

THE PASSING THROUG

In my last issue I said to you, "my son had gone wrong," and at the time I wrote the article, I thought as much, and to the extent of being in bad company, that statement still holds true, but my boy actually participated in no wrong doing. He did drive two men to the scene of a hold up in my car because he was not aware of either their destination or determination and he did so because he was paid the price for the tip. The city and county authorities gave his case a thorough investigation and, aside from being indiscrete, he was exonerated and sent home. It has been said, "your sins will find you out," and that seems to be a fact, but when my boy's former teachers both in the grammar grades and in the high school read of his connection with the hold up story, to the number of ten went to the juvenile court of their own accord and vouched for him so vehemently that it left nothing for his parents to do, but keep still, which they did, and I concluded to myself, that your good deeds from time to time will find you out more quickly and far more substantially than your bad deeds. His parents are truly grateful to all who showed an abiding interest in his welfare.

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After having read the front page eulogy of Gustave B. Aldrich of Tacoma in a local "weakly" paper I wondered what Tacoma, from a colored man's standpoint, would have done had Aldrich not have settled there just in the niche of time. Had the gentleman have recently died a more fitting tribute as an obituary notice could not have been published, but as an eulogy to further selfish interests and appearing in a publication, of which he was an associate editor, it appeared to me that it appeared to him that, that was his last opportunity of letting the public know just how great a benefactor he had been, is and probably will be to the colored man. I have known Aldrich for a long time and he has high and noble ideals, he has done much for the uplift of the colored man and has been a useful citizen in this commonwealth, but at that the article seemed wholly uncalled for.

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"An ounce of pluck is worth a ton of luck," wrote some synic and I believe he was about "three-thirds" right. Some fourteen years or more ago Mrs. Man of this city came to the conclusion that, she could brave the rigors and hardships of interior Alaska and accumulate a sufficient amount of money to make the balance of her life less strenuous. How well she succeeded is her own secret, but I do know she lives in a well arranged home in this city and boards at the same place, and I heard from a very reliable person that she did not owe a dollar on that home. I was shown through her place the other day, which has been rearranged so as to keep roomers and the income therefrom will always keep the wolf from her door. But what I was most interested in at that home was a collection of Indian curios, which she had picked up during the fourteen years she had spent in Alaska, and I am of the opinion that some curio fancier of Indian art would any day give her \$2,000 for her holdings, but "my junk is not for sale," is her reply to all as to it's worth. I do not think I ever met a more energetic and thorough going woman than Mrs. Man and I am told she has holdings in

various shapes and phases that will bring to her a small fortune at no distant date.

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After months of work and planning and the expenditure of some \$8,500 the Alhambra Cabaret will swing open its doors next Tuesday evening at 1203 1/2 Jackson street. That those who wish to attend may not miss the place, a large and very attractive electric sign has been swung up at the corner of Jackson street and Twelfth avenue. A five-piece orchestra and six entertainers will be on hand to make the welkin ring. I looked through this new cabaret and as far as my knowledge about such things goes it is not lacking in a single detail, and if it is not a huge success it will not be due to a lack of finishing touches. Harry Legg is as proud of his new institution as I was of my first pair of blue top boots. "Nothing ventured, nothing made," is an old adage and thus reasoned the backers of the Alhambra Cabaret.

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In the past I have from time to time frequently had things to say about Jimmy Duncan, secretary of the Central Labor Council of this city, but had never seen the man. I was at a meeting last Monday evening and not only saw him, but heard him speak, and he said many things that I fully agreed with, but taking it all in all I would never be willing to risk the reins of this municipality in the hands of Jimmy Duncan, not because he is a representative of organized labor, but because he seems to be an impetuous spit fire that would have things go his way or hell would be to pay. And, strange to say, that seems to be the calibre of man that organized labor generally puts forward as it spokesman. I agree with Jimmy in that the 85 per cent working men voters of Seattle should not tolerate being wholly governed by the 15 per cent capitalistic class and when conservative working men are put forward to represent the working classes labor will come into its own. Labor must know no color, no creed and no nationality in its struggle for better conditions and under such circumstances it is bound to win in the long run.

