

The Palmetto Leader

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: CASH IN ADVANCE.

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Saturday, May 9, 1925.

The coming term of the Greenville Circuit Court can well be called the "Murder Session." Twenty-six men and women await trial for the killing of their fellowmen.

Negro Trade Week. Have you made it a business to spend something with some colored man or woman? If not, you don't belong, you are simply there and can't help yourself.

Vaccination is now the fashion in Washington. Because of quite a few cases of small pox, the health authorities are insisting on vaccination. President Coolidge and other prominent personages were among the first to take the precaution.

According to report of the National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters, 19,000 deaths were caused by automobile accidents last year, while 450,000 were injured. A reckless person has no right to be entrusted with an automobile, and one who takes a drink before starting out on a drive is a potential criminal, even though he does not become one in reality.

Negro education seems to be coming into its own. Within the last six months more money has been contributed for this purpose by philanthropists than any other period since Emancipation. Besides, the States that have been denying him a decent appropriation from taxes have decided on a more just policy and are providing more money. We must not forget however, that the corresponding duty of seeing to it that there be greater usefulness and wholesome development rest upon us as a consequence thereof.

Just when will our Southern statesmen be able to consider questions on their merits? They are so busy with their eyes squinted on the Negro, that nothing very able ever come from them. While people everywhere else are discussing the changing of the Senate rules in reference to the effect it would have on the transaction of business, Senator Pat Harrison, of Mississippi can only see it as effecting the colored citizens. Some so-called statesmen must undoubtedly thank God, morning, noon and night that America is peopled partly by black people.

THE CHICAGO DEFENDER'S TROUBLE.

Some of the newspapers seem to think that the trouble recently discovered among the employees of The Chicago Defender is but retribution for the practise of that paper of publishing everything sensational, true or untrue, that it can find. With that view however, we are not in accord. The Defender is not immune against dishonesty on the part of its employees any

more than any other employer. The saddest part about the sordid affair is that the very men who had helped this paper to the prosperity and power that undoubtedly it enjoys, are the ones that were secretly and dishonestly undermining it. What ever might be said about the policy of the paper, it must be given to R. S. Abbott, he has builded better than any other colored man in journalism. To be betrayed as he was by the men he trusted and had given a chance to make good in a sphere yet somewhat doubtful among our people, is cruel to say the least. Well thinking men unflinched by envy—must sympathize with Mr. Abbott.

"SOUTHERN MEMORIES."

Under the above caption, with sub-title of "Sidelights on the Race Problem," appears in Scribner's Magazine for May quite an interesting study of the race question by an Americanized Frenchman, Albert Guerard. Aside from the apologetic tone that most writers of Southern conditions seem to think that they must assume in such discussions, and the too frequent use of the word "nigger" and "darkies," the article is a rather pleasing and keen analytical exposition of conditions as they are known by intelligent minds, white and black. Of course, one cannot agree with all that is said, as, for an instance, when the writer can find any grounds for the exclusion of the colored citizens, wholesale or retail, from the suffrage, in manner differing from the exclusion of any other part of the citizenry. The whole trouble, the writer thinks, is "class-feeling, pure and simple," nothing but "snob-bishness." This condition is intensified by "social difference" says the writer, without which the problem would not be so virulent in its character. However, Mr. Guerard has hope that there will be a change for the better because of his "confidence in the 'Americanism' of the South." Closing his splendid study he says, "If Americanism does mean common sense, and fair play, then the people who boasts the purest American blood cannot help reverting to the ideal of their country. . . . The Southerners are gentlemen: it remains for them to apply the gentlemanly code and the spirit of chivalry between the races as well as within their own caste. They know that bragging and brutal assertiveness, in the individual are the surest tokens of vulgarity. A man who acted as a man in the same way as we systematically act as a race, and as we too often act as a nation, would be hunted at once out of polite society." And finally, he ends with what must undoubtedly be in the mind and heart of every fair-minded intelligent person: "The Negro among us is also an eternal reproach. We owe it, not to him alone, but to our own conscience, to efface the last consequences of the ancient slave trade. We owe it above all to the spirit of our ancestors. They were responsible for the curse, and until we have turned the curse into a blessing, the stain on their memory will not be washed away."

