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THE NEGRO AND THE PRESENT CRISIS

THE American nation can rely unlimitedly on the Negro to follow the flag wherever it may lead.

With these loyal words Dean Kelly Miller of Howard University recently closed his address before a conference which Dr. P. P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education, had called in Washington to discuss Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones' report on "Negro Education"—a study of the private and higher schools for colored people in the United States.

Dean Miller is an able Negro leader—a man who has a keen and well-trained mind, a wide experience, and accurate knowledge of white people.

Those who wish to know what representative Negro leaders themselves think will be interested in Dean Miller's other remarks:

"Leaders of the Negro race must be as well qualified as white leaders. "There is one formula for race adjustment. It is the law of the road: 'Keep to the Right.' Patriotism is the chief aim of education."

That Negroes want more and better schools is shown, for example, in the case of 30,000 Negroes in Texas who recently gave, during a single month, \$20,000 for educational work.

Principal Nannie H. Burroughs, who represents an army of colored Baptist women and is at the head of a large girls' school in Washington, D. C., in her recent analysis of "Lynching and Negro Unrest," said:

"Nothing remains to be done but to make and administer adequate laws and begin at the fireside to teach white children to respect the laws of our land and to have a correct estimate of the value of human life. . . . Let all Americans remember that one race cannot hate another without itself returning to savagery."

THE NEGRO EXODUS.

At the recent New Orleans meeting of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools the "Negro Exodus" was the liveliest subject discussed. An editorial writer in the Southern Workman (published by Hampton Institute), says:

"Speakers from the affected districts all over the South told why people were leaving their sections.

"Some of the reasons given as the causes were lack of proper consideration; poor school facilities; extremely low wages and inadequate housing conditions; a desire for franchise; and a growing eagerness for the common, every-day justice accorded to American citizens."

Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones, in his epoch-making report on Negro Education, published by the U. S. Bureau of Education, shows that (1) the annual expenditure for public elementary schools for Negroes is \$8,000,000 for

an attendance of 1,200,000, which is a per capita of about six dollars and sixty-six cents; (2) for public secondary and higher schools, \$1,215,112 for an attendance of 23,527, a per capita of about fifty-one dollars and sixty-odd cents.

Those who know what it costs to train white boys and girls in the public schools, from elementary to university grade, will appreciate how little training the Negro is receiving to prepare himself to become an efficient citizen in a democracy.

PATIENCE AND LOYALTY.

Negro leaders stand together as one man on the question of loyalty to the country in the present crisis. They are everywhere telling the masses of colored people to be patient, very patient. They believe that God will soften the hearts of men and make justice prevail. They are urging the common people, however, to make big sacrifices to secure education, for they believe that education will win for them far more than charity or legislation.

Negro masses still stand sorely in need of adequate school training. They are unorganized in their rural isolation as farmers or farm laborers. They believe in the white man who shows even a slight, unselfish interest in them. They are extremely conservative and "long-headed." They have a rare sixth sense and sense danger easily.

To those who know some of the deeper thoughts of the ablest Negro leaders and realize how many are the handicaps and hardships of the Negro masses, it is not surprising that unrest, which comes as the result of fear,—fear that property may be destroyed or that life may be taken by a lawless mob,—should prevail and that thousands of Negroes, good as well as indifferent or worthless, should move into communities where wages seem to be high and where there seems to be more protection for life and property.

In the light of these facts, it is scarcely necessary to introduce the German agent to explain Negro dissatisfaction. Those who have known Negroes for years and years and have had the opportunity of sharing the confidence of their leaders, have implicit belief in the Negroes' loyalty.

Those who know Negroes—rank and file as well as leaders—scout the rumors that German agents have, or have had, any appreciable influence among American Negroes.

The German agent is a unit in a complex organization. He deals best with those who are organized or can control organizing forces. The Negro, while highly gregarious, does not become a unit in an organization that stands for anarchy, for disloyalty to Church or State, or for any renege purpose.—Wm. Anthony Aery.

