

BOOK REVIEW

(Reviewed by Clifford Mitchell)
"COMMENTS ON CURRENT READING"

For the two years that I conduct this column while in Jackson Prison I never failed to have a comment on some book read during the week, but now since I have had freedom there does not seem to be enough hours in the day and enough days in the week for me to read and comment on a book each and every week. All of which explains why this space is used on many occasions by a mere comment on a current reading.

Without a question the most interesting reading of the week was the American Prisoner, a standard sized printed and illustrated monthly magazine, prepared and published for the most part, by prisoners at Jackson, Michigan. The American Prisoner, as a monthly, succeeds the mimeographed weekly "School News" that the prisoners used to publish and for which I wrote, and which accounts for the beginning of my new national weekly column, "Prisons and Prisoners." The first edition, October, of the American Prisoner, contains thirty-six pages, with a brown stiff cover with an illustration of a prisoner in his cell meditating and drawn by my old friend and pal Alphonse G. Thomas who has been in prison during ten years in prison that makes his work the equal of any American illustrator. The initial issue contains the photos of the personnel of Jackson Prison; a sketch of the new prison; many sketches by prison poets. And also a "Prisons and Prisoners" article by yours truly. The public can obtain the American Prisoner for ten cents a copy or one dollar a year and to all those who are interested in prisons or prisoners I heartily recommend subscribing to this periodical. Address your communications to Louis Kish, Editor, American Prisoner, Michigan State Prison, Jackson, Michigan.

Through the courtesy of P. L. Pratis of the Associated Negro Press, here in Chicago, I saw the first issue of America's second colored daily newspaper, The Daily Citizen, of New York City, and edited by William M. Kelley formerly of the New York Amsterdam News. This new daily contains twelve pages, tabloid size and very interesting in its reader appeal.

In Chicago the newest addition to the journalistic field is The Beacon, another tabloid publication. I am not familiar with the personnel of this publication. I do know that East J. Morris, editor of the "State Street" column that appeared in the Pittsburgh Courier, brought a copy of the initial issue to my office. Mr. Morris is the writer who so ably defended me by writing such a grand "send off" the first week I arrived in Chicago.

The October Colored Embalmer held a special interest for me because of the fact that I have met the editor, R. R. Reed, the executive secretary of the Independent National Funeral Directors Association, and also the business manager of the publication, Miss Sadie S. Kelley. This magazine, as I have stated before in this column, is the very best official organ of any group of colored Americans in the country, that I have seen. There are about twenty five hundred colored undertakers in the country and most of them read and are influenced by the Colored Embalmer.

The twenty-third anniversary number of the Crisis is particularly interesting. This magazine, as every reader knows, is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the least that I can do is to suggest that every reader of the eight-three publications that use this particular column, also subscribe to the Crisis as each subscription will help to perpetuate the case of fighting for the Negro's rights.

The most interesting article, to me, in the Southern Workman for October, is "Diminishing Distance" by P. B. Young, Sr., publisher and editor of the Norfolk Journal and Guide.

The Economist is a white paper published in Clay Center, Kansas. A recent copy conveys to me the information that "Book" Lawton, a colored writer, was recently congratulated by the White House for his economic articles.

"This & That"

By CLIFFORD C. MITCHELL

VISITING THE BAHAI TEMPLE

For several years I have been interested in the Bahai faith and on several occasions have commented upon some of their books. Through Mrs. Myrtle W. Campbell of Portland, Ore., I acquired the correspondence friend-ship of Shoghi Effendi, of Haifa, Persian Colony, Palestine, the present titular head of this movement.

Last Sunday, through an invitation extended by Mr. E. D. Struven, resident engineer of the Temple, I, along with a friend, visited the million dollar Temple now under course of construction at Wilmette, suburb of Chicago. Undoubtedly when completed, this temple, on the shores of Lake Michigan, will be one of the show places of the world as far as religious structures are concerned. More will be written of this Temple and of this movement from time to time.

Richard J. Roane, 310 East Clay St., Richmond, Va., writes in for information that will help him to establish some chain grocery stores in his city. For Mr. Roane's information I would advise that I have turned his letter over to Mr. Alton L. Holsey, president of the National C. M. A. Stores, Inc., 252 West 135 Street, New York City.