"A DOLLAR DOWN."

A dollar down and a dollar when you catch him, as the method of buying what you haven't money to pay for is facetiously expressed, is playing havoc. A few years ago, this method of doing business was not heard of, certainly not in this balliwiek. As carried on today all over this country, it is

a vicious system. It is making more liars, thieves, cheats and other such similar animals than any other business system that is passing as legitimate. For one to go in debt for the purchase of some things is good sense—like buying a home, for an instance. But this thing of buying clothes and some other things that could easily be done without is playing havoc with the real happiness and welfare of the people. Too many people as a result of the credit houses are way beyond their means; extravagance has run wild. With easy credit, it takes a very sensible person to deny himself things that his distorted fancy urges him to buy until he has earned the money with which to pay for it. There are altogether too many people living next week for this one. If there is a more miserable, and disgusting character than one who owes everybody, it would be interesting to see him. Such a person can make more promises in a day than he can perform in a year—and all the time he knows he is lying. Barring misfortune, the man who is heels over head in debt, is there because there is a serious defect in his character. He is either too lazy to earn sufficient for his needs, or he has not self-control enough to deny himself things he fancies until he has earned the price or at heart he is dishonest or all of these may be combined.

NEGRO FOLK SONGS.

BY JEAN JEW.

Negro folk songs have been considered, for long, a rare and original type among that class of music called folk songs. The local color, given them by the strange pronunciation of words, description of the setting in which the plain people live, and the odd chanting, serves to stamp them as folk songs. Only the plain people can create folk songs—songs which are the outburst of a soul in joy or in sorrow—such joy and sorrow as come to those in lowly stations. Every attempt then to change the original nature of folk songs in whatever respect, is a step away from the genuine. It is but common knowledge that every rising sun observes a change in the original identity of Negro folk songs. And it is doubtful if those simple people, who in the dark days found so much relief and hope in their songs, would recognize their own creation could they hear the present rendition of those quaint musical expressions. One often hears pretty Irish songs, rich in their uncommon appeal, but they never reach the perfection of the lore songs if deprived of that soft blarney of the Irish common folk. It is the same with all other folk songs—Russian, German, French, Armenian, Negro. Such songs may go through a process of refinement, or other cultural developments, but they cannot be called true folk songs. To change them and maintain their past label is unfair to the creators of them. Those people could not sing their songs as they are being sung today. They are not sufficient to tell the feeling of the oppressed. The new setting, with such words as ham pronounced "harm;" hand pronounced

"horned," stand pronounced "starned," may be Negro songs but not true Negro folk songs.

MOTHER'S DAY

To have one day in each year set apart as a reminder of the great maternal love that no one else except our mothers could bestow should bring a happy thought to every one. This day should be observed by all as a tribute to the one who has contributed so much to our happiness, the true love of a mother.

Each year the president issues a proclamation setting aside the second Sunday in May as the day to revere the memory of mothers who have passed on and to pay homage to the mothers who are living. It is the general custom for those of us whose mothers are living to wear red carnations and for those who have lost their mothers to wear white carnations in her memory.

A tribute "To My Mother" by the great Edgar Allen Poe should express the real love and feeling that we ought have for our mothers. One verse carries the following thought,

"In the heavens above, The Angels, whispering to one another, Can find, their burning terms of love,

None so devotional as that of 'mother'."

How many times have we paused for a few moments to think back to our childhood days and recall the many things our mothers would do to stop our tears and to make the world brighter for us to live in.

"Who ran to help me when I fell, And would some pretty story tell, Or kiss the place to make it well?"

My mother."

No doubt most of us have heard that old song, "Just Break the News to Mother." Her boy was wounded on the battle field and even though he was dying he sent a loving message to his mother. He did not forget her and we should never forget our mothers for there is no one on earth that thinks, or cares for us like our mothers.

H. D. PEARSON.

Paul Robeson and Lawrence Brown Score N. Y. Success with Negro Songs.

(By N. A. A. C. P. Press Service.)

