

DOING GOOD WORK

(The Christian Science Monitor)

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, an organization composed of both white people and Negroes, is working for the betterment of the Negro through education and through affording him every opportunity open to other men of American citizenship. The association is also working, according to James Weldon Johnson, field secretary of the association, to secure for the Negro manhood suffrage, the abolition of all caste distinctions based simply on race and color, and the recognition of the principle of human brotherhood as a practical present creed.

The association has a membership of 9,000, divided into 90 branches and distributed in all sections of the country, but although the South has the greatest Negro population of the country, the association has only started organizing branches in that field.

Local branches deal with local problems, but, if questions of national importance arise, they are dealt with from national headquarters here in New York. A problem that is being worked on now by the national association is that of the East St. Louis riots case, and Mr. Johnson states that although the fight is being waged by the association, it is led by the St. Louis branch. This latter branch has raised \$2,000 to give succor to refugees and collected data and evidence for the congressional investigation and legal prosecution now going on in connection with the riots. The purpose of such work is to defend the Negroes accused of taking part and inciting the riots. This, of course, applies to only those who are believed to be innocent. Two investigators have been sent to St. Louis for this purpose. These representatives are also to report on the findings of the congressional investigation and watch the progress of the legal prosecution.

The association is seeking a fair and impartial trial for all concerned, Mr. Johnson told this bureau. There have been a few white rioters already tried and two have been sentenced to fourteen years and two others to fifteen years imprisonment. There are 76 people connected with the riots under indictment awaiting trial, of these about 13 are Negroes. Mr. Johnson says it is the presumption of the association that Negroes were not responsible for the riots, although so far 10 Negroes have been sentenced to fourteen years each. These men were the first tried and convicted, and Mr. Johnson believes that it looks as though the responsibility for the riots was being thrown on the Negroes. It would appear from evidence submitted that the white men who took a leading part in the riots wore white uniforms, and on the ground of this evidence Mr. Johnson believes that the whole matter was a pre-arranged affair.

In support of their belief that the East St. Louis riots were premeditated, the following extracts from a letter written to delegates to the Central Trades and Labor Union by Edward F. Mason, secretary of the Central Trades and Labor Union, are cited: "Since this influx of undesirable Negroes has started, no less than 10,000 have come into this locality. These men are being used to the detriment of our white citizens by some of the capitalists and a few of the real estate owners.

"On next Monday evening the entire body of delegates to the Central Trades and Labor Union will call upon the mayor and city council and demand that they take some action to retard this growing menace and also devise a way to get rid of a certain portion of those already here."

Work being done by the local branches of the association includes efforts for better schools in Atlanta, Ga.; elimination of the red-light district in Negro neighborhoods in both Savannah and Key West, and better schools and increased pay for Negro school teachers in Jacksonville.

The establishment of a training camp for Negro officers at Des Moines, Iowa, may

also be included in the work of the association. When it was found that Negroes were not to gain admission to the various officers' training camps, efforts were started to obtain a camp solely for Negroes, but this effort caused considerable opposition even among the Negroes themselves, because it was felt that the action was tending towards voluntary segregation.

There are 700 young Negro men soon to be commissioned as captains, lieutenants and second lieutenants. These men, Mr. Johnson says, are the very best the race can produce, most of them being either graduates or undergraduates of colleges, and men of high position in business and professional life. "We feel," Mr. Johnson states, "that if we are to make the supreme sacrifice in this war we should have some show in democracy. We feel that once the Negro gets the opportunity, he will show the world that he is able to lead as well as to follow."

THE NEGRO'S RIGHT OF RESIDENCE (Literary Digest)

A great victory "for the Negro and for democracy," according to editors speaking for the colored race, was won when the Supreme Court declared the Louisville segregation ordinance—and inferentially similar ordinances in other cities—to be "in direct violation" of the United States Constitution. The sentiment of the dominant race in the cities affected is perhaps expressed by the Richmond News-Leader's remark that what the city cannot do by formal enactment it may be able to accomplish justly and fairly by other means, and its declaration that race-segregation remains "a fixed principle in the South." Northern editors inclined to sympathize with Negroes in the South rejoice at the Supreme Court's decision, because, in the Springfield Republican's words, "we do not want any Ghettos," or because, as the Rochester Post-Express puts it, the "pale" has no place in America. The Brooklyn Eagle is but one of several dailies in Northern States to rejoice at a unanimous decision in favor of Negro rights from a court containing Democrats and Southerners.

