

Negro World

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THE PASSING OF THE OLD GUARD

JUST as the younger intellectuals, across the border of color, are battling with the traditionalism of the old guard—of Brander Matthews and Adolph Ochs, John S. Sumner and the Evening Post—so the U. N. I. A., echoing the spirit of the modern Negro, is in open revolt against the N. A. A. C. P. and its ideals. Again, across the boundary of color, the younger generation, led by H. L. Mencken, F. Scott Fitzgerald, John A. Weaver, is impatient with the conservatism, the lack of intrepidity, the confucianism of the old guard. Fundamentally it is a clash of ideals. Youth is out to conquer, and the scroll of history is one endless record of the conquest of the oncoming generation, of the enthronement of youth and idealism. Through Marcus Garvey the Negro youth speaks out. Out on the hilltops his voice is heard. In DuBois, the leader of the old guard, is centered all the ripeness of old age, culture, skepticism, intellectual paralysis. Witness, as exhibit one, the decadence of "The Crisis," once a palatable sheet, now a dry, dusty, old-fashioned vehicle of statistics, almost as senile as the "Amsterdam News."

Admirers of Mr. DuBois may not like to hear this but it is nevertheless true. His days are over. Of necessity—it is the law of progress—he must step aside and give way to youth, to younger blood, to the hundreds of New Negroes stalking out, like Banquo's ghost, of colleges and universities, fearless, radical, challenging.

Again, as is seen on the battlefields of the other race, the old guard—and we cannot draw our parallels too often—in retreat, and youth is triumphant. Clairvoyant that he is, Dr. DuBois must realize by this time that his days are numbered, that the youngsters, led by Marcus Garvey, are sweeping everything before them.

THE GREAT CONVENTION

THE Third International Convention of Negroes which assembled in Liberty Hall, New York City, came to a close last week. It was attended by more spectacular exhibitions, more dramatic episodes, more emotional thrills and more constructive legislation than any previous convention that was staged by and for black men. The picturesque parades, the monster mass meeting in the armory, the impassioned address of Rev. Dr. Austin, the gorgeously brilliant court reception, the resplendent Ethiopian pageant, the Women's Industrial Exhibit and the inauguration of elected officers, which was followed by a fashion show, will live in the memory of the deputies, delegates and visitors as cherished memories.

Then, too, the impeachment trials of the Surgeon General, the Speaker of the House and the American Leader, the attempted impeachment of the President-General, the resignation of the members of the High Executive Council, the election and appointment and challenging of high officials possessed dramatic elements that held the auditors spell-bound and kept them in a fever heat of excitement.

As was quite natural, it was the dramatic and exciting incidents of the convention that received big headlines in the daily newspapers and were discussed in private. But the thunder and lightning, the smoke and noise engendered by the convention obscured the fact that a good deal was accomplished in the way of constructive legislation. And while the spectacular events and dramatic episodes may become hazy in the memory, the beneficent results of the constructive legislation will grow brighter as the years roll on.

The drafting of a petition and the sending of envoys to the League of Nations, the appointment of a committee to consider better relationship within the Negro race, the appointment of a committee to consider the future religious faith and belief of the Negro, the suggestion that presidents of divisions take a course in the Booker T. Washington University or a correspondence course under the guidance of the officials of the university, the suggestion of a budget system, the prospective organization of the Black Star Redemption Company to redeem the stock of the Black Star Line and the prospective establishment of the Black Star Navigation and Trading Company as an auxiliary of the U. N. I. A. were only a few of the statesmanlike measures that were indorsed by the convention.

Then some of the papers, especially that of the retiring Minister of Industry and Labor, on the industrial situation among men of African descent are worthy of preservation in permanent form. Among the new men inducted into the Executive Council Sir Le Roy Bundy will be a tower of strength to the association by virtue of his business experience, dauntless courage and high character.

