

# CHICAGO BEE

Published Every Week by the BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, Inc. 3655 So. State St., Chicago, Ill. Telephone BOULEVARD 7002

Entered as Second Class Matter, August 11, 1929, at the Post Office at Chicago, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

ADVERTISING RATES  
Furnished Upon Request  
3655 South State Street, Chicago, Ill.  
Telephone: BOULEVARD 7002  
Advertising Representatives  
NATIONAL FEATURE SERVICE  
3577 South Parkway, Chicago, Ill.

Price Per Copy, 5c Everywhere  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
In U. S. Foreign  
One Year \$2.47 \$3.00  
Six Months \$1.25 \$1.50  
Three Months \$ .75 \$ .90

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1940  
Volume 31 Number 25

### THE CHICAGO BEE'S PLATFORM

- 1—The suppression of superstition—enlightenment.
- 2—Higher education for all groups.
- 3—Cordial relations between races.
- 4—Civic and racial improvement and development.
- 5—The promotion of Negro business.
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## The Housing Project

AT long last the Ida B. Wells project is completed. The erection of the project gave occasion for much criticism caused by the aborted attempt of southside real estate interests to sabotage it. Court wrangles, unnecessary delays and the transfer of the project from the National Government to the local Housing Authority marked the early beginning of the project. At some points in the beginning many thought, and not without justification, that the project would never become a reality.

Throughout the fight to establish a southside project the colored people stood shoulder to shoulder and fought all attempts to scuttle it. It was a noble fight.

The project stands as a monument to the wholehearted and oneness of spirit manifested by the Negro newspapers, churches, civic and social groups and Negro leaders.

That same group that fought so hard for it should feel encouraged to go further and fight for the eradication of the kitchenette evil, high rents and overcrowded housing conditions.

The Ida B. Wells project will help to remedy some of the evils but it will not do a great deal. When all its rooms are filled with tenants there still will be high rents to be paid by poor tenants and restrictive covenants that intensify the overcrowded housing problem through the means of preventing Negroes from living in certain areas. The groups that steered the project to its successful conclusion should feel that their work toward alleviating bad housing has just begun and they should therefore, proceed on the next phase of their program.

## No Negro Pilots

THE most recent attitude expressed by the United States Army Air Corps concerning the admission of Negroes in the air corps has made news in last week's newspaper when a letter to Roderick Charles Williams from Major L. S. Smith, Acting Adjutant General, was made public.

Williams made application for appointment as a flying cadet in the United States Army Air Corps. He is twenty-six years old. The maximum limit for a flying cadet is twenty-seven. The minimum college requirement to be a flying cadet is two years. Williams had four years college training in one of the best universities of the country—University of Illinois. He made all the requirements ostensibly necessary to enter as a flying cadet and besides he is an employee of the United States Government. But there is one requirement that the laws as intended by Congress do not specify. That requirement is that the applicant must be white. In his letter to Williams Major Smith said, "The Congress has created several units of the army exclusively for colored troops, but no colored tactical units of the air corps have been authorized up to this time. Consequently no provision has been made by the War Department for units to which members of the colored race could be assigned in the event of their completing the prescribed course of training to become military pilots." This statement seemed to put the burden either on congress, or on the War Department. So far as we know the congress has never made any law barring Negroes from the army air corps, so the burden cannot be placed there. If there is any law dealing with the question of color in the air force of the nation it is an unwritten one based on prejudice supported by custom and perpetrated by practice.

We fail to understand why a Negro cannot train in the air corps along with whites. We fail to understand why there must be a separate army air corps for Negroes for all cadets are training for one purpose—to defend their country in the event of war.

The time is ripe when Negroes should have equal opportunities in all the branches of the military defense program. The air corps should be the first to break down the old tradition that so long has held Negroes from equality in the military branch of the government. Major Smith dumped the little problem on the laps of the Civil Aeronautics Authority when he suggested that Williams communicate with that authority. We wonder what would have happened if the Major had accepted the application and permitted Williams to train at Rantoul, Illinois, with the other pilots?

