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EDITORIAL

HAS LONDON (ENGLAND)

SOLD HER SOUL?

Judging from the extent to which London (England) is catering to American color prejudice for the sake of gaining a few dollars from the American tourist, one is led to ask the question: "Has London sold her soul for a mess of pottage?" Has she sacrificed her high principle of right and justice for the sake of gaining a few more American dollars? Facts have recently transpired which prove that the Robert Abbott case is not an isolated one but is directly in line with the newly established hotel and restaurant policy in London. Mr. Abbott was requested to leave two London hotels and was refused by thirty others. Not only this, but, as Mr. Abbott says: "On our return home on Oct. 12 on the Aquitania we were forced in the grille room against our wish, where we were deprived of any and all music and other entertainment, although we were first-class passengers." And this is not all. Recently Paul Robeson, noted singer and actor, was refused admittance to a restaurant at which an entertainment had been arranged in his honor. It is also recalled that a delegation of natives from S. Africa to the Young Men's Christian Association were forced to walk the streets all night because no hotel would admit them. Recently a party of doctors suitably dressed and behaving with decorum, were requested to leave the Locarno Dance Hall at Strestham, with the explanation that their color was objectionable. Included in the party were a post-graduate of the London School of Tropical Medicine, a member of the Middle Temple, a solicitor of the supreme court of Grenada, B. W.I.—all proud of being subjects of the British Empire. A member of the Legislative Assembly of India states that he knows of several instances of Indians being refused accommodation in London on the grounds that they were non-white. He further states that this exclusion, based on the grounds of superiority, is creating a great deal of bitterness, and that he would not undertake to say what shape ultimately this bitterness would take.

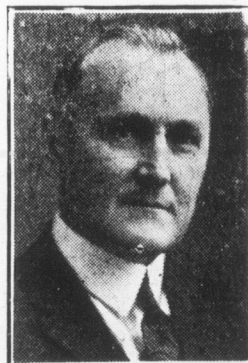
There are no justifiable grounds on which these hotels and restaurants in London can base their claim in the treatment of these men of color. Each incident has weakened the belief of the darker races in the sincerity of the Englishman's claims for fair play and British Justice. Not even a dog will retain love and respect for his master who begins to kick and mistreat him whenever an occasion offers itself. Not even the excuse of seeking "Social equality can be offered here. Were the native delegates to the Y.M.C.A. seeking social equality when they sought to secure a night's lodging? Were Mr. and Mrs. Abbott trying to "mix it" when they arrived perfect strangers in London and were forced to apply to more than three-scores of hotels before they finally secured accommodation? Were the Indians seeking it, fresh from Bombay and now for the first time in London? Was Paul Robeson seeking social equality when he attempted to enter a restaurant at which he was to be honored by friends? It seems

that others were seeking equality with Robeson.

It is understood that the question of the color bar in hotels, restaurants and on steamboats will be raised in the House of Commons at the earliest possible moment. The House will do well to give this question serious consideration, for within an Empire of 400,000,000 people, the darker portion is too great in number and perhaps too cumbersome to be lightly considered. Ramsay Macdonald's earnest efforts for peace on earth will count for naught so long as there is a seething fermenting unrest within the Empire.

Wm. Wells Brown

Continued from page 1
played by Negroes in the Civil War. The last work of importance which he wrote was "The Rising Sun, or the Antecedents and the Advancement of the Colored Race" (1874). In this book he undertook to trace the history of the Negro from Africa to America. For many years he was the chief authority in America on the history of his race. He died at Chelsea, Mass., on Nov. 6th, 1884.



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