Some have regretted the clashing of forces that characterized some of the sessions of the convention. But men have been matching their strength and wits from the days of the cave man until the present. The desire for wealth, prestige, power and influence has been the motive that has driven hosts to oppose each other on the field of battle from time immemorial. The same desire for wealth, prestige, power and influence has also caused strife within nations, political, fraternal, educational and religious organizations. And the same desire of some to hold on to the power already acquired and of others to limit that power and to secure some of it themselves was one of the causes of the clash of forces in the convention that we are discussing.

As volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are but the bursting of forces which are working unseen beneath the surface of the earth, so it was with the convention that just closed. But while this is true, let us not think so much of the clashing of forces, of battle or of the territory that has been won and held.

MARCUS GARVEY'S PLAN

THOSE who are maligning and opposing Marcus Garvey and trying to destroy the great machine he is building little know what a task of his mind nor how determined he is to build up this machine and put it into complete working order. These pigmies, filled with malice and envy, do not seem to realize that a resolute man always accomplishes what he sets out to accomplish or that Marcus Garvey is a resolute man with a plan and a purpose. His plan is well defined in all his public writings and utterances. His purpose is to put these plans into practical operation without the advice or consent of any of his critics. Briefly restated, it is his plan, through the operations of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, to establish a chain of stores, factories and other money making industries with the money of the ignorant Negro dupes who are still in full sympathy with him so as to give the Negro as a class commercial standing in the community, and his purpose is to provide employment in these various enterprises for some of the thousands of Negro youths turned out of the schools and colleges annually for whom there are no such opening in the white commercial and business world. Garvey is going to commercialize Negro education. He is going to try to make education worth while to the Negro boy and girl who are themselves worth while. This is only one phase of Garveyism. There are others, and men and women whose vision is clear will not fail to have noticed the wide scope of the Garvey movement and the tremendous and far-reaching possibilities it offers to those who are now struggling upward in the night. Our youths who are taking or who have taken business courses to fit them for the real business of life will always find an open door at the headquarters of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and a market for their wares. The worthy and the competent may go as far as they like and only those who are capable and efficient may do this. The Universal Negro Improvement Association is the biggest asset looked at from any angle which the Negro race now possesses, and it will in a few more years possess the largest number of the thoughtful Negroes of the world, because it offers the only practical solution of the race problem yet presented and the plan by which it can be solved by the Negro himself. "Cassius from bondage is delivering Cassius."

ROBES AND TITLES

THE robes, titles and pageants that characterized the Third International Convention of Negroes have been humorously referred to by the white press and discussed pro and con by the Negro press. The New York Age seems to be especially interested. In a recent editorial upon "Titles and Their Uses" it says: "Mr. Garvey would have been more consistent if he had adhered to his scheme of African salvation in his choice of titles. Instead of commonplace English handles as the 'Duke of Uganda' and the 'Negus of Abyssinia,' he should have distributed such mouth-filling morsels as 'Negus of Abyssinia,' 'Alake of Abeskuta,' 'Begum of Bananaland,' etc. Even the time-honored title of the 'Ahkoond of Swat' might have been revamped to save the situation."

We appreciate the deep interest that the New York Age manifests in the titles, robes and pageants of the U. N. I. A. and thank it for its kindly suggestions regarding titles. But there is this difficulty about the resounding and resplendent titles suggested by that paper. Practically everyone knows what you mean when you say "Knight" and "Duke," because of the historical associations connected with these names, but very few know what you mean when you say "Negus," "Alake," "Begum" and "Ahkoond." And while the titles given by the Rt. Hon. Marcus Garvey may not be perfect (and we will say en passant that perfection is rarely found in this world) they have a distinct advantage over the titles suggested by the editor of the New York Age.

