

EDITORIALS

THE ADVOCATE

E. D. CANNADY, Founder
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Telephone GARfield 7523

BEATRICE CANNADY-FRANKLIN, Editor and Publisher
YANCY FRANKLIN, Assistant Manager and Composer
WILLIAM PICKENS, Contributing Editor
W. J. WHEATON, Contributing Editor
ROSALIE BIRD, Society Editor and Reporter
DeNORVAL UNTHANK, M. D., Health Editor
NANCY LEE, Contributor
CLIFFORD C MITCHELL, RALPH CLYDE, KELLY MILLER, Columnists

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1933!

With the passing of 1932, we face the year 1933 with mingled feelings of uncertainty and hope. When we take a bird's eye view of our national situation, it is everything but encouraging. We find that the Negro is still plodding aimlessly along, barely existing by the charity of his white brother. We find that throughout the country there is still a great lack of respect and appreciation for the rights of Negroes; they are still lynched and burned without orderly, legal trial; they are still jim-crowded and segregated in the land of their nativity; they are denied the right of speech and representation in our government; they are jailed and convicted of crime on the slightest pretext and when investigations are instituted, they are blocked at every turn because the investigators are in authority and hence dominate. Every day sees the Negro losing out in the economic world. He is the last to be hired and the first to be laid off under the economic strain. He is insulted and assaulted and has little recourse anywhere. His vote is sought but he is given little or no consideration when it comes to dividing political patronage; he is taxed for institutions he is not permitted to use; his education is hampered from the lack of his proportion of public school funds; his children graduate at college and must find work in the white man's kitchen; he still rides in separate coaches on railway trains in the south and cannot find a room in a decent hotel to rest his weary head.

And why? To any one who knows Negroes, the answer is obvious. It is because Negroes are not united.

Not until the Negroes learn to get together; not until they learn that their cause is one; not until they learn to stop tearing each other down; not until they learn to trust their own and quit running to cheap white folks to solve their problems; not until they recognize their own intelligent leadership; not until they admit God into their everyday life, will they ever be able to change these conditions.

How are they going to get together? Only God in his heaven could answer that and sometimes we doubt if He could. However we think the first thing in order is for the intelligent Negroes in every community to get together—just as the ignorant, destructive types get together to put over their program. The intelligent Negroes must not only get together, but they must stick together; they must lay aside their petty differences and jealousies and outline a program of community activity in connection with the same forces of the white race and they must carry it out in spite of everything. They must make the intelligent white people recognize them and their position by the intelligent method of doing things. It will not be long before the "me, too, Boss" and the "Uncle Tom" type will realize that their day is over and unless they are willing to fall in line, they will be left behind. If the intelligent Negroes in any community had the guts to do it, it wouldn't be long before they could command the respect and cooperation of every right thinking white in the community everywhere and in this way, they would soon put an end to all this injustice and mistreatment which the Negro is now receiving.

In outlining their program there must be room for solidarity—united front representation, industry, production, business, building, economy and thrift; there must be a program of activity for better sanitation, housing, education, religion and every thing that goes to make for a good, upstanding citizen. Mere words will not suffice but must be backed by deeds and acts of service to God and humanity.

It is our hope that as we stand face to face with a new year, that the Negro in America will wake up before it is too late; that he will make a firm resolution to accomplish greater things in 1933 than he has ever done in a single previous year.

And this can only be done through unity.

OLD-AGE SECURITY

A writer in the American Mercury recently observed that there is one way of eliminating the danger of poverty-stricken old age—and a way

which does not require government panaceas with added taxes, bureaus and thousands more public employes. That way is by taking advantage of the annuity plan, which has long been offered by life insurance companies here and abroad.

There are two ways of buying annuities—by the payment of a single premium, which is, of course, a means pursued only by persons of some wealth, and by the payment of small monthly or annual premiums out of income. Almost any wage earner can afford annuity in some amount, even though it be small. It is the finest form of savings, in that the principal cannot be touched until the age stipulated in the contract has been reached, and then a definite monthly income is paid to the policyholder as long as he lives.

The importance of the annuity is tragically demonstrated by the spectacle of millions of aged men and women without income of any kind. Many of these once had money, many others once held well paid positions. Today they are wards of the state, or must depend for existence upon charity. The annuity would have saved them as, in the future, it will save those who take advantage of it now, when they are able to earn a good living and spare a few dollars a month for the sake of old-age security.

