

EDITORIALS

THE ADVOCATE

E. D. CANNADY, Founder

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Beatrice Cannady Franklin . . . Editor
Y. J. Franklin Manager
William Pickens Contributing Ed
W. J. Wheaton Columnist
Clifford Mitchell Columnist
Kelly Miller Columnist
Ralph Clyde Columnist

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Kits Reid Columnist
Nancy Lee Columnist
Rosalie Bird Social Editor
DeNorval Unthank Health Ed
Duck Jordan Seattle Editor
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LINCOLN, DOUGLASS AND RACE RELATIONS AND NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

Tomorrow, Sunday, February 12th is a very important day in the lives of the American people. It marks the 124th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, the "Father of our Country". On this date also will be observed Inter-racial Day which was founded fifteen years ago in Atlanta, Georgia by a group of forward-looking, justice-loving Christian men and women of the white and colored races. The date set aside to be observed as Inter-racial Day was the Sunday nearest to Lincoln's birthday. So this year that observance falls on Sunday.

Another date in February of special interest to the nation and the colored race in particular is the birthday anniversary of Frederick Douglass, the great, fearless abolitionist, writer, lecturer and statesman who rose from the depths of slavery to high positions in the gift of his government. Aside from the observance of the birthdays of these noted Americans, the nation has been called upon to observe "Negro History Week". It, too, begins on February 12th and continues throughout the week. Both colored and white are requested to study the achievements of the Negro race and to read books by and about Negroes.

In years previous, indeed, for a good many years, The Advocate has led locally in this observance by contributing special articles to the daily newspapers, delivering addresses before various groups and organizations and also radio talks. However, this year, we have had such a demand upon our time that we shall be able to do only a small fraction of what we have done in the past. However, we hope that other groups and organizations will fittingly observe the worthy occasion.

THE Advocate in Every White Home in Oregon in 1933 is our goal. Help us!

TWO KINDS OF TRAFFIC VIOLATORS

Robbins B. Stoeckel, Motor Vehicle Commissioner of Connecticut, divides traffic violators into two classes, the inadvertent violator and the "automobile criminal".

The inadvertent driver means to be careful and competent, but is congenitally a poor driver, or he is slow in his reactions, or is absent minded, or he is easily distracted from the business of operating a car. Because of him, many severe accidents occur. The solution in his case is a licensing authority which passes on every driver's fitness, refusing those who are mentally or physically incapable of safe driving, no matter how good their intentions may be.

The automobile criminal presents an entirely different problem. He may be a good and competent driver in all respects save one—deliberate disregard for the rights and safety of others. In his case, intent—that old arbiter of any criminal act—is present. He drives recklessly or under the influence of intoxicants. He runs away after accidents. His punishment must be certain and severe if he is to be cured.

On the one hand are the inadvertent violators, who should be helped and do not belong in the courts—on the other, the intentionally dangerous, who are a real menace to public safety. Mr. Stoeckel suggests that legislation recognize these factors, and his ideas should be given serious consideration in every state as a constructive step towards solving the problem of automobile accidents.

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HOW WILL IT END?

We read that foreign governments are falling; others are staggering, and some writers would have us believe that our own government is floundering.

And through it all we learn by reading—and implication—that Negroes are sleeping. Some of our own writers, columnists and propagandists would make us believe that those Negroes who are not sleeping are knocking each other into unconsciousness in their attempt to prevent others from progressing.

Daily we read of propagandized campaigns being waged in an effort to bolster American interests. These campaigns run the gamut of "Buy American"; "Travel American"; and "Hire American". In these campaigns is an opportunity for the Negro if he will wake up.

Personally we do not believe in subsidized interests, but as long as they are the order of the day, we might as well take advantage of them. If we postpone our day of action until that perfect day arrives when all things will be considered purely on merits then we might as well continue our sleeping indefinitely.

