

situation is: First, the tremendous waste of employment in the South. Inadequate employment of a normal labor force, casual employment due to large volume of available labor, unreasonable number on payroll which makes it easy to fill vacancies, encouragement of lost time and small wages due to general labor surplus. Second, the misunderstanding of the adaptability of Negro labor to Northern industrial processes, control of labor placement by incompetent or prejudiced employment managers, inadequate and improper housing accommodations and, above all, the inhuman and brutal treatment of the average foreman. To sum the whole matter up, labor shortage is simply a convenient term to explain the unequal distribution of available labor. The North can easily absorb four millions of labor. The South can easily spare four millions. By a redistribution of this labor, both the North and the South will gain. The North will be enabled to meet the growing demands for production and the South will be taught to arrange its industrial program so that what labor remains will be more adequately employed, better treated and better paid.

The Paterson, N. J. *Press* says:

If this movement should continue steadily, the South in no great while will be confronted with a serious labor shortage until necessary readjustments are made, involving possibly the cultivation of smaller plantations and the importation of more white labor. This seems to be the only difficulty perceived by the average commenting editor of the North, and the South is lectured for not making that section more attractive to the Negro economically and otherwise. The South may well give constructive consideration to this side of the matter but the change will confront the North also with a serious problem of another sort. Even a large influx of common Negro labor is likely to cause disturbance, but the chief difficulty will result from the entry of the more skilled Negro labor into the trades.

In the South there are local labor unions composed entirely of Negroes, but in the North this would hardly be practicable. Spokesmen for the Northern labor unions are now quoted as saying that there are no restrictions against Negroes joining these organizations, but this would seem to be too marked a change from the spirit of the past to be counted on as a certainty. Hostility of Northern unions toward the blacks has frequently been reported, and Negroes brought in to break strikes are known to have suffered terrible usage. Occasional anti-Negro outbreaks in the Middle West have gone to the extreme of the burning of all Negro houses and the driving of all Negroes from the neighborhood.

As for the South, if it can make the necessary readjustments within a reasonable time, the section undoubtedly will be the better off in the end for a thinning of its congested Negro population. The more

thoughtful Southern writers have long looked toward a more equal distribution of the Blacks throughout the United States as the most promising near-solution of the old "problem" that appears to be possible. With the present northward migration continuing, this solution may be regarded as now in sight.

The New York *Herald* hints at a solution by the action of "rotten borough" statesmen:

High wages are the magnet drawing Negroes north. An unnatural labor shortage, caused by a stupid immigration law, creates a situation disturbing to the real advantage of the North. Short of admitting more able-bodied white men from Europe, there is no shutting off the current that robs the South of native labor without permanently benefiting the North. Given a chance, the North can find more assimilable neighbors and more efficient laborers in Europe than in North Carolina or Georgia.

The agricultural South should join the industrial North in working for the repeal of the 3 per cent quota act. The interests of the two sections in this matter are identical.

The Worcester, Mass. *Gazette* reminds us of another picture:

Florida is one of the United States. The Stars and Stripes, with Florida represented by a white star on the blue field, floats over State buildings, schools and postoffices.

Yet in Florida whipping bosses of lumber companies that lease prisoners from the State whip men and boys to death, not because of any crime but because they do not work as hard as the lumber bosses think they should.

That is bad enough, Florida has been aroused to investigate the frightful condition disclosed. Two members of the joint investigating committee appointed by the State Legislature took a former convict, a Negro, to the scene of one whipping murder, in order to get some first hand information. A delegation of armed men met the party and threatened the Negro with death if he told what he knew. The Negro was thoroughly cowed. He knew those Floridians.

And, periodically, gatherings of earnest men and women throughout the country will continue to sign resolutions of protest against cruelty and barbarity in Europe, Asia and Africa.

A colored paper, the Louisville *Leader* speaking of Billy Sunday adds the Negroes' view of the lovely conditions in the South:

He should preach more about the essential things and not much about the non-essential; the support and co-operation of all, with the white women of the South in the effort to stamp out lynching and mob violence; the supremacy and superiority of individuals rather than race or color; a Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man

which includes all peoples, the high and low, the rich and the poor, the black and the white.

He should teach the people that the wages of sin is death, and that it is sin and death to any nation which allows to exist within its borders a bloody peonage, a serfdom as revolting as Europe or Asia has ever known; that it is a sin for colored women in Georgia to be driven and buffeted about by overseers on the chain gangs in making highways of the State.

He should tell the American white people that the program of the Ku Klux Klan, the hellish and degrading Jim Crow car conditions, the subjection of hundreds of colored citizens of the South to terrorism, murder and slavery have no place in the Christian religion and among civilized people, and the nation that tolerates it will eventually die never to rise again.

Meantime the Birmingham *News* whistles to keep its courage up and prints this idyllic picture of race relations:

The great bulk of the colored people are getting along amicably and satisfactorily with the white people. As a race the colored folks are developing finely, and the whites of the South are helping them in every way possible and will continue. There is perhaps a better understanding right now between the races in the South than there has ever been, and generally, less friction.

The nee'er-do-wells, the trouble-makers, the fire-brands and the advocates of a condition which can never obtain—in the South at least—are largely the ones who are moving away, and it will be a benefit that they go. The sane, sensible, industrious and common-sense colored people know they have the greatest opportunity to work out their own destiny in the South, and that the South really offers them their greatest future. Conditions are steadily improving in the South for the colored people, and will continue to improve in such ratio as the leading colored people themselves co-operate with the whites to that end.

HOW I WON THE GOLD MEDAL

I WAS born at Wau, Bahr-el-Ghazal, Southern Sudan, in 1907, and was sent to the Catholic Mission School in that district. After completing my education I was placed in the Mission's workshop where I spent about a year. About the end of that period the Mission thought of sending one of the boys to the Industrial Institute Dombusco, Alexandria, Egypt, to study Mechanical Engineering, as a trial because this was never done before, and they were doubtful as to the result. However, a boy was selected; on the day of departure this boy went to his home and was late in returning



MARCELLO ABD-EL-FARAG

to catch the boat that was leaving. The Bishop, who was to leave with the same boat on his way to Italy, took me instead. I was quite unprepared, but rejoiced to see something of that great city. On my arrival at Alexandria I was handed over to the professor who placed me in a class of 20 white boys. At the end of three months a preliminary examination took place, for which I obtained the first prize. I being the only Negro in the Institute, all attention was focused on me; some criticised, quarreled and fussed about my success, but their action only made me study all the harder and at the end of the final examination (which took place one year after the preliminary examination) I came out the first in everything; and so I obtained the Gold Medal.

MARCELLO ABD-EL-FARAG.

"TWELVE NEGROES"

CELIA SHEVICK, a 16 year old white school girl was brutally murdered in Richmond, Va., April 28. Immediately the arrest of Negroes began. The *Times Despatch* says:

Although about twelve Negroes are being held as suspects, no definite clue had been