

The Racial Problem in the States

A thorough discussion of the 'Race Problem of the United States would involve a consideration of many factors and unlimited space. However, it is not possible to discuss this phase of the Social Problem from the workers' viewpoint without consideration of historical details.

Most every worker is aware of the fact that the Negro has recently—since 1861-1865—emerged from Chattel Slavery and also that the negro slave was imported into America from Africa by Slave Traders, principally British of the Elizabethan Era and later.

The system of education to which the worker is indebted for a knowledge of these details can be accredited with the failure of the worker to understand the peculiarities of the negro's position more thoroughly in relation to cause and effect.

The school histories of the United States are written from a viewpoint of pro-Americanism and stress the details of past events which can be utilized in propagating American ideals. This failure on the part of modern text books to record the full truth can be ascribed to the fact that it would not be conducive to governmental control of the populace in any exigency. It is only the patriot of the most highly developed type who will recognize friend or foe in accordance with governmental decree. To develop this degree of patriotism it has been necessary to ascribe the progress of a country to the genius and morality of the forefathers of the scholars and likewise to ascribe any panic or plague to the wickedness or immorality of the outstanding personalities in the histories of other countries. The United States on its entry into the European War, found it necessary to revise its school histories which were permeated with anti-English sentiment, and the anti-American sentiment, prevalent in Great Britain before the entry of the United States into the war, was easily reversed by the British press.

This method of education, which is in vogue in every country, is itself a cause of phenomena which is observable from time to time. This phenomena generally is manifested by the attitude of the populace, of any country, with regard to occurrences of international moment. As examples:—(1) If the workers of one country go on strike, the workers of any other country consider it patriotic to take advantage of this incident to produce commodities for the market formerly supplied by the striking workers. This is called "Capturing Trade," although it has a semblance of scabbing. (2) Their support of tariffs against competing nations and trade agreements in general.

In fact modern education develops a psychology which is regulated by officialdom.

The ignorance of the white worker with regard to anything except that which the educational system of the northern and western whiteschools, inculcated into his organ of thought, enabled the American employing class to have a working class divided in the event of industrial disputes or any other expression of the common social aspirations of either element of the working class.

Let it be understood that the education of the negro was not of the same standard as that of the white worker, because the negro did not require the same degree of technical training as the white worker. Technical education is necessary for the machine worker, either factory or agricultural, but the agricultural pursuits of the negro i. e., cotton and cane production and to some extent tobacco, is not as dependent on the machine as is the grain production of the northwest. Agricultural machinery in the south, to the extent which it now exists, is a comparatively recent innovation.

This factor of education has been considered because it is contributory to an understanding of the negro's position in North America. Although contributory causes are many, the basic cause of social tendencies, economic development, proceeds in its logical course. The development of this factor tends toward a common or universal understanding

on the part of the dominated element of all nations. The degree to which this factor has developed in spite of obstructive or reactionary factors is evident today to the most servile slave and the most arrogant master, and so a situation of factional strife between the workers of any country, stands out in contrast to the general tendency of the times.

Some few years back Race Riots in the United States would not have been noticeable, a great distance from the point of occurrence. Furthermore, Race Riots could not develop to the same extent or in the same localities as recently. The conditions did not exist five years ago to produce a Race War in Chicago. Five years ago, Negro Police, Mail Carriers, Street Railwaymen were noticeable in Chicago and Negroes were generally accepted in the upper strata of labor's ranks without comment. The Great War produced the conditions of the recent troubles in that city.

The war was a test of patriotism of all elements and the negro, being subjected to the training necessary for the development of patriotism, was not found wanting in this respect.

