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LIBERAL MOVEMENTS "UNEDUCATED" ON NEGRO PROBLEM

Springfield, Mass., July—That grave discrepancies exist in the attitudes of liberals and radicals when the Negro problem is concerned, and that most liberal problems are "uneducated" when it comes to the Negro in America and colored peoples throughout the world, was the assertion last night of Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, Negro leader, editor of the Crisis magazine, who addressed the 21st annual conference here of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"Most liberal movements are simply uneducated when it comes to the present Negro problem," declared Dr. Du Bois, "and a persistent course of education backed by facts, figures and explanations, has got to be entered upon in order to convince liberals and radicals that the Negro problems of the 20th century are human problems so intermingled and interconnected with other problems of human reform that they simply cannot be neglected without ultimate disaster.

"Even when the attention of social reformers is called to the presence of the Negro problem the greatest difficulty immediately presents itself, and that is, the widespread pessimism regarding any possibility of solution. Again and again liberal-minded men come face to face with this problem, throw up their hands and say by word or action:

"The question is simply unanswerable. We do not know and we cannot conceive how the Negroes of America, much less the Negro races of the world are going to be encouraged in civilization. It is useless. Admitting, as many do admit, that no complete consideration may be given to the problems of democracy, education and crime so long as we do not regard the Negro element; nevertheless, there is nothing that we can do because the bringing in of any consideration of that element would make everything impossible.

"One can see in the history of various movements the influence of this idea. When women's suffrage was about to become a national movement before the Civil War, its advocates were frightened to death lest in any way the question of the status of white women should be mixed up with the slavery question. They were not only willing but insistent that the problem of the uplift of women be considered without reference to black women. And yet, of course the thing was eternally impossible.

"So today, one of the difficulties of making democracy effective in the United States and carrying out thorough going radical reform, is the whole problem most advocates of democracy simply refuse to face.

"Every thinking leader of the labor movement in white countries faces a baffling dilemma: if he organizes to raise the status and wage of black and brown and yellow labor, he must either cut his own wage and standard of living, or reduce the profits of his employers. He does not dare to do either and the result in that the Labor government of Eng-

land, the Socialist bloc of France and the Democratic party in the United States are unable to agree on a policy in Asia, Africa, or Porto Rico that differs in essence from the opposing parties."

Backward Races Occasion Wars

International warfare and the failure of international agreements to limit armaments were traced by Dr. Du Bois to the rivalry of European powers for opportunity to exploit backward races. Powerful groups in the various nations were ready to "direct organized murder" in order to preserve their markets and economic advantages, said Dr. Du Bois, who continued:

"The victims of this situation, the black laborers and yellow laborers and brown laborers, in Asia and islands of the sea, are not only voiceless in the international conferences at London and Geneva and Washington, but the mass of the intelligent people of England, France, Germany, Italy and America do not consider that the interest of colored peoples is of enough importance to be considered when compared with the income and wealth and civilizations of white people. Manifestly in these circumstances any great decrease or abolition of navies and armies is unthinkable: and manifestly we have got to face with unblinking eye the color problem before the problem of naval reduction, military disarmament and world peace can be settled."

Solored people, for their part, were too often provincial and ininterested in general problems of social reform, declared Dr. Du Bois, who asserted that the time had now come when the failure of Negroes and liberals and radicals to understand one another must come to an end. The American Negro, he declared, "needs an intensive course of study, not only in schools but in adult life of the difficulties of the world, of the meaning of reform movements and of the part which Negroes as citizens of the world must play in reform."

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