

Negro Imagines Himself White

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Articles by whites on the subject of what they would do if they were colored have made their appearance at rather frequent intervals during the past year or so, but few Negroes have speculated on what they would do if they were white.

Writing in the January issue of New Vistas magazine, an interracial digest, Alonzo V. Mercer, a Negro social worker in Chicago and a member of the New Vistas staff, has set forth his ideas on what he would do if he were white.

Approaching the subject from the point of view of enlightened self-interest, Mercer writes: "If I were white, I would be conscious of the historical fact that the present favorable position of the white group is of comparative recent origin. Other races and peoples (Egyptians, Ethiopians, Chinese, etc.) had created great civilizations while Europe was still a forest and America was yet undreamed of."

"This consciousness," he continues, would lead him to investigate "the social, economic and political forces that precipitated the downfall of these once mighty powers so that their mistakes might be avoided in the world of today. . . . I would never forget that my country was settled by oppressed people from all parts of the world who sought and found here freedom from their political,

religious, economic and racial persecutions. I would also remember that all of them now enjoy first-class citizenship except the Negro.

"Furthermore, if I were white, I would oppose the few, with all the power that I could muster, who profit by racism and hate," and "I would refrain from teaching my children to be 'little nazis' by hating others, but . . . I would bring them up to respect and deal fairly and justly with all people regardless of race, color, or economic status."

Ben Carter's Mother Passes

HOLLYWOOD — (ANP) — Closing the career of one of the most vibrant and genial mothers of a soap film celebrity, Mrs. Alma Carter, mother of Ben Carter, passed January 16, at Ft. Madison, Ia. Arrangements were made at once to ship the body here for interment. Ben was just preparing to fly to her bedside when the news was flashed to his beautiful home in famed "Sugar Hill."

Mrs. Carter was survived by a number of other relatives besides Ben who has recently returned from an eastern trip with his partner, Mantan Moreland. She took ill at the home of her daughter, Alma, whom she went to visit from her home here six months ago. There were also two sisters residing here, Miss Alberta Carter and Mrs. Fay Wilkup.

Labor Strikers List Grievances

By JACOB BROWNE
MONROVIA — (ANP) — Liberian workers who walked out of the offices, from the field, and the camp of the Raymond Concrete Pile company and the United States navy, contractors for the building of a port and harbor at Monrovia, have a long list of grievances.

For a long time the attention of the company either directly or indirectly has been called to the inadequate wage scale paid Liberian employees but no reaction has ever been forthcoming. The demands brought forward are:

1. Revision of wages: The contention in this is that the present inequality existing in the wage scale of the local clerical and technical members of the staff as compared with Americans and foreigners from other countries should not exist beyond 20 per cent allowance for overseas services, and an adjustment in that light should be effective as from the first of December.

2. Although the laws of Liberia provide for a 48-hour week, yet Liberians are required to put in up to 84 hours a week with payment of overtime. They are made to work on Sundays and holidays without any extra consideration. Americans and other foreigners employed receive overtime pay regularly in addition to their fabulous pay.

3. Medical attention: Under the present system, local personnel who sustain injuries only on the job are entitled to medical attention. In the case of a foreign employee, medical attention—and the best of that—is given for any complaint except venereal disease. Although a most modern hospital has been erected on the camp, yet Liberians are refused entrance therein and must confine themselves to a ward in one of the hospitals in the city. Hardly any attention is given to the complaints of the workers of the company's doctor, for, being a foreigner, his interest is only in the welfare of the foreign personnel. Although it was suggested to the company for provision to be made in their hospital for the African staff, this was flatly denied by the company.

4. Canteen privileges: All supplies from the canteen are imported into Liberia duty free, but sold only to white employees. This privilege is denied African workers although the contract grants the right to all employees of the company. Foreign employees of the company have the advantage of being exempted from the payment of visas, permit of residence, and duty free on all goods imported into the country. By denying canteen privileges to African workers, they enjoy another right of purchasing articles at cost price, whilst other employees have to get these articles at a higher price inclusive of duty charges and the percentage allowed.

5. No insurance coverage is

made for any African employee. Despite the hazards entailed in a project which might result in injury or death at any moment, no African worker is insured. They work at their own risk without hope of a tomorrow.

6. A foreign employee driving a Euclid truck is paid \$2.08 per hour, while a Liberian performing the same task receives \$1.25 per day, and that is the maximum he can receive at any time. The highest paid Liberian mechanic receives only \$1.50 per day.