OUR NEW NUMBER

The Advocate wishes to announce its new street name and number. No, we have not moved, we're in the same place we have been for the last 21 years but in the new street numbering and naming program recently carried out by the city, 529 North St. North has been changed to Northeast 26th Ave. Now it is 2516 N. E. 26th Avenue!

SOAK THE DISINHERITED?

The state of Mississippi is held up to Oregon people as an example of use of the sales tax. Oregon advocates of the sales tax tell us how well the system worked in Mississippi.

That Oregon should copy Mississippi in the matter of the sales tax is a brilliant and illuminating idea. After a study a prominent commission recently reported that Mississippi is the most backward state in the Union. It naturally took to the sales tax, because with the sales tax, as Pitt said to "my lords," you can "tax a great many articles of daily use and necessity so indirectly that the people will pay them and not know it."

And besides, more than 50 per cent of the population of Mississippi are colored folks, most of whom are illiterate and all of whom are disfranchised. They are citizens, but are disinherited.

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rited. They are without representation but under the sales tax Mississippi makes them pay taxes, as England did the American colonies. They can't vote, but Mississippi can, by the sales tax, "tax the last rag from their backs and the last bite from their mouths," as Pitt said to "my lords."

And there is another unfortunate group of people in Mississippi. They are luckless folks, often referred to as "poor white trash." Propertyless and poor, little educated and poorly equipped to meet questions of state, they are taxed to lighten the tax burden of the big plantations.

Meanwhile, Mississippi is the second highest state in the Union in illiteracy. Her people are 17.2 per cent illiterate. Oregon's illiteracy is 1 per cent.

And they want Oregon to copy Mississippi!

—Oregon Daily Journal, Jan. 3, 1933.

ARDOR AND DETERMINATION

By Myrtle W. Campbell
Certain peoples have certain characteristics, features that place them in a certain category and determine what they are able to accomplish in life. For example, the people who settled this country and laid the foundation for our present civilization had tight, thin lips, quick piercing eyes and a will to do or die. They didn't let their under jaws sag or their lower lips flop, but pulled them up in a straight line, squared their shoulders and went to work with determination and might.

There is one thing that the Negroes lack and that is ardor. The fire of enthusiasm, and the fire of ambition; to be unknuckled with an aim or purpose of achievement, a burning desire for the accomplishment of some specific idea—to progress. First, he must have desire, then the will to put the desire into effect, then he must act for the accomplishment of that desire. In the past, action was mostly combat, power of the muscle, but in this enlightened age, power is education, knowledge, wisdom, and noble deeds. I wish then, as a New Year's resolution they would follow the example of the fathers of this republic. Gird themselves with noble characteristics, train their minds through study and erudition, and uplift them with beauty and culture. As the physical body reflects the light within, such a course would fortify them to meet any condition of life and soon place them in the sun. They wouldn't have to talk about industrial and social equality, they would simply just fit in.

A GOOD WOMAN PASSES

(By E. D. Cannady)
"Leaves have their time to fall and winter is the north wind's breath, but Thou hast all times for Thine, Oh Death"

Death the inexorable has invaded our ranks once more and taken therefrom a good pioneer Christian woman and a devoted mother, Mrs. Mary Bettis. The sad announcement of this death occasioned a deep sense of loss to all who knew her for many years. This good citizen passed from this life to the reward that comes to a life like hers, which turned as naturally to God as a flower turns to the sun, but the essence of her many virtues and kindly deeds will continue to exist in the hearts of those who know her best, loved her most. The care of the Master was her cause and her happiest and sunniest hours were when she was laboring in His vineyard. How many who read these lines will recall her faithful devotion to the Zion A. M. E. Church many years ago. Always gentle, self-sacrificing and ever ready to serve those in need. No unkind word against any one, was ever known to fall from her lips. She knew there were none perfect and she always spread the mantle of charity over their faults and sought the spark of good that is in all. To the bereaved daughter, Mrs. Esther Atkins, and her granddaughter, Jane Bryant who are left behind, has been bequeathed the priceless heritage of a pure and well spent life.

MOSTLY ABOUT 'MOST'

Beware of superlatives. They are the pirates of the English language. They take to themselves things that do not belong to them. And so the person who has the temerity to assert that this is the biggest or best, the longest or loveliest, the sweetest or sourest thing in the world, should pause to approximate the effect of his statement. Recently a lexicographer named "the ten most beautiful words in the English language," and what a spanking he has been getting ever since!

