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The New Negro Ready for The Ku Klux Klan



Reply to Du Bois
on Revolution



GARVEYISM

napping of Kate Richards O'Hare, Ida Crouch Hazlett, the tarring and feathering of Negroes and labor organizers, the emasculation of a free press, free speech, and free assemblage, the ousting of the Socialist Assemblymen in New York.

Such are the fruits of an illiterate public. The combined manufacturers and capitalists of America have robbed the American people of their liberties by stealing the brains of the children and chloroforming the minds of the adults through the school, pulpit and press.

The American people will never educate their children so long as the school system is dominated by politicians who are, in turn, controlled by Big Business which profits from an ignorant, though a literate, proletariat. In fact, the children must be more than literate; they must be educated. Their minds must be informed of the nature of the forces and materials of nature, the social forces, economic, political and social history. Well has it been put that "learned ignorance" is not useful education. The children must be taught to read useful and material knowledge, else they will be nothing more than literate, willing slaves.

STILL THE CRY—AMNESTY!

THE war is over. Harding has signed the peace resolution. The convictions of men who held unpopular political and social views should now be righted. Debs and Haywood, Ruthenberg and Ferguson—all the political and class war prisoners should now be set free. Socialist, I. W. W., or Communist

there is no defensible reason for still imprisoning them. The Civil Liberties Union has submitted a memorandum to Attorney-General Daugherty showing European and post-Civil War action on amnesty. It is drawn up by Morris Hillquit, Socialist attorney, and Albert De Silver, director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"The memorandum shows that amnesty has been granted to political offenders in practically all Allied countries, either by amnesty decrees or otherwise. America alone has continued to imprison political and military offenders. It states that it is difficult to perceive any argument against the granting of amnesty here which would not have applied with even greater force in any of the European countries where political offenders have already been released.

"In Italy, by royal decree dated November 10th, 1918, amnesty was granted to those convicted of disseminating false statements concerning the defense of the state, the military operations, the public order or the national economic situation and also to those convicted of the commission of deeds tending to depress the public spirit or prejudice the national interests. The effect of this decree is to grant amnesty to persons convicted of offenses similar in nature to those penalized by Sec. 3 of Title I of the Espionage Act.

"In France, by legislative enactment signed by the President October 24, 1919, full amnesty was granted in respect to "all offenses and contraventions in matters of meetings, elections, strikes and demonstrations on the public highway; infractions anticipated

by the law of August 5th, 1914, concerning indiscretions of the press in the time of war." Furthermore, provision was made for the re-admission to electoral rights of those who had been deprived of them by reason of their conviction.

"In Belgium, by legislative enactment adopted October 31st, 1919, amnesty was granted with some exceptions to all military prisoners.

"In Great Britain, while no decree of general amnesty for political offenders was granted, within a year's time after the termination of hostilities there were few if any persons in prison in England whose cases fell within the category of political offenders. In practically all cases of persons convicted of offenses similar to those involved in the prosecutions under our Espionage Act, the sentences were for less than a year.

"In Canada, on November 20th, 1919, a proclamation was issued granting amnesty to all persons imprisoned or against whom prosecutions were pending for offenses against the military service act, 1917.

"The memorandum contains excerpts from the amnesty proclamations of Presidents Lincoln and Johnson. In connection with these, the writers state: "It can scarcely be argued that the exigencies of government arising from the late war are at this time greater or more serious than those which followed the Civil War. . . . If amnesty were then deemed to be a policy which could safely be pursued by the government, it surely cannot be said that it would now be less safe. If at that time the necessity of bringing about a return from the bitterness of war to the normal sentiments of peace seemed a compelling argument in favor of the policy of amnesty, surely the argument is at least equally strong now."

The attention of the Attorney-General is called to the fact that the majority of these cases were tried at a time of great public excitement when the probability of injustice was very high; that there was a surprising discrepancy between the sentences imposed in different districts for offenses of substantially the same character, and that these persons were convicted during a state of war which no longer exists in fact.

So on with Amnesty! Let our people go. Away with the demands of the American Legion. It represents neither the soldiers nor the citizens. Unless we pace up a little we shall be justly labeled the most intolerant and reactionary of all the alleged civilized nations.

MOB VIOLENCE AND THE KU KLUX KLAN

THE world reeks with mob violence. The Black and Tans have rendered Ireland a scarlet isle. The Amritsar tragedy of India besmirches perfidious Albion again. Jews in Eastern Europe are pogromed. The Fascisti of Italy rival our American Ku Klux Klan. The American Legion competes with both for their lecherous laurels.

