

# The New Negro and His New Burden

**CONSPICUOUS** in the evolution of things is the vanishing leader we have known of yesteryears. Within half a decade, many of the names we have known in political, fraternal and educational circles have passed from the pages of human action. For some time a new group, with new ideas has been on the scene.

The pioneer leader, having been trained in a far different environment and for the most, hampered in the getting of that fine finish of which his successors boast, let his bucket down where he was. Some how, in that early day the Negro leader realized that if his people were to build a race their struggles must be fought out around the ballot box. That early philosophy is written in the trying days when it was perilous for men to attempt to vote. At the hazard of their lives, many of them walked miles to have ballots printed and distributed when they were denied the brand of ballot they demanded.

The result lies in the fact that many of them were sent to the southern legislatures, to congress and even to the United States senate. Many race leaders were appointed from time to time to high federal and state offices as a result of their struggles.

The new group as we know it today is almost a voteless group. In the face of the record of achievements through the ballot, that group insists upon crying for what the forefathers fought for.

While blessed with far better educational advantages, this group contents itself in whining, writing sob stories of sorrow and self pity and singing the "Black Maria" sequels in doleful sonnets called literature, while doors are closed and their brothers are driven to open slaughter and starvation. When the depression cracked down and regimentation began in the recovery agencies, startling disclosures were made in regard to the treatment of the American Negro. It was tried at the advent of the Blue Eagle, to exclude the Negro from the regulations of the NRA. While he was not exactly outlawed in the letter, he suffered in the spirit a more serious handicap under the Blue Eagle than he did under the white one. In one investigation, it was brought out that colored men were working under the sears of the Georgia sun on the public roads for as little as ten cents per hour.

When the national government sought to revoke this measure by cancelling contracts, etc., inflationary remarks to the contrary echoed from every stump in Georgia's last gubernatorial race.

While the Negro was not a voting quantity in the white primaries, he played a major role in that campaign as a convenience in the sale of political bigotry and racial intolerance.

Wage differentials obtained and even in a dire state of starvation, it was advocated that penalties because of the color of the skin be visited upon colored citizens.

Recent developments bring the New Negro face to face with these burdens: a struggle for a place in the sun under new conditions in which technical entanglements are resorted to in an effort to obscure the real treatment of the Negro; a judicial process that openly measures a differential in justice; a disorganized agenda among the educated leaders of the day and a further rededication of a procedure of tactful and shrewd industrial privation of economic starvation.

If the new Negro thinks he can fight these grave problems out in the plebiscite without his ballot, he has another thought coming.