This is how titles and honorary degrees come into existence. Suppose we were the president of a university and approved of the journalistic work of Fred R. Moore, Lucien H. White, James W. Johnson and Lester A. Walton, what would we do? We would confer the L. L. D., the M. A. or D. C. L. degree upon them at the college commencement. Suppose we were the head of a powerful fraternal organization. What would we do if we desired to indicate to the world that the work that they had accomplished in the field of letters and journalism met our approval? Why, we would give them a title at one of our annual meetings. No one could justly question our right to do so. As to whether the particular titles that we selected were perfect or ideal is another matter.

THE CANDIDACY OF W. H. FERRIS

THE New York Age, in a recent editorial spoke of "The Eligibility of 'Sir' William H. Ferris, the editor of THE NEGRO WORLD, running as a primary candidate for the nomination for Congress." The gentleman in question does not know whether he will run. The illness of his mother, his expending his time and energy on the paper and convention and the fact that the chairman and secretary of the committee that asked him to run are away on their vacations have prevented his knowing what plans have been perfected for his campaign.

If he discovers that systematic plans for a campaign have been perfected he will stay in the race. If he discovers that systematic plans have not been perfected and that his friends are relying upon blind luck or chance to put him over, he will gracefully retire from the contest.

W. H. Ferris has been too busy to inaugurate plans of his own. He does not know what the chairman or secretary of his campaign committee have planned and executed, because they have been away on their vacations, consequently he can make no promises, prophecies or predictions. He, however, would consider it a sacred privilege and honor to be inside of the legislative halls with a voice and a vote instead of outside with a petition.

THE WAY OF SALVATION

DURING the past four and a half years we have attended three racial conventions and three Methodist conferences and have read with interest the resolutions sent out by other racial conventions, Methodist conferences and Baptist conventions. Through them all, sometimes faintly and sometimes dimly, we heard a pathetic wail, the voice of a soul in distress. What is the trouble?

The black man feels that the fact that Negro blood courses through his veins gives him a status in modern society that is lower even than that of other colored races like the Japanese, Chinese, Hindoo and Indian. What must he do?

The first question for the black man to ask is, "Why is my standing so low in the world's regard?" The answer to that question will point the way to the black man's salvation. The white child has been taught that the Negro has never made any contribution to civilization, is a savage in his native land and was a slave in the Western hemisphere for two and a half centuries. Consequently as he grows to manhood, when he sees a man in whose veins courses Negro blood, he associates inferiority and poverty with him.

By publishing the truth regarding his contribution to civilization and his present status in his native land and by making himself mentally, morally, physically, industrially and commercially fit the Negro will gradually change the world's estimate of and consequently attitude towards him. Both by what he is, by what he says and by what he does, the black man must lift himself as other races have lifted themselves. This seems to be the surest way of salvation.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By DUSE MOHAMED ALI

United States Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska, in the Senate on Thursday of last week, drew attention to what he termed reports on crimes committed by French black colonial troops on the Rhine. The Senator is ranking Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee. He declared that it was the duty of the American Government to suggest to France the substitution of white troops. He said among other things, that "we may sit idly by while France in her folly proceeds to cripple the German republic by demands for reparations which all the world knows Germany cannot possibly meet at this time, but we as a nation are in part responsible for the Rhineland being under military operation, and it is our right as well as our duty to protest against quartering half-civilized black troops among white people, where they appear as conquerors and act as criminals." We would like to ask the Senator upon what grounds he bases his allegation. Are the troops criminal only because they are black, and are they also only "half-civilized" for this very ethnic reason? The Senator should know that more reports of crimes are insufficient evidence on which to base his charges in the face of counter evidence that these black troops are at least as well behaved as any other troops of any other race have been.

