

PATRONIZE MERCHANTS WHO ADV. IN THE PEOPLE'S PAPER



VOL. XXI.

DENVER COLORADO SATURDAY, APRIL 24 1915

NO 35

THE BIRTH OF A NATION

THE WHITE MAN'S ANSWER TO THE NEGRO AGITATOR'S CHALLENGE OF FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT.

"The Birth of a Nation."
"Amidst the mists with angry boasts,
He thrusts his fists against the post
And still insists he sees the ghosts."
—The Agitator.

The white man looks upon himself as the fairest flower in the Lord's garden. He regards all other races his inferior. He has vowed and intends to keep all dark-skinned races in subjection, admitting none upon an equal footing with himself. To back up this intention he has at his command the numbers, the industries, the law, and the army and the navy.

Among our race and dating from the Jamestown colony which was found in Virginia in 1607, we have the so called Negro aristocracy, who have paraded the country advising the Negro to "agitate; fight; fight for your rights," that they might have power and revel in white society with the masses of our people barred spectators. The word agitate is somewhat elastic in description but the way in which it is presented to us it appears in its worst forms: making trouble, keeping up a disturbance, and exciting friction between two races which otherwise could live in peace and harmony. The word "fight" is a challenge. In these days a man or a group of men can get all the "fight" they want and more, so when you make that challenge you must expect to be answered.

The white man is answering that challenge, and how? In the South it is by Jim Crow laws; in the North it is by a well-directed system of diplomatic ostracism; on the stage with such plays as the "Clansman" and in motion pictures such as "The Birth of a Nation." Are we making a rejoinder by simply protesting his method of meeting the challenge of "fight; fight; fight" in indignation meetings with oratory and insolence. We boast of our education; we laud our scholars of Latin and Greek; we applaud our students in music, arts and science, and yet in many instances this education is so unbalanced that we failed to appreciate the virtues of such teachings.

"The Birth of a Nation" is a wonder in science; it is a marvel in art and stupendous as a motion

picture production. It is an ingenious, thrilling, hair-raising, heart-rendering, passion-creating, pathetic appeal from the South to discredit the Negro and justify the Southerners in the extreme measures which they mete out to the Negroes; but it is overdrawn.

It is one of the best illustrations that has ever come before the American public of how the Southern white man overrates and grossly misrepresents the conditions in the South to the disparagement of the American Negro.

The courtships of Lynch and Gus are so in the extreme that no one could look upon such in real life. The court room and Southern legislature scenes are so obviously mockeries that they could not be viewed in any other light. The white villains with their Negro tools arming and exciting the freed masses of ignorant Negroes, the street riots and Ku Klux raiders, lynching and killing regardless of law and order, are all incidents which would naturally follow with the conditions after the civil war and the assassination of the emancipator and the only logical savior of the South in Abraham Lincoln.

It is impossible for us to conjecture what might have been the results had Lincoln lived and carried out his plan out his plan of "treating the South as if they had never been away." Since that has been impossible, it should not be a very difficult matter for us with our knowledge of industry, arts and science to look upon a production of this sort without stretching the imagination too far and view ourselves at a remote period of our history the tools of the white villain, emulating the white man's vice, villainy, and treachery. It reflects more upon the whites than it does upon the blacks.

We admit everything that the agitators claim to the detriment of this picture, "The Birth of a Nation," but in appealing to the sense and reason of our race, we suggest that the period from which it is drawn is too far removed and the Negroes of today are such an effulgent contrast to the Negroes represented in the "Birth of a Nation" that the picture will have no damaging effect upon the intelligence of America.

The picture teaches a strong lesson to our race. It shows us that we have our Silas Lynches of today. They are the blood and thun-

der agitators, with Negro characteristics but Indian judgment. The Negro journal and periodical that is advising the masses of our people to agitate, agitate; fight, fight, fight, without looking far enough ahead to see what the consequences will be, when the challenge is met, like Silas Lynch, they call the masses together and say, "My people fill these halls; they protest against your method of fighting back at us." But the only rejoinder which bears the Negro up in these emergencies comes from the National Negro Business League. Its existence of fifteen years tells a history of the intelligent use of Negro opportunity; the industry, thrift, and progress of a race, the most marvelous in the history of the world under like conditions and in so short a time. It is dotting pictures all over the United States, a fac-simile of the one in this issue in contradiction of the "Birth of a Nation." It is agitating the race problem. It is producing the argument that means something and registering the real protest against the wrongs we suffer from race prejudice in the South. In truth, it is the organization for the advancement of Colored people.—Boston Reliance.

SEGREGATION IS NOW IN THE U. S. ARMY

Fort Leavenworth, Kan., April 13.—The Negro United States soldiers stationed at this point are sore and sick under what they term the roughest and greatest humiliation which has been shown Negro soldiers since the Brownsville affair. For the first time in the history of the service segregation found its way into an army post, when the detachment commander issued orders that all Negro enlisted men with their families should occupy a part of the balcony separate from the white enlisted men and their families at the graduating exercise of the class in equitation held in the riding hall at Fort Leavenworth on April 1.

It has always been the privilege of the enlisted men to attend army functions in this hall, and no discrimination has ever been shown because of color until this occasion. The humiliation of the detachment commander's order is accentuated by the fact that the Negro soldiers are in charge of the riding hall, so far as its care goes, and the order also detailed Negro soldiers as ushers to segregate themselves.

APPEAL TO WAR DEPARTMENT USELESS

While it is well known that the War Department has never heretofore countenanced discrimination against any part of the military forces, the men feel that an appeal to the Secretary of War is useless. Direct communication is impos-

sible, because of military law, and any communication through regular channels would bring down upon the men the vengeance of the race prejudice martinet who is in command of the detachment.