Mrs. Carrie L. Bell, of Washington, D. C., who has read my writings in the Washington Tribune for the past three years, visited Chicago and the Fair during the week and took particular pains to call on her favorite columnist, as she put it.

The Albany Times, of Albany, Georgia, is the latest SNS publication that I have read. I don't know how many publications this makes under the control of the SNS but it must be close to the sixty mark. And I am glad that the SNS find it worthwhile to use my weekly contributions in their many publications.

Lillian Johnson writing in "Reviews and Comments" in the Houston Informer, indirectly informs me that she is a weekly reader of my articles for in her last column she commented on one of my "Digesting the News" columns.

And thanks to Davis Lee for his comment in his "Chat with Writers" column.

The Wyandotte Echo, under the editorship of L. F. Bradley, is to be thanked for co-operating in assisting me in a little private venture about which I recently wrote the editors who have indicated a willingness to help me whenever they could.

Two new publications used my "Chicagoans" during the week, being the San Francisco Spokesman, and the Cape Fear Journal. The latter paper is published in Wilmington, North Carolina. H. E. Jerway is the editor. Incidentally they have just changed their publication to tabloid size.

A Fouks of Springfield, Ohio, soap manufacturer, took the trouble of looking me up while in the city visiting the Fair.

Another prominent caller at my office during the past week was Col. John R. Marshall. This man is the "daddy" of so many civic and political enterprises among colored people of Chicago that I am going to try and get enough material together to present a special column feature on his activities.

Among the hundreds of letters received perhaps none were more interesting than those of Mrs. Mayme Osborn, a member of the four estate, now residing in New Orleans, and from Mrs. J. E. Sizer of Minneapolis.

The most useful gift of the week arrived from my old boss George E. Scarborough of Jackson, Michigan. A portable table that I am making good use of in my offices. The most sentimental gift arrived from a reader—Now I can attend a pajama party—should I ever be invited to one.

L and L Lunch Room is in its new and larger location on Burnside St. Where the same good food is served at the same low price. A new service has been added to its pastry. It is cooked in its own kitchen.

ALL IS WELCOME

"Digesting . . . The News"

By CLIFFORD C. MITCHELL

DIGESTING THE NEWS EARNING A LIVING

In the presentation of these articles under this column my intention has been to stir up the reader to the point that he or she will take every advantage of their spare-time by contacting such firms who can assist them to add to their weekly income. During these times, it seems to me, there is no subject of more interest than that which will give information on how to supplement the meagre weekly income of the average colored family.

The benefits are three-fold. Most of the firms whom I mention from time to time have never before contacted the colored field. If I can stir up any interest at all it means that subsequently the various papers will have a new advertising prospect; the readers will have found something practical that will help him or her in making a livelihood; and the particular firm will benefit through additional contacts. Thus it is another one of those vicious circles where none can benefit without all benefiting.

This week I can inform you of two additional white firms who have never before contacted the colored field, directly or indirectly.

The Jewel Mist Company, P.O. Box an agent's specialty in the form of a Hair-Remover for ladies that has proven a winner in the white field and one which colored agents can earn up to three hundred per cent on the money invested and on an article that every woman will find it profitable to use.

"Shoe-Brite" is a new form of stick shoe polish that with a specially chemically treated cloth will provide three hundred shins in either black, tan or white, all for a quarter, giving the agent an opportunity to double his money on an article that can be used by every member of the household. This specialty is marketed by the R. S. Laboratories, Room 326, 711 South Dearborn Street, Chicago.

Mr. J. W. Hamilton, a race man, is general manager of the Hamilton Chemical Corporation, 5953 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, who market that popular "Mini" Hair Dressing used by both men and women and which agents all over the country can handle with a degree of certainty of many satisfied repeat users.

The Scott Laboratories, 715 Lake Street, Chicago, about whom I mentioned in this space last week, have not fully decided whether to market a special line for colored people or not, but have promised me the first information in an article that can be used at that time their announcement should be interesting to our advertising managers, consumers, and agents, for they have successfully handled the white trade for over twenty years.

Thanks to Mrs. Gladys R. Lohf, proprietor of the Kuhn Remedy Company 1857 Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, I am in receipt of a supply of their rheumatic remedy which has been successfully sold throughout the country since 1936. Although I am not suffering with rheumatism I will, as a sort of good-will gesture to my readers, be glad to pass this remedy on to my readers who are suffering with rheumatism, and who will write to me accordingly, or at least as much of it as I have on hand. The others should write direct to the company.

