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Negro Socialists Are Helping to Solve Race Problem in New Way

By PIPPA.

Theodore Dreiser in his story, "Nigger Jeff," has voiced a great argument in favor of one of the planks in the Socialist party platform, the abolition of lynching by federal law.

The American novelist tells of this "Nigger Jeff," who is lynched by an infuriated mob in the Middle West and then strung up in the moonlight.

A piece of fiction, but it has had its birth in recent events in the South and the Middle West, where Negroes were lynched and burned by white men.

Solve Old Problem.

Just what the Socialist party of the world has done for the solution of the Negro question is summed up in the leaflet issued by the Negro candidates in this city of the Socialist party. George Frazier Miller, candidate for Congress from the 21st district; A. Philip Randolph, running for Assembly from the 19th district, and Chandler Owen, candidate in the 21st district.

In part, the leaflet says:

"It will be remembered that the Socialist party was the only party in the United States which condemned the East St. Louis lynching of Negroes.

"The Socialist party has been just and fair to colored people in every country in the world. In 1912, in the Reichstag, the German Socialists voted unanimously to put a halt to the abuse of the African women by the German junkers, autocrats and bourgeois. The justice and fair play which men of color receive in France is due very largely to the extensive power of the Socialists and Diagne, the Negro Socialist Representative, just elected to the French Chamber of Deputies. In Oklahoma the Socialists called a referendum and defeated the grandfather clauses which disfranchised Negroes.

"In the United States the reactionaries hate the Socialists, and they are abused and maligned. The same was true of Garrison and Phillips and Lovejoy. Garrison was dragged through the streets of Boston. Sumner was struck down in Congress. Phillips was libeled and slandered. All who live off cheap Negro labor will be opposed to Socialism, just as all slaveholders were opposed to the Abolitionists. Slave owners stole Negro labor by paying nothing for chattel slavery, whereas capitalists are paying for only part of what you earn now. In working to secure better food, clothing and shelter; more education and recreation for children; for comfort and pleasure

for the oppressed people which they rightly earn, the Socialist party will not meet with the approval of the plutocratic bosses.

"Why? Because the Socialist party demands that the workingman should get the full product of his labor."

The new Negro in Harlem, as the Socialist Negro is known, is waging an earnest campaign by means of the spoken and written word from the headquarters at 2305 Seventh avenue. Where once the Republican banner waved on the avenue between 135th and 136th streets the Socialist banner with the names of the Negro Socialist candidates on it is a more than satisfactory substitute now.

A Negro Socialist speaker usually addresses his people in a low musical voice, having recourse more often to the descriptive and expositive form of speech than the one liberally sprinkled with the oratorical expressions. What seems unique with the Negro Socialist speaker is the fact that he always leaves his audience in possession of a new fact about Socialism; his is a lecture on a political theory, besides being a lively, interesting heart-to-heart talk with the audience individually.

Expose Treachery.

Negro women, such as Helen Holman and Emily Jones, the Socialist organizers, are in the fight, too, to acquaint their brothers and sisters with the treachery of the Republican and Democratic parties, which shear the Negro of his economic rights.

"Will you vote for the Democratic party to strengthen the forces of which Senators John Sharp Williams of Mississippi and Vardaman of Mississippi are members?" they ask. "Vardaman opposed woman suffrage because it would give to the Negro woman of the South the right to vote. When you vote for Tammany Hall, you are voting for mob law, lynch law, disfranchisement of Negroes, peonage, the jim-crow car and all forms of race discrimination."

How does the average Negro citizen act or react to the Socialist philosophy as voiced by the Socialist speakers? At one meeting, in a little church in Harlem, of the Negro men and women, the answer was supplied. The mobile faces of the Negroes appeared to express every emotion which they were experiencing. To the pleasant and humorous truths that Judge Panken presented, they smiled and then burst into natural child-like laughter. They were enjoying themselves. At the next moment, when one of their own race reminded them of the jim-crow system still used on the cars, and their empty vote in the South, they were silent, not morosely so, but with the sort of silence that bodes ill for those who heap such indignities on the Negro.

The new Negro is here—and there will be many more of them to enrich the Socialist movement in the United States.