I have already exploded this French black troops' crimes' accusation in this column when they were advanced a few months ago by the Countess of Warwick and I again repeat that the accusations are as baseless as they are pernicious. From the early days of 1915 when France introduced her black troops on the French fighting front the Germans have been complaining about employing black troops against Europeans, and as the reports of these "crimes" emanate from German sources we cannot admit their reliability. The Senator from Nebraska must produce properly authenticated facts from unimpeachable sources before we can admit them to the domain of practical politics. On the question of France crippling Germany, however, I am at one with Senator Hitchcock. I have repeatedly said that it is the duty of the United States to settle the vexed problem of German loans and their concomitant reparations, and the Senator is quite correct in criticizing his government for its failure to perform an obvious duty. When the United States entered the later war she assumed certain definite obligations and, now that she has won the world's gold, her duty becomes more insistent. In fact, she holds the key to the European financial situation and she cannot well avoid her responsibilities in face of the crippled condition of world trade. It is all very well to say that the United States of America are self-supporting. No country is really self-supporting. All countries are interdependent, and America is no exception to this general rule. If Europe suffers trade depression American industry and finance must languish. Manufacturers must be curtailed with resultant unemployment, which is the handmaiden of crime and lawlessness, ending no man knows whither. It therefore follows that in pursuing a policy of dignified isolation towards Europe, America must, after the manner of Samson, perish with the destruction of the edifice.

So King Constantine, "The Greek," has been beaten by Kamel Pasha, the Turk, in Angora. This is no more than I expected, and the readers of these notes will remember that I have repeatedly indicated this result. Given a free hand, the Turks who have been in arms continuously for three hundred years, were always capable of taking care of the Greeks or any other troops that might be brought against them. The British forces sent against them at Gallipoli were beaten and were forced at length to evacuate the peninsula. Every man would have been annihilated, when the "masterly" evacuation was accomplished, but for the magnanimity of the Turks. How then did Constantine hope to stand up against a force inspired by a love for home and country and goaded on by the atrocities committed upon their brethren by the so-called Greeks? Not only is Constantine reeling under Kamel Pasha's well-timed blow, but "George the Fifth" of England and his henchman, Curzon, have received a very severe castigation at the hands of the British press, which is now clamoring for a revision of the British Government's attitude towards the "unspeakable" Turk. The only British papers that have not offered England's Prime Minister gratuitous adulation and unequivocal criticism are those numerous London publications which have been bought up by the government's supporters to sing its praises. Even these sycophants have been swept into the vortex of criticism and are now issuing mildly worded protests blended with fulsome apologies in order to soften the blow under which the government staggers. Lloyd George, the clowning diplomat and the pro-Greek friend of Venizelos, will doubtless turn up smiling once again with a new trick to amuse the thinking world. He has only to dash into the diplomatic arena, bravely, to down the voices of the others, and flap his ears to cool the fetid atmosphere and the world's "diplomats" and journalists will respectfully remove their hats and straightway break forth into paeans of adulation in honor of the antics of this lineal descendant of the quadruped that protestingly refused to carry Baalam.

I indicated last week that it was quite possible that James M. Cox's little talk with Lloyd George would give the British Prime Minister an Anglo-American entente election stunt. English Government officials will be engaged for the next few months patching up the Anglo-French entente. Britain is willing, it would appear, to reconsider the unfortunate Gallipoli note, and after the November election in America it is hoped in British official circles that the United States will be induced to join in a readjustment of all war indebtedness. This feeling is doubtless influenced by President Harding's reported willingness to look into the matter when the time is ripe for American intervention. I should say that that time is now. Three months hence might be too late to save Europe. Lloyd George, whilst not appearing to take part in any of the Anglo-American entente negotiations, is feeling the American Government's pulse through James M. Cox and his own officials.

Not being allowed to have his way with France over the question of German reparations, he has all along hoped that something would turn up to give him an Anglo-American entente lead so as to force France's hand by a joint Anglo-American threat of war debt collection. Mr. Cox has given him this lead and the British Prime Minister can be counted upon to play it up for all he can get out of it. He might have to wait until Sir Oliver Horne goes to Washington to discover some means of funding the British debt when a proposal for an Anglo-American economic entente would automatically come into the scheme of things whereby their debts in continental Europe would be brought under joint control. Cox, who is evidently sincere about Anglo-American co-operation by advocating American participation with France and England in the League of Nations, is innocently playing into the hands of Lloyd George by creating a sentiment in England in favor of the Anglo-American entente on which George has set his heart as a means of extricating himself from his diplomatic difficulties in the Near East. What a game!