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From the daily press I learned that the colored citizens of Chicago recently formed and organized what is termed the Vinculum Co-Operative Society for the purpose of establishing co-operative stores in that city among them. The move, in my opinion, is a splendid one, and it is my further opinion that, if it proves successful there it will spread all over the Middle West and the South, though some of them may be lynched in the South. Co-operation is a difficult undertaking, but when it does work it works all over and is a most magnificent success. Many years ago a number of colored men organized a co-operative society in Tacoma and bought up a number of tracts of land, among which was some twenty acres, which is now almost the heart of Tacoma, but dissatisfaction arose among them and the whole was lost. For many years George P. Riley endeavored to regain through the courts the property, but was unable to finance it and it was pocketed by greedy speculators. Echoes from the Nigger Tract litigation even yet sneaks into the courts and has to be re-passed upon.

THE NEW SEDITION BILL

Representative Graham of Pennsylvania has introduced in the House a sedition bill which is so drastic that it has little chance of passing, even in these days of radical baiting. The measure defines sedition, covers conspiracies to overthrow the government by force and provides heavy penalties for interference with the decrees of the courts. The bill goes so far in doing these things that it has aroused opposition from many members of Congress who are themselves heresy hunters. We believe that the scare over the "red" danger in this country is entirely out of proportion to the danger itself. We also believe

that most of the talk about the overthrow of the government by force is indulged in merely to furnish an excuse for crushing out radicalism. If there is sufficient proof to convince sane men and women that there is an organized movement on foot which threatens the overthrow of the United States, that proof has not yet been made public.

There is a lot of talk about plots being uncovered, plots to overthrow the government, but just what these plots were and how they were to be carried out is never stated. The charges are being made against those who are said to be conspiring to overthrow the government by force, but the fight is being made against all who have what are termed radical ideas. In this way an effort has been made to bring the Negro in under the charge.

The Graham bill is intended not only to secure the "safety of the government of the United States," but to cure all unrest by means of repression. We are of course opposed to such a bill as Representative Graham has drawn, chiefly on the grounds that it is unnecessary and un-American; but there is one section of the measure which interested us very much.

The sedition section of the bill in part reads as follows:

"Whoever incites, sets on foot, assists or engages in any riot or breach of the peace, or incites to the use of violence or force, or uses violence or force with an intent to cause a state of anarchy, or with intent to set up or establish another form of federal or state government, or with intent to destroy existing organized society, and whoever by the means aforesaid shall oppose, hinder or prevent the execution of the laws of the United States, or the free performance of official duty by the president of the United States or by any officer of the government of the United States, including the state, war and navy branches thereof or by the Congress of the United States, or by the judges of the courts of the United States, shall be guilty of sedition and on conviction shall be imprisoned not more than twenty years and fined not more than \$20,000, but if any overt act shall result or cause the death of an innocent person the punishment shall be death, or fine and imprisonment as provided."

For some time efforts have been made to get Congress to pass a law to punish lynching; read the above section of the Graham bill through carefully again, and see if you can imagine a better law that could be drawn for the purpose of punishing lynchers, that would have a chance of being passed.

If we take out the clause, "or with intent to set up or establish another form of federal or state government," this whole section is a clear indictment of members of a lynching mob. To "cause a state of anarchy," to "oppose, hinder or prevent the execution of the laws of the United States," to "oppose, hinder or prevent the free performance of official duty by * * * any officer of the government of the United States * * * or by the judges of the courts of the United States" would with any common sense interpretation of the law cover the acts of a lynching riot as well as the acts of a strike riot; and there is no doubt that the interpretation would be stretched to cover the latter.

The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution was adopted for the purpose of securing to the Negro his political and civil rights; under this amendment the Supreme Court has rendered more than 600 decisions, but less than five per cent of those decisions have had anything to do with the question of the Negro's rights. The principal use of the Fourteenth Amendment has been to invoke it for the protection of the property rights of individuals and corporate interests. If Congress should pass a bill containing the section quoted above, it would be worth the effort to see if the Supreme Court could not be constrained to be as wide in its interpretation of the section as it has been in the interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment.

However, we hope that Congress will be wiser than to pass such laws as the Graham bill and the Sterling bill, even though they might be used to fight lynching, because a passage of these bills as they stand would entail greater evils than lynching.

—New York Age.

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