No race line longer limits these activities. White people and colored people are tarred and feathered, flogged and lynched, kidnapped and beaten by the Knights of the Ku Klux. A release from the vigi-

lant and public spirited American Civil Liberties Union before us reads, in part:

Note: Legislative action against the Ku Klux Klan, which continues to terrorize certain sections of the South (Nos. 1, 3, 9), is urged upon the Governor of Texas (No. 4). Local prosecutions are exceedingly difficult even when the identities of the masked mobbists are known. (No. 5).

A decision having important bearing on the attitude of the courts toward picketing was handed down by the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court this week. (No. 19).

MOB VIOLENCE

1. *Alabama*—Mrs. Kate Alexander was kidnapped by masked men at Birmingham on July 24th and severely beaten for miscegenation. C. S. Cooley, of Birmingham was flogged by the same group on the same night on a similar charge and ordered to leave town.

2. *California*—Fifty-eight Japanese fruit-pickers were deported from Turlock on July 20th by American workers. James Shea, president Local No. 8, Fruit and Vegetable Workers' Union and five other Union men were arrested as the mob leaders.

3. *Texas*—Under the leadership of Representative Patman, 49 State legislators have petitioned Governor Neff to submit to the present special session of the legislature a bill, aimed at the Ku Klux Klan, prescribing penalties for masked mobbists.

4. *Texas*—J. W. McKnight, mobbed at Timson on July 17th was taken from the custody of a deputy sheriff by masked men at Tenaha on July 16th because he had made complaint against his assailants. McKnight was under arrest for carrying concealed weapons. He was again beaten.

5. E. H. Peters was taken from a hotel at Chandler on July 16th, gagged and left unconscious three miles out of town. A note signed "Ku Klux Klan" was found in his pocket and \$200 he had with him was missing.

6. R. A. Scott was tarred and feathered by masked men at Beaumont on July 16th.

7. G. C. Benson of Dickinson was seized by masked men on July 18th and whipped.

8. At Lufkin, Sherwood Vinson and Ben Wiley were tarred and feathered by bands of masked men on July 20th.

9. W. J. Hoopingarner was tarred and feathered at Bay City on July 16th and forced to leave town.

MEETINGS

10. *Texas*—American Legion members force Mrs. Ida Crouch Hazlett, national Socialist organizer, to suspend a meeting at Newton on July 23rd and leave town.

11. *Illinois*—Chicago police arrested Robert Hardeen, Garden Owen and Charles Buchanan, Negroes, speaking under the auspices of the American Freedom Foundation on July 12 for holding a street meeting without a permit.

12. *New York*—In dismissing the disorderly conduct charge against Harvey Stork, arrested at New York City on July 22d for holding a street meeting

and selling periodicals, Magistrate Mancuso rebuked the police for indiscriminate arrests of radicals.

No sex line is drawn! A few weeks ago Kate Richards O'Hare was kidnapped by some chivalrous American Legionnaires in Idaho, driven for miles across two states in her night gown, then dumped into a desert. Here was true chivalry on the part of American white men—taking an American white woman out of the home of a friend, refusing to allow her to dress, and dumping her, after an enforced automobile ride, into a desert! But this was in a less chivalrous part of the country. These were western wild men, say the American gentlemen. The real chivalry is in the South. Quite true. Look again at the release. "Mrs. Kate Alexander (a Southern white woman in Alabama) was kidnapped by masked men at Birmingham on July 24th and severely beaten for miscegenation." Mrs. Alexander was severely beaten by Southern gentlemen of the Ku Klux Klan one of whose tenets is the protection of white womanhood!

In the golden west, too, the gilded hand of the gangster is raised against Japanese workmen. "Fifty-eight Japanese fruit-pickers were deported from Turlock on July 20th by American workers." Here, no doubt, were some of the American workers who refused to condemn the vicious Ku Klux Klan at the American Federation of Labor Convention in Denver a few months ago.

The Dragons drill on. The masked Titans tread on the small post-war vestige of a doubtful democracy. The weird wizards tramp upon our little and limited liberty. The unspeakable Cyclopes close in against civilization. The Negro is damned and murdered. The Jew is contemned and tarred. The Catholic is flogged and feathered. M. Masobansky, of Houston, Texas, was recently seized and outraged while on his way to the synagogue. Church and state are given over into the keeping of the modern Huns and Attilas while Episcopal rectors like the Rev. Philip Irwin of Miami, Florida, are given forty lashes.

Is it possible that American manhood has sunk so low that we have no remedy for this type of ruthless marauding? Are we helpless before a small organized minority whose activities are winked at by the governing powers? Are men to be flogged, tarred, feathered, murdered without mercy or pity by a lawless group which has set itself up in opposition to constituted authority and in flagrant disregard of the public will?