Any reader of this column who desires to enter the agency business in spare-time may do so without any investigation whatever simply by securing the recommendation of the editor of this paper and writing direct to the National Agency Distributors, 4812 Vincennes Avenue, Chicago.

Incidentally if any reader is not satisfactorily dealt with by any firm mentioned in my column please write direct to me, 3567 South Parkway, Chicago.

WITH OUR 1933 LEGISLATURE - By ASHBY C. DICKSON, State Senator and former Circuit Multnomah County

"AS NOTED" by Ralph C. Clyde, City Commissioner, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

VERBAL SNAPSHOTS (By W. J. Wheaton)

It seems that the care for the unemployed is uppermost in the minds of the great majority of our people and especially those at the heads of our various departments of state, county and city government. Through the press we learn that there are approximately 28 thousand heads of families out of employment; if that estimate is correct and we figure 5 persons to a family, then we have 140,000 mouths to be fed and cared for in families; and if we add to that number the estimated 25,000 single persons out of employment, then we have something like 170,000 of our people in dire distress and for whom we must provide either jobs for the able-bodied to work, or devise some method for raising money to provide shelter, food, clothing and other necessities of life.

Now suppose the number of needy that I have just mentioned is exaggerated and we reduce the total number of needy persons to 50,000 and estimate that it will cost \$1.00 a day to furnish rent, fuel, water, lights—school supplies where there are children—clothing and food, it will cost \$150.00 a day; \$1,500,000 per month and \$9,000,000 in six months. If that looks too bad, suppose we cut the figures in half—that would be \$4,000,000 every six months.

The first question asked is: Where does the responsibility lie for the care of these needy; does it rest on the state, the counties, cities and towns? The second question asked is: Do we have the money in the cash till, or will we have to raise it? The answer is, we do not have the money and we will have to raise it.

The third question asked is: From what source will we raise the money? And is the perplexing question. It is hoped that it will be possible to negotiate a loan from the United States Government to cover, at least, a part of the requirements, but it would be expecting too much to ask our Uncle Samuel to step into our local problem and solve it for us, so let us stop and take an inventory of our financial affairs.

The figures I shall quote to you are from the Biennial Report of the State Treasurer for the period ending June 30, 1932. They have grown during the last year and if what I say now makes you shudder the latest figures, when compiled, will make cold chills creep up your back.

The total bonded and warrant indebtedness of the state of Oregon and its various city subdivisions on July 1, 1932 was \$228,088,538.81, against which there were sinking funds and other assets of \$42,525,253.67, leaving a total net indebtedness of \$185,563,285.14, a tidy sum. If we had a million population, we would have to raise \$185.56 for every man, woman and child in the state to pay off the debt.

Now suppose we segregate the indebtedness of the state, counties, school districts, ports, cities and towns and take the state first and see where it stands.

The state's bonded debt is a mere \$54,577,510.00. This consists of Oregon Interest Bonds, Oregon Farm Credit Bonds, Oregon State Highway Bonds, Oregon Veteran's State Aid bonds.

The total indebtedness of the 36 counties on July 1, 1932 was \$25,992,346.35; now added that sum to the State debt and deduct the total from the sum total of the net debt and we find that the cities and town and other tax levying bodies are in the hole to the tune of \$105,083,228.76.

Now let's take a look at the tax situation. You know we have to levy taxes to run the state, counties, school, roads; to pay interest on bonds and what not, and the total taxable value of all property in the state is equal to the several counties (except Multnomah County—and I will deal exclusively with Multnomah County next week) was \$661,512,592.59 on March 1, 1932, and the total taxes charged on the rolls for 1932 for all counties except Multnomah was \$25,517,194.58.

I desire to express my appreciation for my selection as President of the City Council. Beginning with my term as President the city now follows the system adopted by the County Commissioners, Circuit Judges, School Board and other bodies. The office of presiding officer is to be rotated amongst the members.

In the City Council the President presides only during the absence of the Mayor and is Acting Mayor during absence from the City of the executive head.