NEGRO SOLDIERS CITED FOR VALOR

TROOPS FROM BRITISH SOMALI LAND PROVE BRAVERY AS THEY FIGHT FOR VALOR.

French Front, Nov. 3.—Two hundred and sixty-four personal citations for bravery have been won by the Negro soldiers in a single Somali battalion since it landed in France in June, 1916. Of these citations, 190 were gained in the fierce battles in the vicinity of the Aisne and the remainder in the neighborhood of Verdun.

The Somalis, many of whom were recruited in British, Somali in British Somali land, are very independent in character and find the discipline of an organized army severe. Their French officers, however, are accustomed to deal with these freedom loving tribesmen and, by appealing to their pride of race and their self respect, obtain their devoted obedience to such an extent that they rapidly become excellent soldiers.

These men learn to handle modern infantry weapons quickly and furnished many specialists in the grenade-throwing, rifle and machine gun section of French regiments, for the men are of high intelligence and are full of natural initiative—valuable adjuncts in these branches of fighting—while at handgrenade throwing they are second to none in the army.

Meticulously clean of habit, the Somalis, who are strict Mohammedans, never touch wine or alcohol. In fact, they look on any man given to intoxication with the greatest disdain. They are self-sacrificing to a degree, as was evidenced during their attack on La Bovel, when they had to clear out the shelters in a trench which they had just captured and which were still full of Germans who had taken refuge there from the bombardment.

One of their European sergeants was about to enter a dug-out known to be full of armed enemies, when he was pushed aside by a Somali private, with the exclamation "Let me go first. You are a married man."

A widely prevalent fallacy has charged the Negroes with savagery against their captives. Their officers say this charge has been disproved time and again after fights at Verdun, in Champagne and North of the Aisne. The Associated Press correspondent saw Negro troopers bringing in batches of prisoners after a battle at La Bovel, when a French artilleryman approached them to take one of the prisoner's shoulder straps as a souvenir. One of the Negro escort, however, became indignant and shouted: "Over there in the trenches you might have taken one, but now that the Germans are prisoners, they must be treated like women and protected." And the artilleryman had to go away without his souvenir.

MISLEADING STATEMENT.

THE commissioning of 684 colored aspirants for officers' positions, all of them graduates of the "colored Plattsburgh" at Fort Des Moines, is at once the wisest and most just action towards the colored people the Wilson administration has taken since it first assumed office. There is an old and misleading belief that Negro troops serve well only under white officers. This is partly because very few colored officers have been commissioned, so that there have been few tests. The conduct of the Tenth Cavalry under its lieutenant-colonel, Young, a colored graduate of West Point, during the Villa campaign, after the disability of Col. Dodd, ought to be a final answer to those who doubt the ability of colored men to lead, to say nothing of the magnificent performances of colored French troops in France. As a matter of fact, we believe that the best leaders for colored soldiers are colored men, and we expect these colored officers to reflect the greatest credit upon their race and their country wherever their service may lead them. The commissioning of them is the more welcome because the drafted colored men have not had a square deal. The boasted equality and democracy of the draft law broke down in practice at the color line. If our reports are correct, only a portion of the young colored men eligible for the draft have been called out in certain southern states. Here in the north they are only now being sent to the cantonments.—The Nation.

ENFORCED SEPARATION OF RACES IS ILLEGAL

Washington, Nov. 5.—Compulsory separation of the Negro and white races in residential districts is a violation of the constitution, the supreme court held today in a unanimous opinion declaring invalid the Louisville, Ky., segregation ordinance. The measure, which prohibited persons of either race moving into blocks in which a majority of residents were of the opposite color, is similar to ordinances now in effect in St. Louis, Baltimore, Richmond and many other southern cities.

Such laws, the court decided, would not prevent the amalgamation of the races, as was claimed by the Louisville authorities, or prevent race conflicts.