We fail to understand how a democratic government like ours that has given us the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments guaranteeing us equal rights and justice would refuse to permit our Negro boys to manifest their loyalty to their country the same as boys of other races.

In Illinois we have a Civil Rights Law outlawing discrimination in public places. In Illinois we have a law preventing discrimination against persons on account of race or color in government positions. That law, however does not apply to the federal government, only to the state, but at least it is indicative of the sound public policy that this state has attempted to enforce through its state legislature. When the federal government refused to permit citizens of Illinois an equal opportunity it seemed to be acting in a manner morally contrary to the spirit of that law.

We trust that the War Department, the Civil Aeronautics Authority and Major L. S. Smith will get together and reverse the prejudicial denial of the application of Williams as a flying cadet.

## Fascism and the Negro

DR. ALAIN LOCKE, well known Professor of Philosophy at Howard university, stated in Chicago last week that in the not so distant future this country will go through a short period of Fascism as a result of world conditions. He indicated that the Negroes would suffer with other minority groups. He said, however, that the Negroes were accustomed to suffering as they have borne it over three hundred years, and so far as that was concerned the Negro would fare pretty well. Of greater interest, however, was the statement that Dr. Locke made with reference to the new social order that would evolve subsequent to this Fascist period. He predicted that this new social order would bring out a change in values that are placed upon human rights and liberties. He said that for the minority groups such a change will be beneficial and indicated that such groups would obtain rights and treatment which hitherto have been unknown to them. We do not know whether Dr. Locke's statements are true. We hope the first part is not, however. The world condition makes it impossible to predict what the future will bring and the best one can do is to make a guess. Dr. Locke made his.

A good bit of the suffering of Negroes can be alleviated by mass action through the technique of organization. It is, therefore, advisable that the leaders of our race pool their knowledge and experience for the purpose of meeting the grave problems that the masses of Negroes will inevitably face whether Fascism as we know it in Europe arrives or not.

We are now facing a minor period of Fascism and so far as that is concerned Fascism is only a new word to the Negro who has faced actual Fascist treatment since his advent into this country. We admit that it can be much harder but some of its effect can be alleviated by the steady mass action of the thirteen million Negroes.

## Okies in Chicago

THE investigation conducted by the House Committee on migratory workers in Chicago has revealed a dismal picture to the public on the subject of "how the other half lives." The state of Illinois learned that the state of California has no monopoly on the "Okies" referred to in Steinback's GRAPES OF WRATH. It too has some "Okies" who come here as a place of refuge to seek protection from economic and social pressure.

Of significance to Illinois Negroes was the stand taken by Mayor Edward J. Kelly when he told the committee that the three year residence law requirement for the indigent was unjust and caused a lot of good people to get in trouble.

That law was passed by the 1939 session of the General Assembly. It provides that the state will not give aid to any person applying for relief unless he has been a resident of Illinois for three continuous years prior to his application. Some say the law was passed for the purpose of dissuading southern Negroes from being attracted here by charity. If it was it certainly has worked havoc with a lot of whites without affecting the constant stream of Negroes to the state. To that extent it missed its purpose.

The law has made suffer many an indigent person. Take, for instance, the woman who testified before the Migratory House Committee that she was born in this state and went to Florida for nine months. The relief authorities there sent her back to Illinois claiming she was a resident of this state. Illinois relief authorities turn her application for aid down on the ground that nine months away had upset her residence in the state.

The law should be abolished. It can only make the lot of the poor man more difficult. A hungry man needs food whether he has lived here three years or three months. If he cannot get it by fair means then he may resort to other ways.

## THE NEGRO WOMAN

By DIXIE B. BROOKS

The plight of the Negro woman was well described in this poem by the late Ella Wheeler Wilcox: "Out of the darkness, out of the night Has the Negro crawled to the dawn of light. He has come through the valley of deep despair, He has borne what no white man ever can bear; He has come through sorrow, through want, through woe, And the cry of his heart is to know, to know."

