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The Negro in Industry

Today the Negro occupies a significant place in American industry. How did he reach this position? As a newcomer in the various industries of the north and middle west, the Negro has generally taken the lower and rougher positions which were open to him. However, his entrance has been accelerated by two conditions: first, he has been imported in large numbers to act as a strike-breaker; secondly, he has filled the normal opportunities opened to all labor as a result of the war and the flood of emigration and restrictive immigration occasioned thereby.

The fact that many of these were agricultural laborers unused to collective action, and that they felt their advancement to be due to a kind of fate or to be a benevolent employer who had tendered them positions which they otherwise could not have held on account of racial barriers erected by white trade unionists, made these men hardly amenable to unionism. The deep rooted reasons for this failure of consistent co-operation between black and white workers lie in the cultural, economic and social heritage of the slave tradition which encouraged mutual suspicion and distrust in both races.

Doctors Spero and Harris trace the development of the American labor movement from the period following the civil war. The idealism of the old Knights of Labor, the practical business unionism of its successor, the American Federation of Labor, the more liberal and visionary tactics of socialistic and industrial unions, are all fully elucidated and criticized. This is the distinct characteristic of the work; that, when talking about the longshornmen's troubles the hard and bitter fights in the coal fields, the unionization of the steel and meat packing industries, the racial policy of the ladies' garment workers' union, or even the rise and fall of the Pullman porters' brotherhood, the authors have approached the problems from the point of view of the advantages and disadvantages to the workingman in general irrespective of race. As economists the authors are interested primarily in labor dynamics.

One of the most interesting parts of the book is the section devoted to the attitudes of the negro community to the labor movement. One looks forward with glee to see the race leaders rushing to defend themselves. Spero and Harris do not pull their

punches, when marshaling evidence bearing on the activities and outlook of Negro politicians, the church, the National Urban League the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Booker T. Washington group and the Garvey movement.

GANDHI TO BARGAIN ALONE

The working committee of the All-India Congress decided to-day that Ghandi should be the only delegate from Congress to the next Round-Table Conference.

Gandhi will probably be in Bombay on the arrival of the new Viceroy, Viscount Willingdon.

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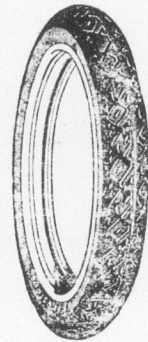
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