If any class can be considered as Americans, surely our race can. In many cases we are able and willing to "Buy American" but can we secure the same value for our money? We are willing to "Travel American" but can we secure the same accommodations in our travel that foreign countries will provide us with? And as for "Hire American"—well, we just simply don't classify as Americans at all. Yet we sleep!

However, there is much danger in these commercialized campaigns. It paves the way for retaliation, not only at home but abroad. Other groups adopt the same sort of tactics and soon our civilization—continents, nations, states, and local communities will divide according to propagandized groups.

Already, we can begin to see such results. Governmental economics and changes are announced and put into effect for the ostensible benefit of the people and officials are accordingly applauded until in the distance we see a big storm cloud approaching which we later analyze and discover to be the propagandized efforts of opposition interests who desire economy as some other group does the economizing.

In all of these apparent controversies, merit seems to be sidetracked, and it is every man for himself, and the Negroes—no longer chattels of the white race—must wake up. If he really is sleeping and do some plugging of his own. Otherwise, if he hardly take a seer, a medium, or a tipster to answer the question: How will it end?

HIGH MORTALITY RATE

By Clifford C. Mitchell
Recently we read with considerable amusement the remarks of the nationally known syndicated white writer in which he would, indirectly have his readers draw a comparison between the white race and the black race, in American, by the mortality percentage.

There is about as much logic in such a comparison as to invite a rich man who has inherited his millions to enumerate his many possessions and compare them with those obtained by a poor man, whose every dollar and possession has been the definite result of much toil, many hardships and persistent thrift.

Certainly, the death rate among Negroes is high, but the reflection is not on the Negroes themselves but upon that race which is responsible for the conditions causing such high death rate.

Without referring back to the days of slavery we will treat the conditions as they actually exist today, referring mostly to the southland from whence most of the northern colored population emigrated.

You could hardly call it a healthy condition for Negroes living in states whose laws forbid the legal amalgamation of races but whose customs permit, on a wholesale scale, the cohabitation of unmoral male whites, under cover of darkness, with female members of the colored race that appear to their fancy? And the children born under such conditions are not given a healthy break, are they? As the children reach school age,

they cannot be expected to learn much of hygiene when scores of them are clustered in one little room of an old dilapidated school building cast-off from the whites, or perchance in an old log-cabin with boards for windows, leaks in the roof for a skylight, with little or no heat and then given but a few months in a year of schooling with teachers so poorly paid that their wages appear merely as an honorarium.

And how could a race obtain the best of health when its patrons are denied the use of hospitals and even ambulances simply because of their color? And in placing such a sick patient on a train, in the south, enroute to a colored hospital, he must endure the unsanitary conditions of the proverbial "jim-crow" car.

In the cities, especially the south, and a great many places in the north, the race is forced to live in a section that affords but few of the modern conveniences. And, with few exceptions, in the tenement buildings they are clustered together like sardines in a box, with ventilation that is too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter.

These comparisons could be continued indefinitely and even with a known high mortality rate we wonder who but the Negro could live under such conditions and present such a favorable showing as we do?

A MODEL FOR OREGON

(From The Oregon Daily Journal)
Mississippi is held up as a state for Oregon to follow, especially in taxation.

Besides being second highest in illiteracy and one of the most backward states in the country, Mississippi has other edifying records. As told by Mrs. Franklin of Portland in a late journal, a recent investigation of work on the Mississippi flood control projects revealed that public authorities in Mississippi permit Negroes to be worked as high as 14 and 16 hours a day in private camps. Pay is as low as 10 cents an hour and there is no allowance for overtime in night work. Excerpts from the report of the investigation follow:

Sub-contractors, engineers and other white men on the job are armed with rifles and revolvers. There is no mosquito netting, no furniture of any kind, but straw is furnished for the men to sleep on. A minimum of \$4 a week is taken from their pay for the commissary and they are obliged to trade there. They do not ask the price of anything, and are not answered if they ask. They get no itemized statement. The boss-man tells them the amount of their indebtedness at the commissary and gives them any amount this reckoning allows them. One man said he received \$150 after working five weeks and he knew the amount he had purchased at the commissary could have been bought at any store for \$6. Whippings occur daily.