7. The unskilled workers suffer a greater disadvantage for being illiterate, no one pays attention to their plea. They are fired on the flimsiest pretext without notice, and sometimes without pay. There is no way of bringing this to the attention of anyone. If he is short-paid and makes inquiry at the pay office, he is fired and payment of amount due already worked for denied him.

These are some of the grounds for the strike. Although the laborers are exposed to every imaginable hazard and risk, the wage scale does not exceed 24 cents per day. Their work includes working under steel cranes where one slip would mean the end of their existence; drilling, preparing dynamite blasts, etc. Drivers receive no more than \$1.25 per day, and this takes in driving heavy duty trucks of fifteen and twenty tons. It is reported that after driving one of these trucks for three days, a Liberian driver took sick and vomited blood, for this was his compensation for \$1.25 per diem. The same truck driven by white employees, the rate paid them is \$2.04 per hour.

In the clerical staff, no Liberian receives higher than \$125 monthly; the pay ranges from \$25 to \$125 and only two Liberians in the clerical staff receive a small margin over \$100 monthly. No Liberian technician is paid over \$300 although an imported American timekeeper and general clerk is started with \$300 plus overtime and extra privileges; a foreign timekeeper's income exceeds that of a qualified local technician.

With the presence of Rear Adm. Henry F. Burns, chief of the Atlantic operations of the bureau of yards and docks, and W. V. McMonimon, vice president and general manager of the Raymond Concrete Pile company, an opportunity is given them to look into the inequalities being practiced on Liberian labor by the company here.

Liberians welcome concessions and enterprises into their country at any time, if it would insure to the good of the masses. This practice of giving no protection, or consideration to Liberian labor has been going on with all foreign concerns here. At Firestone, where the Liberian Wage law is not in operation, workers are treated like chattles by their would-be white masters. They utter their complaints but they always fall on deaf ears. The result is that although a hydro-electric plant is in operation over the entire Firestone area, yet Af-

Other Soldiers Besides Negroes Sow 'Wild Oats'

NEW YORK — (ANP) — Proof that Negro soldiers were not alone in sowing "wild oats" while stationed in foreign countries came from Canada last week in the innumerable cases of British women attempting to enforce affiliation orders against Canadian soldiers, formerly stationed in the British empire.

Many of the Canadian soldiers have since been discharged and have returned to their homes in the Dominion. Action in behalf of the women was advocated by Mr. Parker, under-secretary for the Dominions, and other members of the Canadian parliament. Affiliation orders have been made against 446 Canadian soldiers, Parker revealed, and payments were being made in only 163 cases. The remaining 283 cases showed delinquent payments.

He said that "there is a good deal of feeling in the country on the question. We at the Dominions office have gone into the matter and we also feel strongly about it. We are examining the problem with the Canadian authorities and will do our very best to see what action can be taken."

During the last four or five years, a large number of Chinese have married British women in Liverpool England, and have left them with two or three children, revealed Mrs. Braddock, another member of Parliament. These men returned to their home ports and the wives are left without any chance of getting maintenance money from them.

American newspaper accounts have emphasized the involvement of Negro soldiers in wartime romances and marriages with foreign women, without telling about the "wild oats" sowed by soldiers of other groups.

rican workers are denied power therefrom. Although homes (?) are erected for African employees, yet the worst foreign-occupied home on the plantations is immeasurably better than the best home occupied by an African employe

Cleric Fired for Blasting Jim Crow

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn. — (ANP) — A white Methodist preacher who told his congregation about the evils of Dixie racism has been fired. The name of the daring minister is reported to be Rev. Thomas.

Eloquently pointing out the injustices to Negroes, the white cleric dared to say:

"We call ourselves Christians, but our comfortable homes, our fine cars, yes, even our sons and daughters education are financed very largely by Negro labor, whom we daily cheat by paying him a wage that barely enables him to eke out a physical existence.

"Can't we understand that the righteous hand of just retribution is sure to fall heavily upon us because of this wicked and vicious policy?" he asked.

The dynamic pastor's "strange gospel" was overheard by a citizen here enroute to church. Stunned by the courage of the progressive minister to preach the truth, he stopped to listen to the remainder of the sermon, which lasted 40 minutes. He missed regular services at his own church.

The bishop arrived in town the same week and the daring minister was transferred to an unknown assignment.