Woman has, throughout time, instinctively and self-appointedly, watched from near and far the pulsings of the spirit, the changes of society's heartbeats, reflected the opinion of the street and imperceptibly crystallized the ideals of family and community. She has been the barometer for lasting social values, the handmaiden of Peace by the oft turbulent stream of that which we call Life. She has worked, loved, suffered and in many instances, died all too soon because of her willingness to bear more than her share of human responsibility.

The above is none the less true of the Negro woman who in an almost uncanny way envisioned a brighter future for her people than she enjoyed seventy-five years ago, and had the courage to help make that vision a reality. Her ideals were born of suffering but she held to them with dark memory and bright hope. She believed that God, family, education, industry and character were fundamental to advancement, and used them all so effectively that she has been an inspiration to noble living and amazing achievement. She has ever been the indispensable partner of good and the implacable foe of wrong. She has been an asset to the American way of life, its benefactor and not its burden.

Following the Civil War, the Negro woman felt the dulling handicap of ignorance, sensed its dangers and made untold sacrifices in order that her children might, through learning, be better prepared for living and for life than had been her lot.

In those early years the average family library consisted of Webster's Blue Back Spelling Book, possibly a discarded Reader and a Bible. With this meager equipment, she made a brave start. Her zeal and diligence have brought her to the seventy-fifth mile post in her progress. Her efforts were not in vain. Thousands of educated men and women, encompassing the principal fields of knowledge, attest the value of her experiment.

The Negro woman learned to walk with God and used the power of prayer. She reared her children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. She encouraged them by such texts as "Seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you," and according as they studied, worked and believed, they prospered. The heritage of bondage cast only shadows across the way she sought, and it was dark for the tender feet of her children, but she held the torch of Hope high to protect them from stumbling. She made frequent use of the Bible as a reference book and admonished them to "get wisdom, but with all thy getting, get understanding."

When one reads the Negro Year Book, published by Mr. Work, at Tuskegee, it seems inconceivable, with all the astounding odds against the children of the American Negro woman, that they could have wrought so well! It is, however, to her undying credit that she took what she had and used it gloriously.

We proudly mention those women who have made places for themselves as physicians, lawyers, dentists, pharmacists, teachers, ministers, nurses, social workers, missionaries, musicians, artists, scientists, public officials, or just workers, because each overcame great obstacles before she arrived. Nor are we unmindful of the gains of those who had the initiative to chart a course through the field

of business and aim for independence. They did not always find employment, but through imagination and creative ability, made positions for themselves and others.

In factories, business and industry, the Negro woman is slowly penetrating unaccustomed avenues, and lending efficiency, skill and dignity to her task. Further, she readily enters into organized union with her sisters to improve, standardize and protect her work and wages, because protection is what she has so long needed. Likewise, those of the professions are participating members in the interest for similar reforms in the organization of their particular profession.

When we think seriously of the adjustment the Negro woman has made to a mode of life, well established before she was permitted to enter as a participant, and the contribution she has made to it, it is easy to appreciate that she has pressed her cause to the gates, and justly merits a place within the life of the nation.

The Negro woman was early identified with the growth of the church and still represents a potent influence in its program and auxiliary bodies. She was an active spirited force in the Abolition movement and the Underground Railroad. The Equal Suffrage League and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union became absorbing interests and her voice was heard among those of superior advantages who had championed these causes.

She has been an enthusiastic contributor to the woman's club idea of which the National Association of Colored Women and the National Council of Negro Women are the most outstanding within the group. Lodges, Greek letter sororities, political organizations and the League of Women Voters have modified and given weight to her thinking.

She is the determined advocate of every righteous and civic cause that springs forth within her environment. Many of the organizations are affiliated with other groups. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Young Men's Christian Association are directed by men, but so long as objectives are clarified, social goals established and the betterment of the people are realized, the American Negro woman will step forward to assume her share of the responsibility.

