

..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.

All News Copy of Churches and all Organizations must be in our office not later than 5:00 p. m. Monday for current issue. All Advertising Copy or Paid Articles not later than Wednesday noon, preceding date of issue, to insure publication.

FOR A FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

THE TIMES-DISPATCH favors the enactment of the Federal antilynching bill just introduced in the House of Representatives and shortly to be introduced in the Senate. It sees no hope of ever wiping out lynching, the greatest crime against Southern civilization, except through Federal action.

If every State would enact an antilynching law similar to that which Virginia passed a decade ago, lynching could be almost, if not wholly, obliterated. The Virginia law makes lynching an offense against the State as a whole, subjects all participants in lynchings to charges of murder, and authorizes the Governor to have the attorney general aid in the prosecution and to spend any sum he (the Governor) deems wise in convicting the guilty parties. There has not been a single lynching in the Old Dominion since that law was placed on the statute books.

But it has become plain that few, if any, of the Southern States will follow Virginia's legislative example. Although the DYER antilynching bill of 1922 and the COSTIGAN-WAGNER antilynching bill of 1935 would almost certainly have passed, but for the filibusters of Southern senators, most Southern States seem to have learned nothing from these episodes. Southern senators on both occasions expressed profound resentment over the possibility that the Federal Government might be permitted to interfere in the affairs of the States, but they do not seem to make such intervention unnecessary.

This newspaper's primary objective is to put a stop to the seemingly endless series of mob murders which have disgraced the South and America before the world. That impresses us as far more important than the preservation of something generally referred to as "State sovereignty" or "State's rights." As long as State's rights are appreciated by the States, and the administrative authorities of the States show that they recognize the duties which accompany the exercise of such rights, this newspaper believes in respecting those rights. But when the phrase "the rights of the States" degenerates into a mere shibboleth behind which the State and local authorities can ignore and flout the law of the land by permitting lynchers to go unpunished year after year, then THE TIMES-DISPATCH believes that intervention by the Federal Government is not only desirable but necessary.

The bill just introduced in Congress provides for such intervention. It provides that any responsible peace officer who fails to make adequate efforts to protect a prisoner from a mob, or to make diligent efforts to apprehend the members of the mob after a lynching, shall be guilty of a felony and be fined up to \$5,000 or imprisoned up to five years, or both. When the attorney general of the United States is advised through an affidavit from a citizen that an officer is guilty of either of these offenses, the attorney general initiates an investigation by Federal G-men to ascertain whether the antilynch law has been violated. If the conclusion is in the affirmative, action is instituted in the United States District Court against the peace officer or officers. There is no provision for prosecution of members of the mob.

It also is provided in the bill that a county shall be responsible for a lynching occurring within its boundaries, and that a fine of from \$2,000 to \$10,000 may be levied against the county by the United States District Court, and paid to the heirs of the person lynched. If a county can show that its peace officers exercised due diligence in the protection of the victim of the mob, it is not subject to this fine.

Such, briefly stated, are the terms of the act. Some constitutional authorities, including SENATOR BORAH, regard the measure as destructive of state's rights, and hence unconstitutional. Others take the opposite view, and hold that the bill does not conflict with the fundamental law.

PROFESSOR KARL N. LLEWELLYN of the Columbia University Law School has studied the measure carefully, and has rendered an opinion that it is clearly constitutional. He says, in part:

"The Federal Government has the power and the implicit duty to assure to its citizens orderly, due, legal and even procedure in criminal cases at the hands of responsible officials. When States or officials or subdivisions of States are derelict in this regard, the Supreme Court, as one spokesman of the Federal Government, will interfere to correct. Congress can intervene to prevent the need for correction, and especially to prevent such dereliction as is irremediable. The general scope of the measure has a clear basis in the due process and equal protection clauses."

On this, as on many other constitutional questions, there is room for difference of opinion, of course. PROFESSOR LLEWELLYN may be wrong, and SENATOR BORAH may be right. But we should like to see the bill enacted and carried to the United States Supreme Court for a ruling. If the Su-

preme Court holds the law invalid, that will be unfortunate. But something must be done to end the present intolerable situation, and the measure just introduced seems the best way out.