In this curious world of ours, nothing's quite so implacable as stubborn fact—practically the only thing of which Science stands in awe. Before fact, brave men quail; free men bow the submissive knee. Wasn't it Huxley who prayed, "God give me strength to face a fact though it slay me"? Yet fact means nothing to a woman. Knowing her superiority to temporal and spatial relationships, she refuses to budge. Though a tempest of precedent rage about her, she stands supreme and alone—of all sentient beings—remains unfettered and unafraid. Man, on the contrary, must anchor himself to something tangible: must be permitted to remain somewhere in the vicinity of infallibility. He must have instant access to that which antedates experience and supersedes reason: must be privileged at least to handle the key to knowledge. He must be able to avail himself of, or have recourse to, some unfailing solvent for all difficulties. In short, he must have women. And, lo! we give her to him here in these columns.

Dear Aunt Stella: In spite of everything, I'm losing my girlish figure and my hair rapidly is turning grey. What would you advise me to do? Resentful.

Resentful: Relax. As Dorothy Canfield has observed, "One of the many things nobody ever tells you about middle age is that it's such a nice change from being young." Aunt (On The Mend) Stella.

Dear Aunt Stella: I'm told that every dictator had a slogan for his army. What was Mussolini's? Boy Scout.

Boy Scout: "Don't shoot, men, tell you see the white of their flags!" Aunt (Knife In The Back) Stella.

Dear Aunt Stella: Why do lots of sour-pusses recommend church membership so highly? Ready For Anything.

Ready For Anything: Because even though the church doesn't keep people from committing most of the sins in the calendar, it does prevent them from getting very much fun out of it. Aunt (Misery Loves Company) Stella.

Dear Aunt Stella: I understand that it's against the rules, but if she were a man I'd knock her block off. What's the best way to fight a woman? King Kong.

King Kong: With your hat: grab it and run. Aunt (Self Preservation) Stella.

Dear Aunt Stella: My doctor says that I have pneumonia. Isn't it true, though, that patients sometimes die of something else even though their physicians prescribe for pneumonia? Uncertain.

Uncertain: Not any more; when a doctor prescribes for pneumonia, the patient dies of pneumonia. Aunt (No Guess Work) Stella.

Dear Aunt Stella: What, in the opinion of experts, is the most marvelous thing about woman? Can't Think Of Anything Else.

Can't Think Of Anything Else: Patience. Doesn't it take the average woman at least twenty-five years to teach a man how to be married? Aunt (Bronco Buster) Stella.

Dear Aunt Stella: How can I change my luck? Every time I

No, Maggie, R. I. P. on tombstones doesn't mean Return If Possible.

do something wrong, either Mamma or Papa is sure to find it out! Too Much Mustard.

Too Much Mustard: Why change it? Only that kid is unlucky whose parents never know. Aunt (Guardian Angel) Stella.

Dear Aunt Stella: Mamma told Papa that his conduct filled her with "righteous indignation." What kind of stuff is that? Divorce Orphan.

Divorce Orphan: It's getting mad uselessly—but without loss of dignity. Aunt (Note Of Protest) Stella.

Dear Aunt Stella: What do you think of a woman who bawls out her husband in a crowded nightclub? Henpecked.

Henpecked: That she's living her private life in public. Aunt (Time To Retire) Stella.

Dear Aunt Stella: I'll die if I don't get a little sleep—but have three marriageable daughters whose beaux hang around the house till all hours of the morning. Without upsetting the apple cart, how can I put these boys wise to the situation? Auctioneer.

Auctioneer: Why not embroider a companion piece for the "God Bless Our Home" sign in the parlor? Have it read, "Leave And Let Live." Aunt (Gentle Reminder) Stella.

Dear Aunt Stella: I had a dream about Hitler, last night, and everything was complete except an epitaph for his gravestone. Can you suggest one? Sharpshooter.

Sharpshooter: "This, definitely, is my last territorial demand." Aunt (Dust To Dust) Stella.

Dear Aunt Stella: In the fewest words, how would you describe a diving Venus in daring costume? Budding Author.

Budding Author: I'd borrow a phrase from Vogue. "She wore a bathing suit that fitted her like a sunburn." Aunt (Revealing) Stella.

Dear Aunt Stella: Do you believe in capital punishment? Legislator.

Legislator: Yes—if it isn't too severe. Aunt (Easy Does It) Stella.

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