

DISCUSSES THE NEGRO

To the Editor:—

There appeared in a recent issue of your paper an article from the pen of one Walter Seaberg; a reply to an editorial appearing in the Portland Telegram. In his article he attempts, though very feebly, to show cause why the "Negroes should be deported." He further says, "This nation cannot endure half white and half black." If one based their conclusions on the color of the skin there might be grounds for this claim, but when one with firmness of mind and broadness of vision bases his deductions on the finer, nobler qualities of manhood and womanhood, this nation can endure, not as half white and half black, but a strong and powerful nation of loyal, liberty loving, united people.

And again he further says, "The honest but mistaken people who established equality in the law of a people who are not in race on an equality are responsible for such outrages, as the East St. Louis shame, which is but the beginning of a great strife." Such statements a few years ago would not have appeared so deeply colored as to seem bordering on sedition and traitorous inclinations. When Mr. Seaberg strikes at the very foundation of the American institution of Government, I am led to believe that he is an enemy to democracy, which carries with it, "liberty, justice and equality." He strikes a blow at the "Framers of the Constitution," charging them as being responsible for the East St. Louis shame. Why doesn't he charge them with the responsibility of the Arizona rioting, as also that of California and Montana, in fact over the entire United States. I am of the opinion that the cause is a little nearer to us than in 1876. He calls them "honest but mistaken", yes they were honest and a thousand times less mistaken than our friend Seaberg. How dare any man to fire such calumnious epithets at the very builders of American liberty and go unpunished? Think of it dear readers, those "honest but mistaken men" dipped their pen in the blood of their comrades and signed the greatest of documentary records in the history of the world. Still they are charged with being the cause of the present day rioting.

Further he seems anxious to shift the responsibility. "It is a shame, but we are responsible because we are trying to force people of the white race to accept the black race on equality." The above statement shows very plainly that its author is not an American. It shows clearly that he knows absolutely nothing of the subject. "Social equality," a few years ago was very much in evidence, coming from the South. I wonder where Mr. Seaberg has been all these years that he does not know that social equality is a "dead one." The argument is antiquated as also the deportation idea. Does not Mr. Seaberg know that there is no "social equality" in the land of his nativity, where the nation is not half white and half black? Does he not know that the white half of this nation does not and will not stand for social equality among themselves. And do you not know, Mr. Seaberg, that the Negroes of the United States are more decided in their views against social equality with you than you are? If you do not know these things, I would suggest that your efforts would be of more service to you if they were directed in ascertaining the facts.

Happily such men as Mr. Seaberg are few and far between. "Deny them all political and property rights here" would you? Quite at variance with others of your race—real genuine citizens too, who encourage Negro ownership of property and business. Even the "fire eaters" of the South instruct and encourage Negro ownership. But you would deny the Negro the right to build a home in this land of your adoption. And you found him here "plugging along" when you arrived, for they were here centuries before your advent. But late as the day is, you would abrogate those rights.

It is evident that the social equality and deportation idea of Mr. Seaberg were

drawn from the "Birth of a Nation" photo play and not from bonified facts. Do you not know sir, that some of America's leaders are very outspoken as regards that picture and claim conclusively that it is responsible for outrages against the Negro, by "unamericanized people." I am surprised that you do not know that Washington's Senator condemns the play in no uncertain terms. A man of national reputation.

Now, since this Nation is called into the great struggle for the rights of liberty and justice and National honor, you would further hamper her by removing her best and truest friends and citizens and plunge her into further debts. Real citizens of the United States recognize the fact that the Negroes are the Nation's most loyal subjects. Call to your mind the number of Negro slackers, if you please. Count the number of Negroes formed into a society to combat or oppose the selective draft. Number the Negroes who have or who are threatening the destruction of crops and munition plants, as well as tying up of railroads and ship building establishments as a retaliation to selective draft or for any cause and tell me, sir, do you think that the American white people consider you seriously? "Nothing doing!"

I am of the opinion that you are not a student of the United States history nor of the wonderful advancements of the Negro citizens. It seems to me that you do not realize the fact that Negro blood was shed for American liberty and that Columbia's wreath was wrought in part by the brawn and vitality of Negro patriots. Are you ignorant of the fact that the red in our flag also represents the life's blood of Negroes, the blue the fidelity to the cause of liberty and the white their peaceful proclivities? The Negro's life is interwoven in the fabric of America's emblem so much so that it shall remain there through all time.