"Desirable as this is and important as is the preservation of the public peace," said the opinion, "this aim can not be accomplished by laws or ordinances which deny rights created or protected by the federal constitution."

Laws providing for the separation of races in public conveyances and in the public schools, where equal privileges are given, the court pointed out, have been upheld, but it asserted that such legislation must have its limitations and can not be sustained where the exercise of authority exceeds the restraints of the constitution.

The court's action was a reversal of the lower court, which held the ordinance to be a reasonable exercise of the state police powers.

RACE NEWS Gathered From Various Sources

Rochester, N. Y.—Solomon Young, vice-president of the Trustee Board of the A. M. E. Church here, subscribed the largest sum to the second Liberty Loan last week of any colored man in this end of the state. Five thousand dollars was the amount of his loan to the government.

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 22.—The doctors of the race are working hard on a campaign to relieve Provident Hospital of financial embarrassment and to re-open its free dispensary. Dr. Wilberforce Williams is heading the movement and gave the first subscription of \$50.

Philadelphia, Pa.—Twenty colored women are now employed as washers of railroad cars in the West Philadelphia stock yards, where all of the Pullman cars are. They don bloomers before commencing work. Like many another sight nowadays, their appearance as substitutes for the scrubbers is on account of the war. In talking with one of them, they say, "It ain't any harder than cleaning your own house." They are giving satisfaction.

Atlanta, Ga.—The State legislature has passed a bill providing for the establishment of an industrial and normal school for Colored students as the first move towards educating the Negro beyond the common schools in this State. This bill grew out of the fact that Georgia whites have begun to realize the best way to keep the Negro in the South is to treat him like a citizen.

New York City.—Officials of the Long Island Railroad have taken up the case of Chas. Farrar, 52 years old, who was assaulted by soldiers at Mineola, L. I. Oct. 15th. The soldiers were from Alabama and objected to riding in the same coach with Farrar and a fellow porter named Treadway. Farrar had recently left the hospital and was still suffering from lumbago, and could not get out when roughly driven from the coach. He lost one eye from a bayonet stab, and is in the hospital. Leading citizens have joined in the prosecution.

Baltimore, Md.—The will of Dr. Reverdy M. Hall, filed for probate in the Orphan's Court Thursday leaves practically all of

his \$100,000 estate to his family. His widow, Mrs. F. Jeonetta Hall, is left an annuity of \$1,200, to be paid in quarterly installments of \$300. If she marries again she is to have one third of the estate. Dr. Hall is the second colored man to leave a \$100,000 estate to his family. Dr. Hall is the second colored man to leave a \$100,000 estate within the past 14 months, Jas. L. Hitchens, who died in July, 1916, leaving that amount.

Kansas City, Mo.—In seven days the Negro Liberty Loan committee organized, made a complete campaign among the members of that race, and when the campaign closed turned in subscriptions totaling \$107,800.00. Dr. W. J. Thompkins, who made the report, said every dollar was from Negroes—laborers, hotel porters, train porters, barbers and laundresses. "Every dollar represents labor," he said. "It came from persons who cannot afford to waste money. They bought willingly once they were convinced that a bond is an investment."

Springfield, Mass.—The Kimball Hotel, the largest and most modern hostelry in this city, through a strike of its white waiters and bus boys are now using colored help. At present there are about ten bus men. From reports of the first week the manager of the house is said to be perfectly satisfied with services of his new waiters. Many of the regular guests say they have not had as good service since the house opened. Scott Houseman is the new head waiter there.

Camp Grant, Rockford, Ill., Oct. 29.—All of the 300 officers at Camp Grant know today the treatment they must accord colored troops, who start coming in to this cantonment today. Major-General Thomas H. Barry, who called every officer before him yesterday, said race troubles in the army generally result from inexperience, and that trouble usually is brought to a head by some epithet applied by white men to the blacks. He said it was not the color of the man's skin that counted, but their hearts. "There are, some white men with block hearts," Major-General Barry said, in warning the officers that colored troops must be accorded the same treatment as whites.