This action of the detachment commander is looked upon as a gratuitous insult and humiliation, as the Negro soldiers have been stationed here since the organizing of the detachment and not a complaint of any sort has ever been registered against them. It is a matter of common report that the Negro soldiers are on the best terms with the white soldiers of the post and with the civilians of the city. The soldiers feel that they are being treated even worse than their comrades were at Brownsville, since the authorities in that case based their action on the plea that it was a necessary disciplinary measure. That argument, however, cannot obtain in this case.

Similar occurrences reported from the Philippine stations have been pronounced without foundation, but the most casual investigation will prove that the soldiers at this station are discouraged and depressed because of the uncalled for humiliation which this segregation order has put upon them. The order was not issued until the day of the exercises, April 1, and it descended upon the men like a thunderbolt from a clear sky. The colored men are in Detachment No. 2.

COLORED LAWYER MADE SPECIAL JUDGE.

Little Rock, Ark., April 17.—Hon. Scipio A. Jones of this city was elected special judge of the municipal court in this city recently.

On account of the fact that Judge Fred A. Isgrig had filed suit against the attorney for the defendant in the case, he was disqualified and according to the provisions of the new municipal court law a special judge had to be selected by members of the bar in court and Mr. Jones was unanimously chosen.

Considerable comment went the rounds of the city regarding the incident, especially among the white people and as a result of the numerous queries as to why white lawyers should select a Negro, Judge Isgrig said:

"I suppose all the white lawyers thought as I did, that for the trial of this particular case—a complaint among Negroes—Jones was peculiarly fitted by environment as well as marked ability as a lawyer, and in recognition of his reputation and standing in the community and in the bar of Little Rock, he was elected."

Mr. Jones was admitted to the Circuit court of his county in 1889; to the Supreme court of his state in 1900 and to the Supreme court of the United States in 1905. He is chief counsel for the Mosaic Templars of America and state counsel for the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and several other fraternal organizations and a member of the executive committee of the National Negro Business League.

RACE NEWS

GATHERED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

C. W. Brown, a colored lawyer of Elizabeth City, North Carolina, recently passed the State Supreme Court Examination.

Philadelphia, Pa., April 14.—Charged with smuggling opium, George Speeler, 532 West South 13th street, was arrested last Saturday and held by the United States Court. Speeler is a West Indian and said to be very wealthy. He has earned the title of "Diamond George," because of the fact that he constantly wears gorgeous and expensive pins and rings set with diamonds. His home is furnished with barbaric splendor.

Chicago, Ill., April 13.—The Auditorium Hotel management drew the color line against colored Catholics on April 7 when it refused to serve the colored women members of the Ladies Catholic Benevolent Association at the annual banquet held at the hotel. The colored branch, Order No. 67, of the L. C. B. A., was invited to attend the banquet, but on April 4 the hotel management notified the banquet committee that the colored order could not be served.

Philadelphia, Pa., April 14.—On the plea that the constitutional guarantees of fair trial in South Carolina is a dead letter so far as Negroes are concerned a habeas corpus writ was sworn out on Monday in the Supreme Court in the behalf of Frederick Brown, a Negro, who has been held in this city for two years pending an attempt to extradite him to South Carolina. Brown is charged with a murder committed fifteen years ago, a white man being the victim. G. Edward Dickerson, attorney, is making the plea.

Portland, Oregon, April 13.—The State Legislature has made provision to place on the ballot at the next election a constitutional amendment formally repealing sections 5 and 6, Article 1, of the Constitution of the State of Oregon. These sections constitute the "Black Laws" of Oregon, which excluded from the State any Negro or mulatto, denying the right of suffrage to them regardless of place of birth or their citizenship. Both sections, of course, null and void, and of no effect for the reason that they conflict with the fundamental law but this action is taken to remove the offensive sections from the statute books.

Notes On Racial Progress

FURNISHED BY THE NATIONAL NEGRO BUSINESS LEAGUE.

Bartow F. Powell, a farmer of Baker County, Georgia, recently sold 500 bales of cotton at 8 cents a pound. The amount of the sale was more than \$20,000.

The Local Negro Business League of Muskogee, Oklahoma, is co-operating with the white citizens of that city to make the forthcoming meeting of The Southern Commercial Congress a success.

Camp Nelson is the name of a colored town in the State of Kentucky. They recently installed an electric power plant and organized several other business enterprises.

Charles Walkins, the salesman of the Story and Clark Piano Company of St. Louis who won the bonus from this company for being among the best salesmen during the year 1914, has gone into business for himself; opening a branch of the Warlitzer Piano Company at 2905 Laclede Avenue, St. Louis.

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We had four pairs of shoes to be repaired the other day and we took them to a colored shoe shop. The shoemaker had caught up with his work and had nothing to do. We told him that we wanted a quick job done, so he inspected the shoes and declared that they were not worth fixing; that he could not fix them; and we thought what he said was true. But we happened to pass a white man's shop and so we asked him if the shoes were worth mending; he replied "yes" and in less than two and a half hours he had the four pairs of shoes mended and the amount of two dollars in his pocket. When we passed back by the Negro shop he had locked up and was standing out in the sun with his hands in his pockets waiting for a job, as he called it, and declaring that the times were dull and that he could get no work to do. The white man had plenty of work to do, was making money hand over fist, only two hundred yards away from the Negro, because he had "an eye to business"—Editorial, Charleston (S. C.) Messenger.