Mississippi holds another record—lynching. In the 46-year period Mississippi lynched 561 people, an average of a little more than 12 per year. Eight of the mob's victims were burned alive.

The excuse is made by those who argue for the sales tax that there is no other tax levy.

Why not a gift tax, to prevent men from dodging the inheritance tax? And why not the plan urged by the Grange, an increased inheritance tax and a better planned income tax?

Of course, proponents of the sales tax argue that incomes are reduced. But isn't there a like cut in the income of those who are to pay the sales tax, especially in the income of the thousands of jobless depending on emergency relief and who are living on a few days' employment out of every six weeks? They and all the other hard-pressed people will have to pay a sales tax.

An excuse made by those who vote for the sales tax is that it is "the only way to wipe out the deficit." But the deficit wasn't wiped out by action of the 1931 legislature. Or by the other legislatures since the deficit was created by repeal of the Pierce income tax. Why be so keen to wipe out the deficit in a depression year? Why not cancel part of the debt now and keep on canceling year by year when people will be in better position to wipe out debts?

And both the Grange and union labor will invoke the referendum on a sales tax. What is the use to pass a sales tax if it is to be held up by referendum?

WHAT IS THE MATTER?

(By E. D. Cannady)
Some of the great metropolitan journals publish daily the views of prominent merchants, manufacturers, and leading men in finance, on the business conditions of the country.

The purpose of such procedure seems to be to impress the masses that times re either good or are just going to be, but the statements, as a rule, are filled with life and bits and whereas. There is no use to disguise the truth or to try to deceive ourselves. The fact that there is such a struggle to make a good showing is proof that the showing is not good. This is so apparent that we are prompted to ask a few questions: If conditions are improving why are so many banks being forced out of business? Why so many merchants forced to resort to the bankruptcy courts? Why many factories and lumber yards are shut down? The answer is clear

Local News Events

For no other reason than they lack business. Hence thousands of men are rendered jobless and their families forced to beg or starve. Call this improved conditions if you must. But the fact remains the same. Conditions are going from bad to worse. The question is what is the matter?

A CLOSE OBSERVER

The Newport Neks Star of a recent date carried a cut of Clifford Mitchell, Advocate contributor. It is the first likeness of our friend and coworker we have had the pleasure of seeing. We hope he will send to The Advocate a photograph of himself in the near future. We also take this opportunity for calling our attention to a serious error in one of our ads. We appreciate more than he knows, the close observance to The Advocate and its contents.

Local colored churches have set a-bout to beat the depression. That they are succeeding magnificently is attested by the filled pews at the leading places of worship.

GEORGIA A JOKE

By William Pickens
But a grim and boastful joke is Georgia. . . . satisfied with being the champion lynching community of the world and the location of the most inhuman system, that state aspires also to lead in making law and justice a by-word and a travesty. In Georgia they propose to send a colored boy to jail for twenty years for being a member of a political party which they dislike in Georgia. It matters not that this party is the Communist Party, and it matters not what Communists, in general, advocate.—Georgia proposes to visit vicious punishment on this boy without having proven him guilty of one single individual crime.

What could be more uncivilized than that? Demon-like, they propose to use an old law said to have been passed 60 years ago by carpetbaggers to protect their regime against confederate conspirators. Nobody on earth has complained more loudly than have Georgians against the "injustice" of Reconstruction leaders. And now, by act and fact, they propose to mortally justify the carpetbaggers by the beastly nonsense of using one of their worst laws without having as good excuse as had the carpetbaggers. If Negroes, or Communists, had just gone through a great and murderous rebellion in an attempt to violently overthrow Georgia government, this venous response of a Georgia court would still be uncivilized, but at least could be understood,—as based on nerves and fears. But in the present case the atrocity is cold-blooded and cannot even have the excuse of excitement and "nerves". The Georgia court proposes to deprive political opponents of their life or liberty when they have done nothing but write and talk big—and have no present opportunity to do anything else.