RAIL DEVELOPMENT

The railroads are among our greatest industries, and their development forms one of the epochal chapters of American history.

Stories of their dramatic struggles against almost insurmountable odds to span the nation with steel lines of commerce across mountains and deserts, in the face of constant attacks by hostile Indians, thrill every red blooded American. Their history is the very essence of true Americanism. The public should not allow their future development to be halted by the widening embrace of politics. Progress such as the railroads typify, could only have been made by the driving force of reasonably regulated private initiative. Speeding across the continent in a matter of hours amid the streamlined comforts and safety of a modern air conditioned train would still be an idle dream, if the welfare of the railroad industry, had depended upon the uncertain whims of political management.

For many years the railroads have borne staggering burdens of taxation and regulation. The present Congress should lay aside proposals for radical rail legislation, and cooperate with the roads by passing equitable regulatory laws that apply without favor to all forms of transportation.

UNNECESSARY LOSS

Ignorance and carelessness cause an annual waste approaching \$300,000,000 should make every citizen stop and think.

The majority of fires are unnecessary. They could have been prevented had someone exercised proper forethought and care. They resulted from human failure.

We take useless chances with fire—all kinds of chances and the inevitable always occurs—a deadly spark, and our lives or property join the endless roster of fire's toll.

Fire can be prevented. Is fire prevention—which means prevention of roasting thousands of men, women and children yearly and waste of property totaling hundreds of millions—worth the little time, effort and thought required to accomplish it?

THE VASTNESS OF CALIFORNIA

Little nations, what now? Actually they are astonishingly little nations, in area, those world powers that now threaten, with their strutting, to bring the whole structure of civilization crashing down about the ears of man.

Or maybe it's just that California is such a big state. Any way, you could put the whole of Italy, mighty Italy, with her dream of world domination within the borders of California and still have enough room, without crowding, to throw Hungary in for good measure.

Arrogant Japan would fit into this state with 10,000 square miles to spare, and the proud British Isles would take up less than two thirds of our room. California plus half of Oregon would be as large as France, larger than Germany and Belgium combined, and larger than Spain.

When you realize how small these nations are, and what masses of people are crowded into them, you understand one reason, why war plagues them. They need land and resources, and they'll fight for colonies.

California has but 6,500,000 people, while the much smaller Italy has 41,000,000. France has 42,000,000, Germany 65,000,000, Japan 64,450,000, and the British Isles 46,000,000.

TUSKEGEE RACE RELATIONS

Dr. Moton in his book on WHAT THE NEGRO THINKS expressed the feeling that according to the Negro full status under the law, far from being detrimental, was the only way in which the white man could liberate his own soul. In these two viewpoints we have expressed the Seal of spiritual as well as material progress. These ends which probably entail the cultural evolution of both races must be attained by increased education and a conscious effort on the part of those liberal minded members of both races to destroy the fallacies regarding both whites and Negroes which promote antagonisms and misunderstandings. Tuskegee Institute's final objective is the integration of its graduates into society. We can follow no finer course than to contribute to the promotion of interracial harmony, for by so doing it will contribute to the creation of an atmosphere in which people regardless of race, creed or color can use their talents unshakably to the good of all. For though racial in aspect this institution has set as its goal service to all humanity. To do less than this would be to violate the sacred trust of those who, in spirit of beneficence toward an under-privileged people, have made this institution possible. No opportunity should be allowed to pass which will provide a program of cooperation between the races for the common good.

England Resumes Diplomatic Relations with Liberia

Monrovia, Liberia, Feb. 19 (ANP)

Citizens throughout the Liberian Republic were elated over the recent announcement that Great Britain had resumed diplomatic relations with this country after being without representation here for a long period. The new Consul General and Charge d'Affaires, the Hon. A. E. Yapp, is a distinguished British and has created a favorable impression here. Presenting his credentials to His Excellency, President Barclay, he said:

"I have the honor to say that I have received instructions from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to present to Your Excellency his letter accrediting me to the Government of Liberia as His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires. In presenting these cre-

entials to Your Excellency I am to take the opportunity to express his satisfaction felt by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom at the recent solution of the Kru question and to affirm the hope that the Government of Liberia will continue to make good progress in the field of administrative reform."