In this line we wish to commend the medicine properly prescribed by Sheriff Duggan of Butte, Montana. He says: "Should the Ku Klux Klan attempt any of their time honored activities in this county, they will be shot down like wolves!" We strongly suspect that such a courageous attitude taken by American sheriffs, police and officials of the law would very quickly drive the Knights of cowardly and criminal character to the tall timbers and retire then to that oblivion and obscurity from which they should never emerge.

Nor are the people wholly defenseless before these vandals and vile vultures. *The law is that a man's house is his castle, that he may use sufficient force to*

repel an attack, and if he has reason to believe his life is endangered, he may kill." Now those white masks are not invulnerable. We haven't tried it, but we honestly believe a bullet will go through them. We don't even credit the wizardly qualities. We suspect that a bullet passing through those masks will produce heart failure. And when the heart fails, following fast upon the force of the gun flash, we will bet the undertaker is the only man who will be needed to take care of the alleged wizard.

Of course, this is the emergency treatment. It is the last resort. It is the first aid pending other more substantial and permanent relief. What ought to be done is to have President Harding go to Congress just as he did on the bonus and railroad questions and present a special message for immediate cleaning up

of this disgrace to the miniature residue of American democracy. We know he is reactionary, but he has some memories of Republican tradition, some regard for decency in civil life which no doubt would move him to arouse Congress speedily to wipe out this damnable and dastardly crowd of cowards, this motley crew of villainous vandals, this unspeakable horde of human bloodhounds, this paltry pack of public pests, this black band of beastly bigots, this indescribable gang of white ignorammuses—white outside but black inside—these weirdly wicked wolves of night—the (K)Nights of the Ku Klux!

For the Negroes, however, the whole situation is hopeful, because when these criminal activities spread to others, it means that others will combine with him in extirpating this murderous menace.

Economics and Politics

DU BOIS ON REVOLUTION

By CHANDLER OWEN

IN the August Crisis, Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, speaking editorially, writes an article entitled "The Class Struggle" which reads in part:

"The N.A.A.C.P. has been accused of not being a "revolutionary" body. This is quite true. We do not believe in revolution. We expect revolutionary changes in many parts of this life and this world, but we expect these changes to come mainly through reason, human sympathy and the education of children, and not by murder. We know that there have been times when organized murder seemed the only way out of wrong, but we believe those times have been very few, the cost of the remedy excessive, the results as terrible as beneficent, and we gravely doubt if in the future there will be any real recurrent necessity for such upheaval."

For sheer cheap demagoguery, for tawdry scholarship, for fragmentary thinking, for sham celebration and shoddy mentality—this expression could hardly be surpassed. It is on par with the demagoguery of the South in dealing with the Negro to pretend that revolution implies human murder. It is worthy of the discredited old Russian emigres in referring to all phases of the Soviet government. It ranks with the forged Sisson papers which were used to disparage the Bolsheviks.

For the benefit of the public we shall now give to our readers an explanation of revolution. By revolution recognized thinkers and scholars mean the change from one system to another and the substitution of the new system for the old. For instance, the change from the geocentric to the heliocentric theory was a revolution in astronomy. Nobody was murdered, but the sun was thereafter considered the center of the universe, instead of the earth. All astronomical thinkers

know what an advance this new and correct conception was and is.

In biology the theory of evolution superseded the theory of divine creation. It constituted a revolution when by its thorough exposition Charles Darwin gave to the world the scientific view of unified rather than multiple origin of species.

In chemistry, the atomic theory revolutionized all chemical opinion. Molecules still remained; elements were not assassinated, and the early chemists were not murdered. Nevertheless a striking impetus was given to the development of chemical thought; the early chemical authorities were not murdered; nor did it prevent the still newer advances to the electronic theory of matter.

John Stuart Mill, Adam Smith and Herbert Spencer were staunch philosophers, economists and sociologists of the *laissez faire* school; they believed in the gospel of competition. A revolution in economics and sociology took place with the coming of August Comte, Lester Ward, Richard Ely, Ross, and other economists and sociologists of the school of social control. As against the competition theory of the older group the newer group of economists and sociologists counterposed the higher concept of co-operation. The old group stood for competitive war; the new group for co-operative peace. It was a gigantic revolution in economic and social thought, still we did not learn of the murder of Herbert Spencer, John Stuart Mill and Adam Smith by Ward, Comte or Ely.

In history for centuries the great man theory of interpretation prevailed. Along came the new school of historians with the ideological interpretation of history, showing how world ideas and conceptions determined the course of events. Later another revolution followed, on the surging currents of whose oceanic