

NEW NEGRO JOURNALISM

THERE is a new Negro journalism in the making.

There are at least a half dozen or more young Negroes who are doing a high type of work in this line. Some are writing regularly in weekly papers; others are writing articles occasionally.

Special mention should be made of Arthur King, Eric Waldron, William H. Ferris, and J. A. Rogers, all of whom write occasionally, some of them regularly.

Thomas Kirksey of Boston is a deep thinker and a good writer. Ernest Rice McKinney of the *Pittsburg American* shows a grasp of the international situation, a knowledge of world politics. He has an interesting style. Hon. J. H. Ryan, editor and publisher of *Ryan's Weekly*, Tacoma, Washington, is probably the most experienced man among them. He is the Farmer-Labor assemblyman from that state.

If the editorial column of the *Pittsburg American* is written by W. P. Young, he, too, deserves special mention. One of the best editorials of the month appeared in a May issue of that paper. It reads as follows:

SLAVERY IN MISSISSIPPI

There have recently come to our notice two reports concerning the condition of the Negro tenant farmer in the South. Senator Watson, of Georgia, speaking in the Senate said:

"As to the Negro tenant of the South, he is working for himself; when he rents the land it is his for that year, and if he fails to make enough to pay himself good wages it is no fault of the landlord."

Beniah Amidon Ratliff writing in the "Nation"—from personal experiences and as an eye witness—presents a different story. The standing of the "Nation" and our general knowledge concerning conditions in the South force us to accept "Mississippi: Heart of Dixie" as a reliable report of the tenant farming situation in this benighted region. The Negro in rural Mississippi, as well as in other states of the South, is a slave. He, his wife and children are subjected to a form of slavery worse than that which existed before emancipation. Here in the land of the free and the home of the brave, Negro farmers are robbed, whipped and murdered by the men with whom they do business. Only because they are black and ignorant, and because a rotten economic system is allowed to exist that keeps a few men rich and powerful while the many remain illiterate and impotent.

This exploitation of Negroes by planters of the South, is just one phase of the whole inhuman and ravenous capitalist regime. The black peons are brothers, in the spirit, to all the underlings who toil everywhere throughout the world. It is time that we recognized this. It is time that white workers recognized it. The cause of the workers of the world is one cause, no matter by what color of skin or in what nationality it expresses itself. The plantation slaves of Mississippi and Georgia, the steel workers of Pennsylvania, the miners of West Virginia, black workers on the Rand and natives of the Congo, may salute each other as victims smarting under the same lash.

Of course the plight of the American Negro is especially desperate because of his color and previous condition of servitude. Things seem to be a little worse in Mississippi than elsewhere. Her churches send missionaries into China and India and support them with the stolen earnings of her peons. Her white children are in school while their fathers are squeezing the best bit of energy from Negro children. Her white women are charming and lovely but their sons and husbands violate and debauch Negro women and girls.

Such things shall not always be. Some day in the coming years this enslaved black giant will come to self consciousness, burst his chains and his white captor will stand before him trembling. At the heart of the universe

is a heart of justice. The earth must gain its balance. For every drop of Negro blood unjustly spilled, for every lash of the whip, for every violation of black womanhood, for every fear and every thwarted ambition, Christian, Civilized, America must pay, and pay to the utmost.

We congratulate this growing group of Negro journalists. They will, ere long, make Negro press opinion worth while, not only from the circulation, but from the cogent presentation and the able interpretation.