BOOKS

EARLY CIVILIZATION

Early Civilization: An Introduction to Anthropology by A. A. Goldenweiser. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. 428 pages.

By HUBERT H. HARRISON

To colored readers it will seem significant that of the five groups which Dr. Goldenweiser here presents for consideration four are colored two from among the Indians of North America, one from Africa, and one from Australia, while the one doubtful group—the Eskimo—is not generally claimed by the Caucasian experts. The mere selection of these as illustrating the processes of early civilization is itself a clear indication that civilization in its early stages at least is not exclusively Caucasian product which is of course a commonplace of anthropology.

Dr. Goldenweiser who was once assistant in anthropology to Dr. Franz Boas of Columbia University is second only to Boas in the ranks of American anthropologists and has made many notable contributions of his own in that department of social science—especially in the interpretation of exogamy and animism. He has done much work both in the study and in the field and brings to the present volume a ripe judgment and wide knowledge. The first five chapters describe the cultures of the five groups mentioned above: their systems of government, law, industry, religion and art. The second section of the book consists of eight chapters which work out the interpretation of the fact previously presented and show how they stand related to the basic processes of the progress of mankind. In these chapters the reader learns what are the principles by which scientific anthropologists determine the relative merits of any civilization white or colored past or present.

In the third section "The Ideas of Early Man" the author passes in review and criticizes the various theories of primitive man's mentality which have been advanced by Spencer, Durkheim, Frazer, Freud, Wundt and Levy-Bruhl. This is followed by a final chapter in which he presents his own view of the matter, the whole making up the ablest book on the subject which has appeared on this side of the Atlantic. It is an authoritative statement of the present position of competent anthropologists of today on the facts and theories of their science. It is good reading, good writing and good science.

Editorial Notes

Leaders who derive their living as expert begging letter writers and who are convincing and clever phrasemongers are very like the lilies of the field—they toil not neither do they spin. Yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. The traders and spinners supply the raw material which enables these dispensers of super-heated air to "strut like Miss Tizzie" and fill the air with the tumult of their discontent. In enacting the dual roles of men and mendicants these "leaders" have and are disgusting the "ignorant dupes" who have gone on to their methods of making a living and they are going to put them out of business or "bust" in the effort.

Information has reached us that certain political ward healers of Harlem went down town on Wednesday last to talk over with the white bosses certain matters pertaining to the Negro vote situation in Harlem during the coming primary and fall elections, and that they got little comfort from these bosses, whose ears are close to the ground, and who told their spokesman that the Garvey forces seemed to have the confidence of the masses, and would probably have to be reckoned with. It was also intimated to these ward healers that they are making a mistake fighting the Garvey movement, since it is a much better organized group of Negroes than any now existent in Harlem. Now, there you are brethren. Wait for the fireworks. You are overplaying your hand.

THEIR ENTERPRISE, THE CRIME OF SELLING SOULS

By JOSEPH HAZEL DONALDSON

I saw her passing with her bosom bare,
Her sacred, virgin paps extending free!
Her master sent her thus to make men stare
And lust; then buy her with the criminal's fee.
The criminal said, "Oh, that's the custom here
Among the savage. Why should you complain?"
My soul exclaimed, Is there no law to fear?
And then my heart replied in bitter pain:
Who is more savage, they or you—the beast!
Who make your sports with virtue at their say?
You brute-like man, bloodthirsty for a feast,
Take unsuspecting innocents your prey!
Displaying tainted money in your hand,
You make your bids in trade for souls—your call
Is heard, a Virgin placed at your command!
You give the cup—the drink; thus give her all.
In West Africa, Feb. 27, 1922.