This is an outrage in which it will be a mistake for anybody, let alone any Negro, to give Georgia sympathy or support of any sort. This threat of legal oppression, if carried through, becomes more menacing in Georgia than all their "radicals" multiplied by 1000 could ever become; it is a threat against not only the expression of opinion but even against the holding of an opinion.

And all white Georgia is as much menaced by this terror as is black Georgia; if such a procedure is held constitutional as against Negroes, then by the 14th and 15th amendments, it is perfectly constitutional as against whites. It would mean that in Georgia there must be no thinking, to say nothing of speaking or writing, that could be displeasing to those who may be dominating the administration of law at any given time. Some whites mislead themselves by supposing that such legal and social terrors will be confined to Negroes. They will not be so confined; the southern "chain gang" was invented for Negroes, but it "gets" white people. Lynching is all done by white people, but in 40 years every sixth person lynched has been white; "disfranchisement" was for Negroes, but in the south the movement has reduced the white vote to only a small fraction of its normal potentiality. No great social, legal or moral wrong can be confined to a race or color line. The white people of Georgia should see that the soul and mind of Georgia are not fettered by this mediaevalism.

This grim joke of reviving a dead and discredited agency of tyranny, even when there is far less excuse for its use than there was when it was created, comes with ugly grace from a state with the general social reputation of Georgia. For the sake of all that's good, it must not be allowed to stand in fact.

A PLEASANT WAY TO COMMIT SUICIDE

There are many ways to kill oneself. A man can leap from a twenty-story building, or take a gram of some slow-working poison every day with his meals. Both methods are fatal. And we haven't heard of anyone ever coming back and telling how enjoyable his particular way of saying "Farewell" was. But since it is only human

Mrs. Sarah Carter of St. Louis, Mo., passed through Portland Tuesday enroute to Boise, Idaho, to visit her sister.

Joe Williams, proprietor of a big public garage on Salmon St., is on the sick list.

Mr. J. D. Lewis was in the city Monday on business looking well and imbued with his old fighting spirit. "God love old Rover!"

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bird, Jr., of 871 E. 10th street N. are the proud parents of a baby boy son. Dr. DeNorval Unthank is the attending physician.

W. H. Lewis, of Kingdorf Road, a pioneer citizen was committed to the State hospital at Salem, Oregon on Tuesday of last week.

Al Green pioneer citizen is in jail to serve a four months sentence for violation of the voteless law during the Legion's Convention last summer.

Mrs. Clara Glenn living at 233 N. 17th St. attempted to commit suicide Tuesday by shooting herself through the left breast with a 32 calibre revolver. She is confined at the Good Samaritan hospital. Domestic troubles are said to be the cause of her act.

OUR GOAL — THE ADVOCATE IN EVERY WHITE HOME IN OREGON IN 1933

Mrs. Lee Roy Kinard is indisposed this week.

Gus Bowen, a bootblack at the Heathman hotel barbershop was arrested last Saturday in company with a waitress at 87 1/2 Russell St. The waitress gave her name as Vina Courtney. The pair were held on a disorderly conduct charge.

Sam Johnson of Tyler, Tex. is a visitor, who, like many another, is looking for a job. In the mean time, he is stopping with relatives on Page street.

Jim Bland has gone to California in the hope of getting a job which he failed to secure in Portland, after trying for months.

Judge Housh, the sage of the little town of Grants Pass was in the city for several days this week. The election of Roosevelt was the source of much happiness to him as he is one of the leaders of the Democratic party of Oregon.

Revel Cayton, of Seattle, District Organizer for the International Labor Defense spent the week in Portland on business. Mr. Cayton is a grandson of Hiram Revels, one of the two Negro United States Senators who served during the Reconstruction period.