Previous to his retirement from the City Council, A. L. Barbur had an ordinance adopted providing that the President of the Council should be elected for one year. In the past 100 presidents have held office for over ten years and it was Mr. Barbur's idea that the office should be passed around every year. Being the senior member of the Council I was the first to be chosen. The next man in line is Commissioner Ormond R. Bean, and following him Commissioner J. Everett Bennett will be the president.

COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN

The mass transportation problem is being surveyed from all angles by the Committee of Fifteen, appointed by Mayor Carson. The entire Committee meets every Thursday night in the Council Chambers, and sub-committees hold sessions between times. Shelby Wiggins is Chairman of the Committee and Mrs. M. Cary Clark is the secretary.

When the Committee was first appointed their powers were limited to the study of a franchise for the Portland Traction Co. which, by the way, was presented last Thursday evening by the Street Car Company officials. The Committee also has authority to consider plans submitted by an independent concern. Desiring to extend their field of investigation the Committee asked the Council how far they could go. This request was referred to Mayor Carson and myself. An extract from our report reads as follows: "That we believe there should be no restrictions placed upon the activities of the Committee of Fifteen, and that it is the sense of the Council that this Committee should work on any plan or plans that will solve the mass transportation problem for Portland."

AUCTION CITY LOTS

The City of Portland has \$300 parcels of land. They were taken over by the city to protect itself against unpaid city liens. In taking them over the city was forced to pay county and state taxes. The city sells these lots about \$4,000,000 of taxable property will be placed on the assessment roll and thus reduce our taxes. Even with one-half of this property improved by purchasers in the way of dwellings and business places, the taxable property to be placed on the roll would easily amount to at least ten million dollars. Adverse property owners would also make improvements and this increased building activity would help stimulate business and increase employment.

So, I say, let the city hold auctions at suitable intervals and dispose of a reasonable number of lots each time. This is not an original suggestion. I heard William F. Woodward propose such a method over a year ago in the City Council. His idea was a good one then and its feasible now. It is estimated that the city owns about one-eighth of the vacant land within the city limits. These lots could be sold on a small payment down and on the easy payment plan. This would prove a boon to all parties concerned I am for it.

BONNEVILLE FOR WHOM?

As a public ownership advocate I cannot say that I am carried away by the enthusiasm of many well-known so-called "Leading Citizens" who are making a lot of "whoopie" on behalf of federal development of the Bonneville Dam.

If my memory serves me right these "whoopie" men were lined up almost to a man fighting George W. Joseph when he made the development of the Columbia River an issue.

After the Little Corporal laid down his life for this cause these self-same "whoopie" artists were fighting the Grange Power Bill with the same underhanded tactics.

Now they are all strutting around, patting each other on the back and telling the world how strong they are for power development and how they helped to bring it about.

I may be overly suspicious but I never did advocate making a reformed drunkard the president of a temperance society. I would want to know if his reformation was sincere. That is the way I feel about these Local Power Patriots.

I also note that not one of the last Ballyhoo Artists has ever said that they favored Portland entering the light and power business. I believe that they favor the federal development of Bonneville Dam for the benefit of the privately-owned power interests.

Neither have I heard that these "Leading Citizens" advocated some sort of a distribution system so that this electrical energy can be delivered to your homes. Not one word have they said about the "Rose City" being able to induce factories and payrolls to settle here instead of Tacoma by a low municipal power rate.

No wonder I am suspicious and, frankly speaking, if we are not on the fringe of this wonderful power development which we have waited for many years and George Joseph will have made the supreme sacrifice in vain.

As as expected, just as soon as the National Recovery Act pinched the toes of the big money interests there would be a big howl. When it is seen that this Administration is keeping the promise of a "fair deal" toward all that the financial oligarchy whose dictates former Administrations had obeyed, would seek to obstruct its progress. When one sees such screaming headlines as "Let's Return to Dictatorship," "We Are Heading For a Dictatorship," and so on down the line of obstructionist methods; it is time to stop and probe the source of the propaganda. A close up will convince source. Namely, the interests, which for years has dictated the policies of the national government; The money interests enthroned "King Dollar" and informed him that he must obey their behest. Just a little as he is turned out to the subjects, just enough to keep them from abject want and not enough to raise them from servility. Keep their spirit down at all cost was the command, and well did the King accomplish the purpose. Money there was a plenty of it rotting on the ground. Men and women and children were starving in the midst of plenty. The money was being deposited in foreign banks. Factories were closed and industry throttled. Appeals were made to "King Money" but he turned a deaf ear to the pleadings of the jobless and the walls of starving babies.