Here are the words: dawn, hush, lullaby, murmuring, tranquil, mist, luminous, chimes, golden, memory. It was the word "most," the malicious little bandit, the superlative, that did all the damage. The mere assertion that they are "beautiful words" would arouse little militant comment. It was the little word "most" that made the statement the target of a broadside from the world's "best" orthographers. Driven tandem, this string of words may present a rather attractive appearance, but they may be easily associated with other words in the presentation of anything but a "most beautiful" picture. After all, there are many beautiful words and their associations largely make them so. Even "cabbage" is to some people, a beautiful word when it is associated with a couple of slices of lean, tender corned beef.

—CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

BOOK REVIEW

"THE RAILROAD TO FREEDOM"
By Hildegrade Hoyt Swift
(Harcourt, Brace & Co. — New York)
Reviewed by CLIFFORD MITCHELL

Harriet Tubman was born a slave in Maryland about 1821 and died in Auburn, New York, March 10th 1913. Even as a girl on the southern plantation she was different from the others. Life for her was a serious affair and she couldn't accept the fate of being a slave without making attempts to free herself.

"The Railroad to Freedom" is a most interesting, intensely stirring novel built around the life of Harriet Tubman, or "Moses" as she became known. She escapes from a cruel master, making her way north where she attracts the interest and attention of the great abolition leaders and she devotes herself to the cause of freeing other slaves by way of the underground railroad, or the railroad to freedom.

Time after time she enters the southland, each time returning with slave refugees whom she successfully pilots to northern points and freedom. Eventually she steals her own father and mother from the throes of the slave-master and they settle in a little home on the outskirts of Auburn, New York.

Later, during the civil war, Harriet plays an important role for the Union forces, and these activities, like all the others, are so written as to cause "The Railroad to Freedom" to hold the reader in one prolonged moment of suspense. Incidentally the book contains many descriptive sketches and drawings.

"MAKING YOU SELL"
By Bob Andrews
(Fireside Publications, Inc., Chicago)
Reviewed by CLIFFORD MITCHELL

For many weeks I had been reading an advertisement that appeared in a great many of our colored papers and which contained the caption:

"This Man is Never out of Work - He's a Salesman!" and being somewhat interested, from a psychological standpoint, in all manner of salesmanship and advertising, I answered one of the advertisements, which, in time, brought me the book, "Making You Sell" by R. S. ("Bob") Andrews.

Apparently, Bob Andrews is some salesman and is at home in any line he tackles. He is not only a sale man but he is now an author as well. In fact he has to be a successful salesman in order to be an author. Selling his little forty-seven page "pep" book throughout the country for a dollar proves conclusively that he is a cracker-jack good salesman.

In this little book is told the psychology that Andrews has found successful in his work of salesmanship. How he creates demand; establishes contact; evinces interest, and finally how he clinches his sales by the right closing methods.

"Making You Sell" contains many pointers that will prove helpful for those engaged in the selling field and should be an inspiration book of much value to be distributed among the selling organizations of many of our large concerns.

LEADER OF TAMPA WORKER ILLEGALLY HELD IN BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 28.—Telegrams and resolutions of protest from workers and organizations, are pouring in upon Judge Thomas J. S. Baxter, Juvenile Court, demanding that he release Vesper Romero, youthful leader of the militant workers to Tampa, Florida, held here on demand of the cigar manufacturers of Tampa.

Romero is out on probation after serving one year for his part in the struggles of the Tobacco Workers Industrial Union in Tampa last year, but the bosses of Tampa are eager to prolong his punishment by having him arrested without cause in every city to which he ventures. His mother, Frances Romero, and sister, Mrs. Carolina Vasquez, are now serving in Raiford State Prison, Florida, as an outcome of last year's strike.

No charge of any kind has been lodged against Romero in Baltimore. The I. L. W. is urging organizations everywhere to send further wires of protest to Judge Baxter against the illegal detention of Romero together with a demand for his immediate unconditional release.

WITH COMPLIMENTS TO "THE ADVOCATE"
—From—
Dr. DeNerval Unthank
ARATA BUILDING — 12 1/2 NORTH SIXTH ST.
Office Phones: ATwater 1703; no answer, ATwater 3181
Residence Phone, TAbor 4156

VERBAL SNAPSHOTS

BY W. J. WHEATON

The interest in old man Santa Clause has been so great, and following so numerous that all other news has been secondary. His itinerary has attracted so much attention and the allurements of his travel so far reaching that the international and national doings have been lost sight of. The question of prohibition repeal—light wines and beer, and the maneuvers of the wets and drys have struggled for a place in the spotlight with but a nominal success. Before this is read the Beer question will be settled one way or the other. If it is mustered through the Senate it is faced with a presidential veto. Should that happen there will be no further legislation on the matter at this "Lame Duck" session.