Diplomatic acknowledgement of the new Envoy's Credentials was made by the Hon. C. L. Simpson, Secretary of State for Liberia. He declared, in part: "In respect to the administrative and social reforms recently undertaken, I desire to assure His Majesty's Government that these efforts indicate the determination of the Government of the plan evolved by His Excellency the President."

KELLY MILLER SAYS

The Premier Negro Politician

In a recent release I casually compared the political status of Perry Howard to that of Haile Selassie. This comparison was not original, it was derived from the New York Times. The aptness of it seemed so apparent that I could not forbear applying. Mr. Howard takes umbrage at the comparison stating that it tends to belittle his constituency and minimize the pedestal on which he stands. I do not think it should be necessary for me to assure my esteemed and much admired friend that no such intention lay in my mind. The reference was only casual. What I had in mind was to point out in as few words as possible the rapid decline of the southern Negro and the rise of his northern brother to local and federal political power.

Perry Howard is the only surviving Negro politician who holds his own under changed conditions in the South. Immediately after the overthrow of reconstruction the Republican Party turned over to Negro leadership the machinery of political organization in the various southern states. About 1890 a new species appeared upon the political horizon known as "lily white" which did more to crush the political rights of the Negro than the bourbon southern Democrats. The few white Republicans scattered among the southern states were, up to that time, disposed to share leadership with their Negro co-partisans. But as soon as the lily white bees began to buzz in their bonnets they eliminated the Negro or crushed out his ambition for leadership.

In such states as North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky and West Virginia and Missouri, there was a sufficient body of whites with normal Republican leaning to assume leadership with little or no complication or friction, but in the deep South it was otherwise.

The story is an interesting one. The head of Cuneo of Texas fell in the lily white basket. Lee of Florida, Cohen of Louisiana and Lyons and Ben Davis of Georgia were likewise decapitated. President Hoover applied the guillotine to the neck of Perry Howard of Mississippi, but it bounded back an left his tough political neck intact. The spectacle of the President of the United States using the prestige, prerogative power and patronage of his office to crush a defenseless Negro politician is without parallel in our political history. In truth and in deed, Perry Howard is the last of the Mohicans.

In a letter to me he points out that in the midst of insuperable difficulties he maintains a political organization in every county in the state, with the total voting constituency of over 7000 notwithstanding the disfranchising laws and the persistent opposition of the lily whites. Perry W. Howard and Arthur W. Mitchell are the only Negroes who are on the ground floor in federal politics. One controls the political organization of a state, and the other that of a congressional district. Perry Howard hopes to sit on the lid in Mississippi until the Grand Old Party restores the right of franchise to every citizen according to the intentment of the 14th and 15th amendments. I fear he

will not be able to hold his breath for a sufficient duration of time. Mr. Howard is a National Committeeman and is a trustee of the Republican Party and stands on the ground floor of party management. It is a great advantage to the colored race to have representatives in that capacity, especially when and if the G. O. P. ever regains the seat it once held and for which it still hopes and sighs.

I remember that I wrote to President Roosevelt, more than three decades ago, who had just discredited Hon. Justin W. Lyons, that the act would serve to put the Negro effectively out of national politics. At that time Mr. Lyons was the only member of the National Committee. Since then a representative from Georgia has been added and eliminated. Perry Howard alone survives.

Howard will probably be the last Negro to represent the race on the National Committee or either great party during the present generation. Long may he live and prosper to represent his race in such high connections as he has done in the past twelve years, with dignity, courage and tact. Here's to you Perry, our premier Negro politician. I trust you will be saved the ultimate fate of Haile Selassie at the hands of "lily white" Mussolini.

KELLY MILLER

A MOTHER'S REVERIE
(by Mrs. T. M. Skinner)

Come and sit at my feet, dear little one,
Cradle your head upon my knee.
Let the light from the setting sun
Caress you tenderly.
Let each sunbeam weave a web of gold
Through each yellow curl that I hold,
Close against my knee,
As I drift back into memory.
To a little white house among the pines,
Where the sunlight filtered through,
Where the wind whispered lullabies,
Where two curly heads with questioning eyes,
Rested their heads against my knee,
And teased for the tale about the gypsy,
That roamed over land and sea
And won medals of victory.