These and other organizations have served as training bases in leadership, a means of stepping to higher ground. We refer to some of them as inter-racial, but so long as we make common cause for the welfare of any part of the people of this nation, I prefer saying they are American.

The American Negro woman of education and experience, who has a knowledge of government and understanding of people, is like unto "a woman with a lamp, standing within the land, a noble type of womanhood," a leader among women, eager to brighten the path of those who follow in her train. Her growth, contribution and objectives are too little known, because history gives her scant mention. Her achievements have been so bound to the lights and shadows of the men and other women of her time that it is difficult and confusing, if not well-nigh impossible, to ascribe to her due credit, but there is no mystery surrounding the fact that she has brought her hard earned gifts and laid them on the altar of American life.

This is the seventy-fifth year following the Emancipation. Not all our goals have been reached nor all the foes conquered, but it is hoped that the unfolding years will bring full participation in the benefits and privileges of our nation as well as in its burdens and responsibilities.

The Negro woman has come through the storms of slavery and the hazy road of civilization, undaunted, unafraid! She defies the scorn of time and precedent, and steps forward to the light of a new day.

## OBSERVATIONS

By Fred C. Williams

KNOW THYSELF: The new releases bring us the information that a new book titled "The Negro in Virginia" is just off the press. And reviewers state that it carries most valuable and definite information about the race in America. For instance:

"The 20 Africans who were landed at Jamestown, Va., during 1619 and their successors following WERE NOT SLAVES, but indentured servants. William Tucker, baptized at Jamestown in 1624 was probably the first Negro born in this country. The institution of slavery was not legally sanctioned in the Old Dominion until 1654.

"The first recorded revolt AGAINST SLAVERY, moreover, was initiated by THE SLAVES themselves in the year 1687, and other revolts occurred before the Revolutionary War in 1776."

THE JEW FOUGHT AND DIED FOR HUNGARY, TOO  
We make this statement because of the manner the Jews in Europe have been affected by po-

litical changes. In some countries, especially Hungary, where they fought, bled and DIED for that country's independence, they are now being DENIED THE RIGHTS for which they fought and once enjoyed. So if Congressman Mitchell is correct in his diagnosis of world events in which he stated that "Liberia and Haiti, two black republics would be lost to the Negroes in sixty days in the event that Hitler succeeded in capturing Great Britain.

Thus we find ourselves facing a serious situation that we should not hesitate to support when our youth hesitate to accept the administration's conscription proposal.

## Have You Heard

BEE's weekly Radio Forums? Tune in Tues., 1:15 p. m., WHIP 1480 on your dial.

## PIED TYPE

—BY THE PIPER  
A Column of Humor Satire and Thought for Everybody

### THE PLAY IS THE THING

On auspicious seas we set sail at birth With baby cries begin to maraud the earth, As we grow up we try most everything we can, With all of our mistakes behind, became a man.

The play's the thing, we enter upon the stage To act our parts without a gage Or compass chart, or map to sail life's sea, Perhaps with aims to do and be like men free.

But clouds appear upon the horizon, others with a clear sky Forget their lines, while some fly high; Then there appears some unknown, unsung fellow plays His act so well he reaps world praise.

We make our rainbows, planet stars shine bright, Shed lustre doing what is right; The cloud, the dimness that obstructed clears away When proper lines are read into the play.

—Dr. M. A. Majors, Los Angeles, Calif.

### YEAH, FELLA, YEAH, WE UNDERSTAND

One of our worthy contemporaries informs us that the female of the species are boss in good ant society and good bee society. So that's the reason bees and ants work so hard—women are driving them. And oh, how women can drive! I know, I married one. Son O. Rest.

### GOING—GOING—GOING—SOLD TO THE

Department Store Clerk (proposing): Will you marry me?  
The Apple of His Eye: I'll have to think it over.

