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CAYTON'S WEEKLY

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In the interest of equal rights and equal justice to all men and for "all men up."

A publication of general information, but in the main voicing the sentiments of the Colored Citizens.

It is open to the towns and communities of the state of Washington to air their public grievances. Social and church notices are solicited for publication and will be handled according to the rules of journalism.

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OUR TYRANNY OVER THE NEGRO

(The Literary Digest)

Race-riots in East St. Louis afford a lurid background to our efforts to carry justice and idealism to Europe. The question, as it is put by Charles Stelzle, the writer on social subjects from a religious standpoint, is: "How can we assume to free peoples in Europe from tyranny when we ourselves are guilty of the worst kind of tyranny toward a deprestr race?" The remedy, of course, is not in abstaining from the cure of one tyranny to excuse our neglect of the other. Nevertheless, Mr. Stelzle is probably right in asserting that "the East St. Louis race-riots should have made every American citizen realize that we have in the Negro one of the most serious social problems by which this country is confronted." He quotes Booker T. Washington as saying, "I can not hold any man in the gutter without staying there myself," and appeals to the principle of self-preservation as an imperative if not the highest motive for taking better care of the Negro. In 'The Continent' (Chicago), Mr. Stelzle declares that the simple question whether "he is to be a 'good' Negro or a 'bad' Negro" depends as much upon the whites as upon the blacks. He calls us to look at a few outstanding facts in regard to our treatment of the members of this race:

"We compel him to live in the worst parts of our towns and cities, often without drainage or sewerage or garbage service, with scarcely any of the sanitary conveniences in house or yard or street which whites consider an absolute necessity.

"We drive the worst forms of immorality into the Negro quarters and then curse the Negro because of his moral weakness. If there is to be a 'red-light district' in town, it is dumped into the area into which we also dump the Negro population.

"It would be a comparatively easy matter to produce statistics to indicate that the Negro is the worst criminal in the country. But how can he help becoming such? We subject him to the severest tests of our city life—physical, moral, and political—and then cynically declare that the 'nigger' is no good anyway.

"The Negroes who live in these unsanitary and immoral surroundings are our laundresses, nurses, and cooks. If there is contagious disease in their own homes—and there is much of it—they are sure to bring it to our homes, either personally or through the laundry which we send to them.

"Washington was right. If we keep the Negro in the gutter, we shall be compelled to stay there with him. We can't get away

from him. It is impossible to have a nation part free and part slave, and it is still more impossible to have in one country a morally and physically decaying race, and a surviving race untouched by the dying race's fate. And let it be remembered that the 10,000,000 Negroes in the United States constitute 10 per cent. of the population of our country.

"Occasionally some of us try to find comfort in the statement that labor-leaders are responsible for the mistreatment of the Negro race. But this may be set down as a fact—organized labor is as ready as anybody else to give the Negro a square deal.

"Every man who becomes a member of the American Federation of Labor obligates himself never to discriminate against a fellow worker on account of creed, color, or nationality. This is as high a standard as one could find anywhere and in a general way it expresses the attitude of organized labor toward the Negro throughout the entire country.

"It is true that in some parts of the United States there is a prejudice against the Negro among trade-unionists, but whenever this is the case these trade-unionists simply reflect the opinion of the so-called 'better classes' of the community. For example, it is safe to say in such communities it is easier for a colored man to join a white man's union than it is for a colored man to join a white man's church. Ordinarily, when there is prejudice against the Negro on the part of the white trade-unionists it is due largely to the Negro's character and not to his color."

The writer looks with apprehension upon the systematic efforts now being made to bring the Negro from the South to the large industrial centers of the North. For—

"The Negro is probably much better fitted for work on the farm than he is for work in the city. The latest census reports of the United States Government brought out the fact that Negro farms in the South had increased 21 per cent., while Negro population increased only 10 per cent. throughout the country.

"The real friends of the Negro will try to persuade him to move on to the farm, for here he will have more independence than he will ever secure in industrial cities or even in smaller towns.

"There are exceptional Negroes who will make good almost anywhere, but it is to be remembered that we are dealing with the one-tenth of the population of the United States which for many generations to come will in some respects be inferior to the white race.

"Those who are constantly preaching equality of every sort to the Negro race are not the real friends of the Negro. While the Negro should have equality of opportunity, it by no means follows that he is born with the same endowments or capabilities as the white man, and he is sure to suffer when he comes into competition with the white man in the city."

MORE RIOTOUS SOLDIERS

And now its the troops from Montana on their way to American Lake to join the enlisted men at Camp Lewis that ran amuck, and while in transit and in a drunken state killed the train porter. The men are not one hundredth part as much to blame for the mutinous condition in which they were on reaching Camp Lewis as are the au-

thorities that permitted them to load up the train, on which they were coming to camp, with booze of all kinds and descriptions, and then permitted to drink it indiscriminately until they were beastly drunk. Instead of sending such scoundrels to the front to defend the flag every mother's son of them ought to be sent to the penitentiary and those of them responsible for the death of that porter sent to prison for life. The daily press, as usual, had little or nothing to say about the matter, but had colored troops ben guilty of a like offense, stud horse head lines would have appeared in every daily paper in the United States, describing the savage acts of the Negro soldiers. A crime is a crime, whether committed by a white or a black man, and all persons guilty of crime should be punished. If the black soldiers at Houston, Texas shot up that town, killing fifteen persons and wounding others, without cause or justification, save being under the influence of bad whiskey, then they should receive the full limit of the law. If the Montana troops in their drunken and mutinous state, wilfully killed that porter and did other things contrary to the army regulations, then they should be punished just as severely as will be the colored soldiers.

It is no excuse to plead, Texas Harris, the porter, who was killed by the soldiers, likewise joined the rioters, because no one but Harris was hurt.

TELLUM WHAT WE HAVE

Hundreds and perhaps thousands of Negro laborers could find steady employment in the State of Washington today, and that too, at charming wages, if they could be had, and if the Negro Business Men's League of Seattle and the other civic bodies in the state among the colored folk want to be of real service to the colored people they will put forth herculean efforts to induce hundreds of them to come to the Northwest. Never in the history of the Northwest were there such golden opportunities for the black man to get in on the ground floor as at present and the colored folk in the state should not hesitate to raise money to spread the news and inform their brethren in the South of the opportunities that await them in this section. Let each and every one begin to write letters to their friends and, if possible, get them started to coming this way. Just think, the mills at Ballard would employ almost a thousand of them today could they be had, at wages ranging from \$3.50 to \$4.50 per day. We dare say the mines of Franklin would employ hundreds of them and other places would treat them equally well. If we can get colored men here and get them to earning good wages it will be only a question of a short time when they will be in various commercial lines the same as the Japanese and Italians. It is selfish on our part to sit supinely by and make no effort to take advantage of the opportunities daily opening up to colored labor.

We do not quite agree with the allegation that, "Belgium got just deserts," in the treatment meted out to her by the Germans, but remembering her cruel treatment of the Africans, when Leopold was king of Belgium, we do say, Belgium got just what she might have expected. One is almost absolutely certain of reaping just what you sow.