President elect, F. D. Roosevelt; has declined to enter into any formal conference with President Hoover on the question of international debts. He prefers to enter office without any commitments. It does seem to political observers that international bankers are seeking to get a line on what might be the attitude of the incoming administration on payments of the debts. So far, the leaders of the next congress are bitterly opposed to any further reduction or revision of the debt. One thing is certain, while there may be no direct reprisal, those nations which have refused to meet their obligations will feel the odium of ostracism. Nations as well as individuals are prone to ingratitude. Some of them are forgetting when their "Backs were to the wall." Forgetting when the people of the United States were stinting themselves of food and pouring out their money to help.

Some months past there were a number of young Negroes fanned to flame by the propaganda of Communism who visited Russia. The invitation of the Soviet government seemed most alluring and they were thrilled with the prospect of having first hand evidence presented to them. Most of them have returned, and it is interesting, if not amusing, to read and hear the diverse accounts of their trip. Some of them have glowing accounts of the treatment accorded them. Others are not so enthusiastic after the experience. It might be that we are dense or incapable of analysis, but it is my opinion that the Negro is being used as the spearhead to puncture the existing standard of government. Taking advantage of the environment of the "Darker People," and the restlessness caused by their persecutions; Communism has sought to advance their cause and to further their aims of government by fomenting that unrest. We have claimed that the fight for equality of citizenship will be won only through the medium of educating the American public that it is fallacy to have a dual citizenship within a republican form of government. The battle must be fought here.

When we look over the Negro journals of the present day, we note by comparison, the great advancement made. The last two decades has seen a tremendous improvement. Not in typography only, but in the editorials and the news. We have very few papers that can be called "trimmers." There seems to be a definite purpose. They have set out to place the case of the American Negro before the people. As one of our youngest journals makes it known through a motto, "We will Not Compromise." Journals of that stripe must be encouraged. You can not give that encouragement by borrowing the paper of your neighbor. Few there be who know of the sacrifice made by the promoters of such an enterprise. They toil with brawn and brain to fight your fight. With a zeal which borders on fanaticism, they present your case before the bar of public opinion—the tribunal of the people and it is done in so forceful a manner, with such diplomacy, that your cause and mine is being considered and when consideration is shown action is bound to follow. If you want to make a resolution for the New Year, a resolve that will mean much to you; send in your money for a year's subscription to some Negro journal. Help yourself by helping the Race.

There promises to be a hot session of the California legislature, which will be in session when this is read. We have, what is termed, a bifurcated session. The first lasting but thirty days, when bills are presented. The second session has no definite date of adjournment. Then will be the fireworks. We do not think that there will be the sergeant-assistant at arms.

plum that are usually given out for minor politicians. The economy axe is in the air ready to fall. Accusations of extravagance have been thrown back and forth like a shuttle-cook. Many plans for future political preferment will be made, and many will go "a-lake." Certainly is heaps of fun to watch the Circus and see the antics of the trained animals. Of course, some of them will not train.

THEY WANT THE ADVOCATE

Young Men's Christian Assn.
25th Street Branch
Los Angeles, Calif., Jan 5—To the Editor:— We are writing to request you place the name of the Twenty-eighth Street Branch Y.M.C.A. on your exchange list, in order that we may receive a complimentary copy of your newspaper.

Los Angeles, located in the extreme western part of our country, with a Negro population of about 40,000, is isolated by distance and general contact from the big centers of Negro population. This population comes from practically every section of the country. It is, therefore, a special service, that is gratefully welcomed, when we can place on our racks a newspaper such as yours. You will also be rendering a distinct service by permitting us to place your paper before

our readers.
Thanking you for this cooperation, that together we may render a substantial and worth while service, we are
Sincerely yours
BAXTER S. SCRUGGS, Ex. Sec.

HUNGER INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN

State Hunger March Committee
245 1/2 Alder St
Portland, Ore.
The Advocate
2516 Northeast 26th Ave.
To the Editor of the Advocate

Enclosed is a copy of the Bulletin issued by the Oregon State Hunger March Comm. calling upon all workers and farmers organizations and any group of workers and farmers to elect delegates to send to Salem, Oregon, to present demands for immediate and adequate relief for the unemployed, to the state legislature January 9, 1933.
We would appreciate if you could give some comment on the enclosed bulletin in your paper.
Louis Olson
Chr.


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