NYA Youths At Work

Washington (Special)—More than 3,000 boys and girls from the work and student aid projects of the National Youth Administration have thrown their weight into the fight against flood waters of the Ohio river and its tributaries, helping to evacuate stricken families, collecting and distributing food and clothing and assisting generally wherever they are needed, Richard R. Brown, NYA Deputy Executive Director, has announced.

"Our state directors in the affected area have been authorized to offer help wherever their services are needed," Mr. Brown declared. "Approximately 10,000 youth are available for emergency work in the counties hardest hit."

"The only stipulation we have made is that youths, because of their lack of experience, be assigned as far as possible to the less hazardous tasks of rescue and rehabilitation. For that reason, most of them are being employed in the second line of defense—receiving and aiding refugees after they have been removed from danger; assisting health authorities in maintaining water supplies, and setting up emergency kitchens."

"Our biggest part in the disaster, however, will come after the waters have receded, when our workers will begin the task of cleaning up and rehabilitation."

NYA youths in the area around Huntington, West Virginia, have taken over several WPA nursery

schools and are operating them 24 hours a day for the benefit of children of refugee families. Hundreds of parents have brought their children to these centers to be cared for in safety while they have returned to retrieve what household goods and personal belongings they could from homes buried under as much as twelve feet of water.

Glenn Callahan, NYA State Director in West Virginia, informed Washington last night that about 700 young men and women were engaged in flood work in towns and cities along the Ohio river in the western boundary of that state.

He said that he had informed the governor that 3,000 young people in the stricken area would be available for emergency assignment if they were needed, and that a similar number could also be moved in from adjoining counties if conditions should warrant it.

Communications, he said, were most difficult with both Huntington and Parkersburg, since the district offices in those cities were under water and had to be abandoned.

Frantic calls for news of missing friends or relatives, which pour hourly throughout the day into relief headquarters at Cincinnati, are answered, insofar as possible, by NYA youths who have been organized into information squads.

Casualty lists are revised hourly and persons who have been separated by the flood from their families have been asked to report their whereabouts to the information units. Thus, liaison between scattered husbands and wives, children and parents, has been established in literally hundreds of cases. The information squads are composed almost entirely of boys and girls from NYA rolls, working under the supervision of the Red Cross and the WPA.

A three-way telephone conversation between Louisville and Lexington, Ky., and Washington D. C. recently established contact for the first time in six days between Frank D. Peterson, the Kentucky NYA director, and his chief assistant, Robert K. Salyers.

Salyers had just reported over long distance from Louisville to NYA Deputy Executive Director Richard R. Brown that he had not heard from Peterson, his chief, in nearly a week and had no idea where or how he was.

At that moment Brown's secretary, who had listened in on part of his conversation, received a call from Peterson in Lexington saying that he had been unable for the last several days to establish his communication with his Louisville headquarters.

By the dint of some frantic gesturing and obscure magic in the switchboard room, the Kentuckians less than a hundred miles apart in reality, were fortuitously brought together over a thousand mile strand of telephone wire.

Of nearly 1,200 NYA Student Aid and project workers in the Memphis district assisting in flood relief, 75 are medical students from the University of Tennessee.

The services of these future physicians have made available to local health authorities and they are assisting in the inoculation of the populace against typhoid and other communicable diseases, and otherwise helping to maintain health and sanitary conditions.



COLD FACTS

In the dimly lit conservatory Herbert had asked Elsie to marry him. She had consented with fitting modesty.

"Bertie, dear," she murmured. "am I the only girl?"

"Now, look here, dearest," he interrupted, "don't ask me if you are the only girl I ever loved. You know as well as I do that—"

"Oh, that wasn't the question at all, Bertie," she answered. "I was just going to ask you if I was the only girl that would have you?"

—London Opinion.

Experienced

Captain—Suppose you are on duty on a dark night. Suddenly some one slips up from behind and wraps two arms around you so that you can't use your rifle. What would you do?

Cadet—I'd say, "Let go, honey."