Department Store Clerk: But, my dear, you can't afford to pass up this astounding offer. —oO—

### DICKIE'S DICTIONARY

DESPAIR: The natural consequence of driving an old car and at the same time hauling the wife who is a natural back seat driver. —oO—

### SO THAT'S THE IDEA

First Pessimist: The way the females dress on the beach, nowadays it's hard to tell the difference between a boy and girl.  
Second Pessimist: Oh, it's easy if you know how.

First Pessimist: How do you tell them apart?  
Second Pessimist: Well I tell a naughty story. Then watch carefully, and the one who blushes will be the boy. —oO—

### ANCIENT HISTORY

Do you remember way back when the correct definition of "axis" was an imaginary line on which the earth revolved?—Old Timer. —oO—

### REMEMBER

Do you know When from the bottom of a well you've mounted Up to the top then there's the greatest danger, Lest from the brink you topple back again? —Plautus. —oO—

### HE SHOULD

Wife: I had a good spell on me this morning. I gave a bum ten dollars.  
Another Wife: Oh, my! What did your husband say about it?  
Wife: Thanks. —oO—

### SHOCK MIGHT BE TOO GREAT

Proud Father: I say Lillian, don't you think it is time you taught the baby to say "Daddy"?  
Proud Mother: Well, I really thought I ought to wait until he is stronger before I teach him who you are. —oO—

### MORIBUND

There's a drowsy hum in the air From the honey bee flitting here and there; There's a shimmering haze over the hill, Where the sun beams down and burns until The trees droop, their leaves and flowers wilt, And all life seems to gasp for breath, As it writhes and struggles in its tilt, Its desperate, bitter tilt with death. The river is sluggish and low in its bed, The corn fields are parched, frail blossoms are dead, And still the sun beams and seems to delight To see the whole world in such a plight. Never a drop of rain to cool The parched ground. The sluggish pool Is shrunk in its bed; and there's never a note Of cheer from the song bird's golden throat. Only the drowsy hum in the air Of the honeybees flitting here and there And the mysterious wavering haze From the midday's scorching rays. —Mary Brown. —oO—

### ANOTHER ALIBI NEEDED

Oscar: Say, George, why don't you get off this afternoon and go to the ball game? Tell the boss you've got to go to your grandfather's funeral.  
George: I work in grandfather's office. —oO—

### NOT ALTOGETHER MUSICAL

First Guy: When I first met Margie she was so different from what she is now.  
Second Guy: How is that?  
First Guy: Well, then she was a smart little thing, living in a flat and she couldn't sing a note. Since that time she has learned to scamper from bar to bar, hit the high spots and study the baseball scores. —oO—

## BETWEEN THE LINES

By DEAN GORDON HANCOCK

### THE CONQUERING CORPORAL

No amount of disparaging talk about Hitler's victories can detract from his great achievement in statecraft and in arms. Hitler is no worse than a hundred other conquerors who have come and gone these fleeting centuries of history. There is something revolting in the Hitler methods and in the brutishness of his realism, but the fact remains that Hitler has done no more these few months he has done in power, than has been done through seven centuries of British rule. We must ever remember that Hitler is not as bad as painted though bad he evidently is; but so was the kaiser pictured during the First World War.

History since 1914 belies the allegation that the kaiser was the devil's half brother and subsequent history may do as much for Adolph Hitler, the invincible foe of the German Reich. Napoleon was called the "Little Corporal", now we have Hitler, corporal in the last war, the greatest conqueror of modern times. May God send us here in the United States one of these "corporals" to make our nation safe; for at present all it lacks of sharing with France sackcloth and ashes, is a Hitler.

It is fervently to be hoped that ere Hitler can catch his breath, we may have some semblance of security. Our own country has been so busy watching Japan, a "dark race" that it has unhappily left itself unprotected and unprepared. It is generally agreed that politicians betrayed France into unpreparedness; but from the state of our own defenses, somebody has betrayed us. Politicians are the bane of democracy, and this alone will make it impossible for democracies to compete with dictatorships; and in the end this nation must go dictator to save itself. That the dictator idea is repulsive to us at present makes no difference. National security takes precedence of our likes and dislikes.