To deport the Negro would be a complete destruction of our institution. Read the records, sir; go to Boston—read the names on that monument. Go to Bunker Hill; ask for the blood drenched soil, "who bled and died here" when you shall have heard the reply, you, my dear sir, will blush in shame. Go to the battle fields on which were fought the Indian wars; inquire of them and then go to the places on which were fought some of the engagements of the Civil war; turn the dusty pages of the past and read there the records. Ah! make the ascent of San Juan Hill; make inquiries of the "shades of the Rough Riders and Spanish soldiery" and hear their answers. Then to add to the information, cross the border into the land of intrigue and traitors; ask the cactus bush, whose blood is this that stains your foliage? What, may I ask, do you think will be the answer?

In the face of these facts you would deport such men—patriotic people, for fear of social equality, for fear one would wish to claim your daughter in holy wedlock. No greater heritage can be left to one's children than that of true citizenship and loyalty to country. Any mother would be proud to point to the picture on the wall and call her son's attention to the real true devotion to country of his father, no matter if he was a Negro and she white.

No, there is to be no deporting of Negroes from the U. S. Were the honorable gentleman in the land of "Pitchfork Tillman" and "Fire-eating Vardman and Smith" and Dixon they would brand him a traitor. The entire system of the United States Institutions is against the deportation of the Negroes, from the cotton fields to the treasury department. American honor is at stake. United States soldiers are going to the battle's front; they shall need the accoutrement of war. This government must have some staple source of supply. The Negroes can at all times be depended upon to till the soil, manufacture shrapnel and shell and not act as a spy.

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SWEET CORN'S USE

Sweet corn may appear in every course from soup to dessert. Its general composition suggests that of the potato, but it has the advantage of rather more fat and protein, and thus comes closer to meat. By successive plantings the season may be extended from July to October in most of our country, and it should be used freely while it lasts.

Experience is needed to select the ears, and it is always safe to open the husk slightly and notice the size of the kernels. In some localities worms attack the corn and elsewhere the birds make free with it. Such ears must be carefully trimmed before cooking. Roasted corn is especially connected with out-of-door feasts, but it may be served in the house as well. All cooked corn left from one meal should find a place at another in soup, fritters or pudding.

Corn is best when the passage from garden to kettle is direct, when the corn is gathered, husked and put directly into a steamer or into boiling water, cooked for a short time and eaten immediately. Sometimes it is advisable to leave the inner husks on and, after removing the silk, draw the husks around the ear and steam.

Succotash, that excellent combination of beans and corn taught the white men by the Indians and still retaining its Indian name, is not used as much as it deserves to be. It is never better than when straight out of the garden. The two vegetables are usually cooked separately and then combined, or after the beans are nearly done the corn cut from the cob may be added, and the whole cooked half an hour longer.

A chowder made from corn is a good substitute for a fish chowder and is made in practically the same way. Fry scraps of pork and onion, which have been run thru the meat chopper, then add about equal amounts of cut corn and cubes of potato, cover with water and cook gently until the potato is tender, then add milk, let it boil a few minutes, season and serve. Pork scraps and the liquid fat extracted from them are an excellent accompaniment for corn which has been cut from the cob, and supplies the fat needed in a rather less expensive form than butter. Grated or chopped corn seasoned and held together with egg makes an omelet not to be despised, and with a little milk and flour may be fried in much or little fat, as fritters.

Before corn canneries were as common as they are now, each household dried any surplus of sweet corn for winter use. The corn may be dried without first cooking it, it is better to cook it enough to harden the milky juice. Cook a few extra ears with the dinner supply each day and after that meal cut all that is left from the cobs, spread it on plates or shallow pans and dry it in the oven with the door open. Thus all the corn will be of about the same age, and the work will be done more easily than if you tried to dry a large quantity at once. To use the dried corn in winter, soak it over night, and cook it very little. Or if it is needed in a hurry, grind it through a coffee mill or pound it, cover with cold water and heat slowly, add milk to make a soup and season.

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