Although the case which brought this decision came from Louisville, the New Orleans Times-Picayune explains that—

"The question first saw the light in Baltimore, where a long and energetic movement for the separation of the races was inaugurated some years ago. The Maryland city had a very large immigration of Negroes at the time, who poured into districts formerly occupied exclusively by whites, driving the latter out and having, it was claimed, a most depressing effect on real estate values. An attempt was made to meet this difficulty by a segregation ordinance preventing Negroes from settling in the white districts or streets. The first ordinance adopted was crude and was promptly knocked out by the courts. A new and more carefully prepared one 'stuck' and was found constitutional by the local courts. The movement spread to other cities and similar ordinances were passed in Richmond, Va., Atlanta, St. Louis and Louisville."

The expressed purpose of the now invalidated Louisville ordinance, which was effective more than three years, was to "prevent conflict and ill-feeling between the white and colored races in the city of Louisville, and to preserve the public peace and promote the general welfare by making reasonable provisions requiring, as far as practicable, the use of separate blocks for residence, places of abode, and places of assembly by white and colored, respectively."

In rendering the court's decision, Mr. Justice Day declared that the police power of the State, broad as it is, and strengthened by many Supreme Court decisions, "cannot justify the passage of a law or ordinance which runs counter to the limitations of the Federal Constitution." The admittedly difficult race problem, he continued, cannot be solved "by depriving citizens of their constitutional rights and privileges." To quote further:

"The right which the ordinance annulled was the civil right of a white man to dispose of his property if he saw fit to do so to a person of color and of a colored person to make such disposition to a white person."

"We think this attempt to prevent the alienation of the property in question to a person of color was not a legitimate exercise of the police power of the State, and is in direct violation of the Constitution."

Thus the highest tribunal of the land has spoken on what the Boston Negro weekly, The Guardian, calls "the most outrageous of all civil discriminations against the Negro race." The Afro-American New York Age considers the decision immensely important, and affirms that it will renew the Negro's faith in the Constitution, for "it proves that the instrument devised by the Fathers of the Republic has not yet become 'a scrap of paper,' but can still exert a vital, living influence for the maintenance of right and the annulment of wrong." In Richmond, where a segregation ordinance has been in force, The Planet, another spokesman for the colored race, knows of nothing "that will have a greater tendency to restore the confidence of the colored people in the integrity of the courts and the sense of fair play in the nation." It adds hopefully:

"If our people will be conservative and not attempt to take undue advantage of this decree, but will go forward only as the necessity of conditions demands, the result will be highly beneficial and other vital decisions will be handed down that will tend to relieve the strain and give us all of our rights and privileges under the law."

But The News-Leader, one of the leading dailies of the former Confederate capital, sees no "great race victory" for its colored fellow citizens to rejoice over, believing that the principle of residential race segregation "can be maintained by custom, if not by law." In Louisville, The Post, which favored segregation, does not think that any ordinance can be designed which will stand in the courts, but predicts that Louisville Negroes will continue to build up desirable sections for their own race. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch had opposed the creation of a segregated section as "a menace to the whole city," and rejoices now that segregation has apparently "received its death-blow" at the hands of the Supreme Court. Cities, it concludes, "can not flourish on a basis of short-sighted disregard for principle and the rights of their citizens."

Gov. McCall of Massachusetts, refused to sign the requisition papers for John Johnson, a colored man, wanted in West Virginia, on a charge of outraging a white girl, on the grounds that Johnson would not get a fair and impartial hearing. From the evidence he doubts Johnson's guilt.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF Washington for the County of King.—In Probate, In the Matter of the Estate of Richard H. Gillen, Deceased.—No. 20037. Order to Show Cause on Sale of Real Estate.

Verne C. Gillen, the executor of the estate of Richard H. Gillen, deceased, having filed his petition in this court, duly verified, praying for an order of this court for the sale of real estate of which the said deceased died seized, for the purposes therein set forth.

And it appearing to the court from said petition that the personal estate of the said deceased in the hands of said executor is not sufficient to pay the claims against the said estate and the expenses of the administration thereof, and it is necessary to sell all or a portion of the said real estate of the said deceased to pay the said claims and expenses of the administration. And it appearing to the court that the said executor conforms to, and is in accordance with, the requirements of law in such case made and provided. It is ordered by the court that all persons interested in the estate of the said deceased appear before said Superior Court on the 10th day of December, 1917, at the hour of 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of said day at the court room of the Probate Department of said Superior Court, in the City of Seattle, in said King County, then and there to show cause, if any they have, why an order of this court should not be granted to said executor authorizing and empowering him to sell the said real estate of said deceased, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the aforesaid claims and expenses of administration.

It is further ordered that a copy of this order to show cause be published at least four successive weeks before the said 10th day of December, 1917, in *Cayton's Weekly*, a newspaper printed and published in said County of King and of general circulation therein.

Done in open court this 13th day of November, 1917.

KENNETH MACKINTOSH,
Judge.

Nov. 17.—Dec. 8, 1917.