not realizing that a billion dollars cannot be manufactured out of print paper, but must be made by sweat and blood and bone of those who work, and then is taken out of their already overtaxed pockets. Roosevelt has already taken in one grab five billion dollars for his re-election; if he can take one billion more for the veteran vote, that may increase his chances.

Why should those who went in to the army, and never saw an enemy, get a bonus from the rest of us? We sent all the meat and wheat and sugar to the "boys" in khaki, while we fasted and starved at home. I am not talking about the war-profits; I am talking about the masses of us who stayed at home and starved and fed an army of nearly five millions, supporting at the same time a swollen war administration and a pack of swivel-chair patriots. Some of these "dollar-a-year men" got on the inside at a dollar a year during the war, and have been cleaning up a million a year ever since,—out of the advantages gained and the wires they have been able to pull since.

That is the way it is with the armies, especially with victorious armies,—after they devour the enemy, they turn like the Frankenstein to devour the people back home.

A billion dollars will not satisfy this crew: the next presidential aspirant in 1940 will have to buy them all over again.

tions has been a law unto himself. Instances are cited in some counties in which coincident with the receipt of government benefit payments there has been an increase in the relief load.

Is There A Way Out?

In Chapter five the question is asked as to the way out. The future of two to five million tenants who are no longer needed as cotton tenants is questioned. The alternatives listed are:

(1) starvation, (2) permanent support on relief rolls, (3) the ending of new work in cities. (4) reorganization of farming in the old cotton states. The authors feel that the fourth is the only acceptable choice.

In setting forth the method of reorganization they propose that the government buy up large tracts of agricultural lands which will be sold to small farmers or tenants on a long term program. They further suggest the need for a definite supervisory and educational service to insure the wise use of land and funds. With this should go schools, health and recreational facilities that would contribute to the well rounded development of the new homesteaders.

Here in brief is an excellent analysis of the deplorable system of tenancy which involves white and black alike, a system that offers little for landlords and less for tenants, that impoverishes the countryside and vitiates the standards of American civilization. What becomes of this mass of underprivileged humanity should be of moral and material concern to urban and rural dwellers alike, for failure of rural adjustment will inevitably be followed by a trek to urban centers which are now overtaxed with problems of adjustment. The thoughtful and accurate presentation made by the collapse of cotton tenancy is a forceful challenge for the combined and coordinated effort of all agencies looking to the social and economic adjustment of urban and rural peoples alike.

U. S. Supreme Court Shocked By Miss. Torture Case

Washington, Jan. 18—For the first time in the memory of many persons present the justices of the United States supreme court appeared yesterday to be greatly shocked at the revelations of the "trial" of three Negro sharecroppers from Kemper county, Miss.

Earl Brewer, of Jackson, Miss., who argued the case for Ed Brown, Yank Ellington and Henry Shields, the convicted men condemned to death for the murder, made a masterly presentation of his case.

When the counsel for the State of Mississippi began arguing for sustaining the conviction, the justices were at no pains to conceal their indignation. At one point Chief Justice Hughes interrupted the argument to ask:

"Do you mean that these defendants must be permitted to go to their death solely upon the basis of an extorted confession because their counsel failed to make proper objection?"

Justices Roberts and Van Devanter seemed equally unable to contain their indignation. Justice Roberts continually interrupted the argument to inquire whether there was any substantial evidence of guilt other than the confession, or whether there could be any justification for the conviction if the court should find that the confessions were not voluntary.

Justice Van Devanter became sarcastic about the testimony of the sheriff that he knew nothing about the beating of the defendants except for rumors which he had heard.

Justice Stone suggested that under the circumstances admitted by the state the defendants were necessarily under influences which made it impossible that they speak voluntarily.

Brown, Ellington and Shields were convicted of the murder of Raymond Stewart, a white tenant farmer, solely upon a "confession" which was secured by beating and torturing the three men in a manner as barbarous as the Middle Ages. All were beaten with straps studded with nails, and Ellington was hanged repeatedly by the neck and let down again until he confessed. The Mississippi supreme court sustained the conviction, but two justices wrote a dissenting opinion calling the case worse than the Scottsboro cases. The NAACP and a number of individuals and groups in Mississippi are financing the appeal through the United States supreme court. The decision on the argument of last Friday is expected to be handed down by the supreme court in a few weeks.

Radio Programs Encourage Injustice

(Continued From Page 1)

ination" and "segregation". He was not allowed to refer to the Dyer anti-lynching bill of 1922 by its true name but had to say "Congressman Dyer's well known bill".

Commenting on the whole line of "softening", Mr. Spingarn said "I tried to tone down the speech a bit for the radio, but I had no idea any person nowadays would want to strike out purely historical references to lynchings, which is a common enough American practice."

But such are the obstacles to information showing the true oppression of Negroes on the air. The case is entirely different with broadcasts unfriendly to the Negro people.

For instance, the Board of Education itself sponsors a radio sketch over Station WMCA under the title of "Harlem Family". The sketch has been labelled by the Harlem Parents' Association as "demoralizing and degrading".

But, in the words of Miss Roberta Newell, director of radio programs in adult education for the boards, the complaint was "preposterous". According to Miss Newell, the sketch is "a fine exposition of Negro psychology. There is no suggestion of sex or anything of that nature. The language of the uneducated Negro is used."

It was so very moral and uplifting in fact, Miss Newell condescendingly pointed out, that the women in the sketch "begged the men folks not to play the number game."

And further complaints fell against a deaf ear. Miss Newell replied to all protests, "the incident connected with our broadcast 'A Harlem Family' is closed. That was that."

Miss Booker Abram, 2621 Erskine street, entertained eighteen at a bridge supper New Year's night in honor of Mrs. Ed Lee Smith, who was married Christmas eve. The evening was spent in dancing and playing bridge and whist. A four course buffet luncheon was served. In the wee hours of the night, Miss Abram had all her guests turn over a "new leaf". The leaves were made of silver and gold paper, with the New Year's vow on the back.

Mrs. Smith was Miss Roby Bell Parker, before her marriage. Every one said he had had a wonderful time, and was full of the New Year spirit—if you know what I mean. The last thing the newly weds could hear Miss Abram say was, "This is only the beginning, folk, only the beginning."

Opens Liquor Store

Tom Jones, well known former expressman, and Coward Thomas have opened a package liquor store and shine parlor at 1612 N. 24th street. Mr. Jones says that his many friends and customers will find a complete stock of well known liquors, with free delivery service.

Employer—Can you come to work tomorrow?

Unemployed—No, you see I am marching in a parade of the unemployed.

Be an ARTIST at Your Gas Range

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WOW 10 A.M.

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Free Prize to All Listeners

Omaha women... here's a real radio home service from the MYSTERY CHIEF. Your Midwestern Gas Range brings this radio service to your home each Tuesday and Thursday morning at 10 o'clock. LISTEN TO THE FIRST BROADCAST TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 21, 1936. FREE PRIZE TO EVERY LISTENER.

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