When every appeal failed to bring relief from the money kings the people stepped in and placed at its head men who promised relief. When the financial interests failed to respond, it was determined to use the wealth and power of the government. The start has been good; results have been satisfactory, and the people are seeing the silver lining of the cloud. There is faith in the honesty and integrity of the leaders and the ultimate success of the plan. We are still working under the constitution of our government. There has been no deviation from the plan of democracy. If anything there has been a strengthening of the principle for which the life was enacted and on which this government was founded—Equal opportunity for all.

The world is lifting with feverish interest the methods through which the government is winning itself from the slough of depression now gripping the economic world. All are watching the upward climb, some fearful others hopeful. Many are wishing that the feet of Uncle Sam might slip, but he not only has a firm grip on the ledge ahead but has his feet firmly planted on the ledge below. He smiles with pleasure on the unrest which accompanies his climbing. He understands, he knows, that they are but the growing pains of progress. Strikes, walk-outs, and other upheavals are but the symptoms of returning prosperity. When men were in the depths of the

slough of depression, there were no strikes, no unrest, because there were no work nor any means for them to protest the crush of the financial heel. When men begin to assert their right to live, and live under civilized conditions, there need be no fear of any sort of propaganda. Intimidation to the state, for all believe, that in spite of many shortcomings, this is the best; the soundest government on earth; where all may have an opportunity—Not always equal—but an opportunity.

When this column is read, the Prohibition law will either be in discard or still be a factor in the national life of the United States. Six states are to vote for or against the repeal on November the 7th. Three of these are needed to make the 36 necessary for the repeal of the 18th Amendment. The forecast is that there will be more than the necessary number to ratify the repeal. After repeal what? That question is worrying many. Some see a greater period of debauchery and drunkenness than now exists; others claim that there will be a more temperate use of alcoholic beverages than at present under prohibition. It is the consensus of opinion—aside from fanaticism—that repeal temperance will have a better show under the repeal than it would under national prohibition. Statistics show how that since the advent of beer and light wines, drunkenness has decreased fifty per cent. Poisonous liquors, served clandestinely have been almost done away with, and the speakeasy is having a hard time making both ends meet. When there is an end to prohibition, nationally, local option, where every locality will have its say in regards to the sale of liquors, can be adopted and the will of the people prevail.

We have not seen it mentioned in any but the white dailies that Bill Watkins a step of a boy representing the Booker T. Washington Center put that institution on the map. He won a boxing contest and championship of the tourney held at the Civic Auditorium. Bill as a representative of the Center fought it was the first time in his class. The team championship was won by the Catholic Youths team which was coached and trained by the worlds former light-weight champion, Willie Ritchie. Watkins was the sole representative of the Race and religion well did he hold up the standard. He is a "fork hander" and has a boxing stance which does both him and his torso credit. Yes, Bill Watkins introduced to thousands of fans, Booker T. Washington Community Center.

THE EFFICIENT BEAUTY SHOP will be located at 6535 N. E. Grand Ave. after October 1, 1933. Mrs. Baker will be pleased to greet you. Phone: WAInut 6610

Seattle News DUCK JORDAN - 315-23rd Ave, Editor Phone Ea. 1430 YVONNE CHATTERS - 206-25th Ave.

DIES IN FUTILE RESCUE OF FATHER Meridan, Miss., Oct. 22 (ANP)—Pomp Brown, 22 was burned to death Monday night when he rushed into the blazing residence to save his father, the Rev. Henry Brown. Rev. Brown had left the house before the fire began.

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The Advocate Publishing Co. Publishers of "The Advocate" Published Every Saturday For The Past 29 Years BEATRICE CANNADY-FRANKLIN, Editor

Be Kind To Your FEET Vitality - Arch - Support FOOTWEAR NEW LOW PRICES WOMEN'S \$4 and \$5 Pr. MEN'S \$5 and \$6 Pr. MISSES' \$4 Pr. Children's \$1.75 to \$3.50 Pr. BOYS' \$3.50 to \$4.00 Pr. Robert's Bros. THIRD & MORRISON

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