So long as Hitler is master of Europe and bidding for the masters of the world, we may as well take the realistic view of international matters. I am not at present convinced that a world ruled from Germany will be worse than one ruled from England. Human nature is the same among men everywhere and the Germans are no worse than the Britished" the Britons.

## Orientation Towards Statesmanship

By LESTER E. BROWN

The patient's heart was fast expiring; the pulse was feeble, reflexes unresponsive; the features were "deathly" pallid. . . Then a cry! "Adrenalin! give adrenalin!" The command was heeded and a patient was saved. They are about to drown out our cry for the passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill. We need some adrenalin to save the feeble pulse of statesmen whose courage and vision have assumed a deathly pallor. Do they think that we are going to continue to "blow off steam" and then recede into our usual languor? Do they think that we are always going to be the easiest group to placate with words, "stage smiles," back pats, or even a "stirring" speech in Congress as conscience payment for our loyalty at the polls? No the times have changed. The world must reckon with a new Negro! We want—we demand the passage of the Gavagan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill! Tell us that the South will attempt to prevent the passage of cloture (a two-third majority vote needed to close debate, or endless filibustering). Our answer will be that we know that we will have less patience now, until the fullest pressure is put on all cliques that disregard the tenets of human justice and law. The Wage and Hour Bill exacted the cooperation of a hostile South. Why not the Anti-Lynching Bill?

Our statesmen in Washington may tell us that the war precludes the possibility of resuming any legislation other than that apropos of conscription, supplies and general defense measures. Have they ever thought about those who will be called upon to use the instruments of war? Come! We all are same now—most times reasonable! Do you think, America, that Negro soldiers are going to ever get that extra-devotion to a country that rewards loyalty with gross injustices? Blind devotion without hope for the just fruits of victory is a case for a psychiatrist. America, we are calling upon you to create a real hope for the Negro by the passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill and in a measure vindicate those who thought they died to make the world safe for

democracy. Can't you see that the vulnerable point is in the treatment of the Negro, because he is constrained to the lowest levels of existence? Can a nation, propagandized without, about their inhumane treatment to a loyal segment of its people create a united America? From the capture of the Sudanland to the present the Nazis have disintegrated the internal morale of their foes by focusing their propaganda on the inhumane treatment of Germans and other minorities. In minor rebuffs, they have chided the United States about her "barbarous lynchings" of Negroes. It is urgent that Hitler will have no further grounds in propagandizing this country.

We are in need of winning a victory for the Anti-Lynching Bill. Can we criticize, in retrospect, our forefathers for their apathy and soft pedaling on major issues if we fail the generation of tomorrow? Can we respect ourselves if we assume a cause and abandon it because the way proved hard? If we can, then let us forget racial integrity, puncture our claims to equal manhood. On the other hand, if we do respect ourselves let us show it by getting together and concentrating on this major victory. Votes, demands, pressure by letters and press are our weapons of power. We must use them fully. The way will be easier for breaking down the whole system of national discrimination if we can win this fight. Negro political leaders can help this cause immeasurably if they have the inclination, resourcefulness and courage to do so. On every occasion they can intelligently voice our demands until America will have no peace of conscience, until she has favorably disposed of this bill. Citizens everywhere must be enlisted in this fight until it becomes a crusade. Other causes have been dramatized into victorious crusades. Was the liquor menace any worse than the reality of men living in a Christian democracy who can innocently or illegally be lynched? It is empty mockery to blow a fanfare of trumpets if we still retreat from the fundamentals that will not only save, but construct a really great America.

## CURRENT OPINION

### SEE CHANCE FOR RACE IN SELASSIE PLEA

William Tucker has long passed into the Great Beyond, but his seed has been sown widely and still thrives and perhaps it is looking down viewing satisfactorily the efforts of his progeny to

rise to the heights of their ambitions, he would feel some satisfaction in the fact that Emperor Haile Selassie is making a gallant fight to regain his kingdom and is asking contribution in men, money and planes from his American Black Brothers.