Henry Washington who conducted a shine parlor at Hollidays barbershop for a long time, is now in charge of a like job at 53 N. 6th street.

George Trimble has closed his shine parlor on Grand avenue and E. Morrison street on account of dull business.

To want to stay on this old earth as long as possible, perhaps you and I will accomplish our demolition with poison.

A lot of other people feel the same way about it, too; and Dr. William Randolph Hearst is one. The only difference is that the "doc" is prescribing for a patent, not for himself. The old American people are pretty sick with the world right now, so Dr. Hearst sat down and wrote out a prescription that is calculated to get the patient ready for a glorious funeral. He wrote "Buy American!"

To understand just how deadly the "doc's" prescription is, just resolve not to use anything except what your family can produce. Refuse to purchase anything that other people have for sale. Raise your wheat, your livestock, your vegetables. Dig an oil well to get fuel for light and energy. Stop riding street-cars, trains, taxis; discontinue your telephone, water, and electricity. How long do you think you could get by?

Consider another example: let the Negroes in the United States "buy Aframerican" only. Let them refuse to use anything which they have not produced. Then tell me, how on earth do you think the devil would be able to take care of all of those souls at of fuel.

Seems to me he would run out. The world is a community of families. The families are called nations. We have seen how impractical — how utterly foolish — it would be for your family to use only what it produced. Just so impractical and foolish would be the American people if they take Dr. Hearst's medicine.

Besides, if the American people made inspection tours through the several Hearst palaces in this country, and saw the Holland lace, Oriental tapestry, British furniture, French wine, and assorted knick-knacks from every nation on the face of the globe, if the American people saw this, they might learn something. It's a wise doctor who never takes his own medicine. —San Francisco SPOKESMAN

The Goal of a New World Order

THE SIGN OF IMPENDING CHAOS

Never indeed have there been such widespread and basic upheavals, whether in the social, economic or political spheres of human activity as those now going on in different parts of the world. Never have there been so many and varied sources of danger as those that now threaten the structure of society. The following words of Baha'ullah are indeed significant as we pause to reflect upon the present state of a strangely disordered world: "How long will humanity persist in its waywardness? How long will injustice continue? How long are chaos and confusion to reign amongst men? How long will discord agitate the face of society? The winds of despair are alas, blowing from every direction, and the strife that divides and afflicts the human race is daily increasing. The signs of impending convulsions and chaos can now be discerned, inasmuch as the prevailing order appears to be lamentably defective."

The disquieting influence of over thirty million souls living under minority conditions throughout the continent of Europe; the vast and ever-swelling army of the unemployed with its crushing burden and demoralizing influence on governments and peoples; the wicked, unbridled race of armaments swallowing an ever-increasing share of the substance of already impoverished nations; the utter demoralization from which the international financial markets are now increasing suffering; the onslaught of secularism invading what has hitherto been regarded as the impregnable stronghold of Christian and Muslim orthodoxy—these stand out as the gravest symptoms that bode ill for the future stability of the structure of modern civilization. Little wonder if one of Europe's preeminent thinkers, honored for his wisdom and restraint, should have been forced to make so bold an assertion: "The world is passing through the gravest crisis in the history of civilization." "We stand," writes another, "before either a world catastrophe, or perhaps before the dawn of a greater era of truth and wisdom." "It is in such times he adds, "that religions have perished and are

Let Baha'ullah Himself shed the illumination of His words upon our path as we steer our course amid the pitfalls and miseries of this troubled age. More than fifty years ago, in a world far removed from the ill and trials that now torment it, there flowed from His Pen these prophetic words: "The world is in turmoil and its agitation waxes day by day. Its face is turned towards waywardness and unbelief. Such shall be its plight that to disclose it now would not be meet and seemly. Its perveity will long continue. And when the appointed hour is come, there shall suddenly appear that which shall cause the limbs of mankind to quake. Then and only then, will the Divine Standard be unfurled and the Nightingale of Paradise warble its melody."

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