Paul Robeson, star of Eugene O'Neil's "Emperor Jones" and "All God's Chillun," who gave a recital of Negro spirituals and secular songs together with Lawrence Brown, young colored composer and singer, has scored such a success that the Greenwich Village Theatre has announced a second recital, for May 3rd, to accommodate the demand to hear these singers. At the first recital, on Sunday, April 19, the entire house was sold out, including standing room, and many late comers had to be turned away. The program was composed entirely of Negro songs, some of them arranged by Mr. Brown who, in addition to singing with Mr. Robeson, played the accompaniments on the piano. In comment upon the first recital, the music critic of the New York Evening Post declared: "An audience that taxed the capacity of the theatre heard Mr. Robeson sing and received his offerings with great enthusiasm. He was generous with his encores. Assisting him was Lawrence Brown, who played his accompaniments perfectly and sang in several of the spirituals which called for two voices. "Mr. Robeson's voice is a luscious, mellow bass baritone. He sings spirituals as few interpreters of those beautiful and moving folk-songs have sung them in New York."

EDITOR OF ATLANTA INDEPENDENT WILL SPEAK IN ASHEVILLE, N. C.

Editor Benjamin J. Davis of The Atlanta Independent will speak in Asheville June 15 on Race Newspapers and their Development. Mr. Davis is president of the National Negro Press Association and is one of America's greatest writers and orators. He is noted for condemning the wrong and protecting the right. He has been head of the Odd Fellows in Georgia for a number of years.

As a writer and an orator, he is fearless and intrepid—he is Georgia's spokesman. The world has wondered how Mr. Davis can write as he does and remain in Georgia, but the white citizens of Georgia have the highest respect for him, especially those in Atlanta. He is also one of the wealthiest Negroes in the state of Georgia. His palatial dwelling is one of the most artistic in the South.

In addition to Mr. Davis, other speakers who will appear on this program are: Editors W. L. Porter of The East Tennessee News, Knoxville, Tenn., J. A. Roach of the Recorder-Indicator, Columbia, S. C., and N. J. Frederick of The Palmetto Leader, Columbia, S. C.

The coming of these distinguished educators is an honor to Asheville and all western North Carolina. The Asheville summer school for colored teachers will be in session at this time and

these gentlemen will have an opportunity to send a personal message to our people thru intelligent representatives from different sections of this state and other states. This will be a rare opportunity for the Asheville summer school to hear these gentlemen and to meet them personally.

The Asheville summer school begins June 10th and all our teachers will be on hand in time for this important meeting. The Ministerial Union, Fraternal orders, professional and business men join hands in extending an invitation to these men of merit to visit the Land of the Sky.

HON. SEYMOUR CARROLL AND EDITOR J. D. CARR TO SPEAK JOINTLY

Winston-Salem High School Auditorium, May 17, at 3:00 P.M. Hon. Seymour Carroll, Field Secretary of the American Humane Education Society of Boston, and J. D. Carr, editor of The Asheville Enterprise, will speak in Winston-Salem, May 17, at 3:00 P. M., at the 14th Street High School auditorium. Neither needs an introduction—you know them. They are going there under the auspices of the North Carolina Grand Commandery of Sons and Daughters of Peace. Winston-Salem is manifesting every effort to make this a great success.

Critics of the other metropolitan dailies were equally favorable in their comment.

Colored Show Sailing To Germany.

By J. A. (Billboard) Jackson.

(By The Associated Negro Press.)

New York, N. Y., May.—On May 6, Arthur Lyons, vaudeville agent, will sail on the White Star Line S. S. Arabic for Germany taking with him a group of 36 Negro performers and musicians who will open in a revue at the Admirla Palace, Berlin. Morris Gest is the promoter of the engagement which is for twelve weeks with an option on eight weeks more. The troupe is scheduled to travel first class and reservations have been made for them at the Central hotel in Berlin.

CLOSING EXERCISES OF PILGRIM SCHOOL AT CRANE CREEK

Closing Exercises of Pilgrim school were had on May 18th, 1925.

With Mrs. Catherine E. Holman as teacher we had quite a success on the whole. The children were well trained. The singing, march, speaking, pantomime and drill were fine. To much praise cannot be given to the teacher, Mrs. Holman, for the good work rendered in our school room and community. We need more teachers of her type.

Eleventh Annual Summer Session OF THE STATE COLLEGE

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