The negro evidenced his patriotism by enlisting in the Armed Forces of the U. S. A. There were limitations however, placed on the recruiting of negroes, as an Armed Force. A capable Armed Force of 3,000,000 American negroes could have been easily recruited from the 12,000,000 negroes in the United States. This would, however, have been a menacing force after the cessation of hostilities in view of the history of the American negro. It will be appreciated that it was necessary to utilize the energy of the negro in another manner. This was accomplished by transporting negroes from the south of the "Mason-Dixon" line, to the industrial centers of the north. The negro found his way into such industries as did not require mechanical skill and thus the white worker in these occupations was displaced for enlistment in the Armed Forces. The stockyard district of Chicago was a large field for negro labor. The negro of the south has always been subjected to a very inferior standard of living and when the labor market became glutted by the return of white workers from the war, the negro had an advantage. The patriotism of the employers would not justify them in replacing the negro by ex-soldiers and sailors, as the negro could best suit the employer's needs by working cheaper. In addition to this factor, the negro had become familiar with and competent in the work during the absence of the white worker. There was no way the white could displace the black, so the former resorted to shooting the negro out of his industrial and social position. The negro's low standard of living would assist him in saving from his war-time earnings, which were relatively high, and thereby procure property in the residential, and frequently, semi-aristocratic districts. The packing-house foreman, manager or clerk living next door to a negro, could not feel comfortable or make his predicament coincide with his cherished ideals. The origin and development of anti-negro sentiment was ignored by authorities, and the patriotism of the negro during the war was forgotten and patriotism on the part of employers was stored away for future use. Officials could not of course countenance lawlessness but they could of course be otherwise engaged e. g., propagating the League of Nations. This was apparently the attitude of Law and Order until after the shooting methods had made an impression on the negro.

Another factor in this situation is the social position of the negro since his transformation from a Chattel Slave to a wage slave. There is no doubt in the negro's mind with regard to his position. He knows he is at the bottom and he is very disappointed with his emancipation. Disappointment with Freedom and Democracy is menacing to the extent to which it is prevalent. The negro has never been in a position to manifest his disappointment, because there has never been a time in the United

States, prior to the war, when it has been in the interests of the dominant class to permit the negro and white worker to meet on a common basis, or to come to a common agreement on any matter. During the war, the negro developed in many respects and this development was evident by the fact that, for a time, the shooting was being carried on by as well as at the negro. This is unknown in the past history of the American negro. He has always been the submerged, socially, by his poverty, by the educational system he has been subjected to and by the peculiarities of his environment, i. e. by the climate of the southern states, his agricultural occupation, and his Chattel Slave traditions.

Such of the negro population of the United States, as existed in the north prior to the war, were developing a class knowledge, and the white and black were meeting on this basis. This was a menace aggravated by the influx of negroes from the south, to the industrial regions of the north during the war. The negro who has lived in the industrial centers of the north for a considerable period becomes an educator of his fellows. It is noticeable that the Race War epidemic did not appear in cities where there has always been more or less friction between the races e. g. in Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis, etc., or the industrial cities along the north of the Mason-Dixon Line.

As before stated, it is not possible here to give full consideration to all factors of the question in their relationship but a study of the proposition from an unbiased workers' viewpoint will result in a reasonable conclusion.

The negro today is a wage-slave, different from the white wage-slave by color only. Their interests are identical. They are both exploited by a parasitic social element and neither will have an opportunity to assert themselves as men and women, either white or black, until they recognize this identity of interests. It is quite possible that those white workers in Chicago, who became enthusiastic over the color issue, will go to work in the place of negroes who have been eliminated and that the surplus of their labor will sustain in excellence a black, brown or yellow parasite as well as the white parasites who laughed in fiendish glee at their antics in "shooting up the coon."

The orgy was stopped by the owners of both white and black, when property became jeopardized, at least such property as was not as easily replaced as was any which would cease to exist as a result of a rifle bullet.

Race Riots, Strike Riots, etc., will occur until the handicap of a fallacious education is overcome by a realization on the part of the workers that they have nothing under capitalism, hence nothing to lose. This is more obvious to the negro, and it is this fact which makes the negro element of this continent worthy of special consideration.

KINNEY.

A SIGN OF GRACE.

The "Christian Science Monitor," for July 29, carries an article, covering five columns, by Mrs. Gertrude M. Tobinson, wife of a Soviet Com-misar, on her experiences in Siberia. Her account is entirely favorable to the Workers' Republic, which so far as Siberia was concerned was rapidly on its way to a re-organization of the country's affairs on a satisfactory basis, when the Allies intervened, and their tool Kolchak and his forces re-introduced the anarchy of militarism again.

To publish the other side of the Russian question is a new departure for the "Monitor" and we hope it will continue to do so in the interest of truth.

According to a British White Paper issued at Breslau, British officers found babies from three months to three years old sucking spinach soup out of bottles, instead of milk. Great is war, the moral uplifter.