

## Dawn of Tomorrow

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## Editorial

### NEGROES AND DISASTERS

It takes a great disaster, such as a train wreck, a great war, or even the sinking of a ship to give occasion for negroes to prove to all the world that noble blood flows through their veins although this blood may not be "blue."

The sinking of the S.S. Vestris gave occasion for M. Chas. H. Tuttle, United States Attorney in the Court of Inquiry, to make the following statement: "I have seen in one or two quarters, some criticism of the colored members of the crew; and I think it only fair to say that, so far as I know or have any information, the testimony just given by Mr. Joseph Boxhill today is typical of the conduct of the colored part of the crew. Not only does the evidence indicate that they showed no insubordination or cowardice, but on the contrary, the evidence shows affirmatively that they obeyed orders and stayed in the stoke holds as long as anything could be done, and that subsequently—and I know this will be further emphasized by the evidence—the colored members of the crew displayed real heroism in dragging people from the water into life boats and in supporting helpless people while in the water. I think it only fair that this statement should be made at this time."

Herbert J. Siligman, director publicity, N.A.A.C.P., who attended the morning session of the court writes: "A little black man walked quietly on the stand at the Court of Inquiry today and in a clear voice, told the story of the sinking of the Vestris. Lionel Licorish was at the wheel of the ship while the list grew steadily greater. He stood by for orders and carried messages from the Captain of the ill-fated ship to the carpenter, asking him to stop the inflow of water at the port and half doors. He stood on the bridge awaiting the Captain's orders until near the very end, and helped passengers into life boats. Then, when the ship was so far gone that no one could stand on the deck, he loosened the straps holding No. 14 lifeboat so that it would float when the steamer was down; himself slid off the deck into the water and swam away from the ship in order to avoid being drawn under by the suction."

When he turned around to look, the steamer was gone, out of sight in the ocean depths. The empty lifeboat

he had loosened was floating in the water. He swam to it, got oars, rescued 20 passengers and crew and kept his lifeboat afloat with shifts of 3 men bailing all night until rescue came."

The New York Evening Post said: "A youthful Barbados Negro today narrated naively, with complete unselfconsciousness, a tale of remarkable devotion to duty which brought forth from United States Attorney Tuttle an unqualified tribute to the 'real heroism' of the Negro members of the crew of the ill-fated steamship Vestris."

"Joseph Boxhill, a fireman on the vessel which sank off the Virginia Capes, November 12th, with the loss of 111 lives, described in the warm exotic English of the West Indies, before M.S. Commissioner O'Neill and the Federal Inquiry Board his personal part in the disaster."

"In vivid contrast with the conduct of some officers as described at previous sessions of the Inquiry, this portly young negro explained convincingly, how he had remained in the water-logged engine until the very last moment and how he would have continued to stay there if any officer had ordered him."

"After the Vestris he swam about for 20 hours—he had thrown his life belt away in order to move more freely—from raft to raft, doing his best to save people and fighting down dizziness, as he saw the bodies of women and children about him in the water."

And thus runs the simple but beautiful story of bravery and self-sacrifice of black folk in the face of danger and disaster. So is the story of the Negro porter in a train wreck of a few months ago, himself mortally hurt, yet helping to rescue passengers from the debris until exhausted, still when a physician bends over him his words were, "Attend to the lady there first."

Black folk have never sought a monopoly of the sun, but does not their heroism, from the time of Simon the Syrian, down to the sinking of the Vestris, entitle them to at least a place in the Sun?

### AGAIN, MARCUS GARVEY

A few weeks ago, Marcus Garvey sailed from Europe, where he had been received with all the courtesy and respect due to a British subject. On landing in Canada, he made certain statement to newspaper reporters regarding London's (England) cosmopolitan spirit to every race under the sun. This spirit however, said Garvey, was not extended to the Negro. Among other things he also said he intended to swing five million votes to Smith for President of the United States. Within a short time after these statements had reached the public Garvey was arrested by order of the immigration authorities. At the trial which followed he was ordered to leave Canada within seven days. They gave as a reason for this act, that he (Garvey) was an undesirable citizen. Of course, as to the statute governing this particular case we have no quarrel since Garvey had spent time in the Federal prison of Atlanta, Ga., for using the mails for fraudulent purposes. But what does cause us so much bewilderment is, why, after Garvey had been so courteously received in London and in other cities

and parts of the Motherland as well as throughout Europe,—why should Canada elect to close her doors in his face? Are we beginning to look across the border for precedents and example or do we still cherish the Motherland as our ideal in the matter of free speech and real justice? We are also wondering just how much foreign influence was brought to bear in the Garvey episode. What Garvey said in Canada concerning England is but a ripple compared to what some of the socialists say in Hyde Park, almost under the dome of the castle itself. But nothing ever happens, no one is deported. We do not pretend to believe that England has at all times been right in all things, but in matters of free speech and simple justice we would be much safer following in the paths our forefathers have trod than by imitating our Southern neighbours.

We are not here defending Garvey in the face of his conviction on the charge for which he was sent to prison, but we shall ever believe that Garvey meant no wrong, certainly not to his own people; that his offense sprang from over zealotry to free his race from the economic slavery of the entire continent of North America, that by far the bulk of money he received (and this only from Negroes) was used in a frantic attempt to make places in the economic and commercial world for Negro boys and girls and Negro men and women. And so, if we do not wholly endorse his methods of procedure, we do most wholeheartedly endorse his plan and we also admire his enthusiasm, and for his desire to make Africa a home, a real home, for black people, in which they might live and respect themselves and gain the respect of the outside world—a home in which their sons and daughters might use all of their talents without the handicap of caste and colour—what sane Negro or just white person could blame him for this?

Perhaps the bowers that he will never allow Garvey to complete the work he began, or, perhaps, even to cultivate the seeds he has sown. But their roots have sunk too deeply into the minds and hearts and souls of black people to be ever choked out, and younger men with finer technique with better training and with finer sense of diplomacy will spring up to complete the work he began and for which he suffered. Future historians will give Garvey the credit of being the first Negro to awaken in the breast of the common class of his race, the spirit of race consciousness.

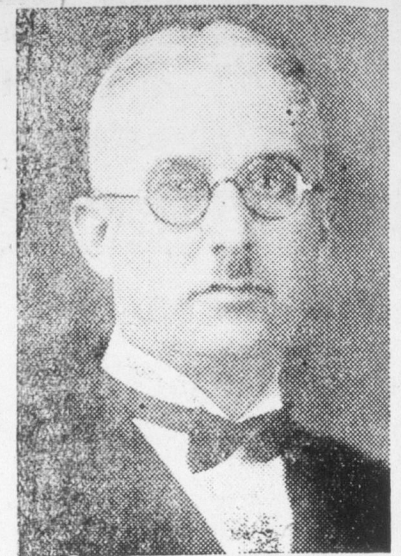
### WORLD UNITY MAGAZINE WANTS YOUNG NEGRO WRITERS' WORK.

New York, Nov. 23—Horace Holley, Managing Editor of World Unity Magazine, 4 East 12th Street, New York City, informs the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, that his magazine is about to inaugurate a new department called "Youth and The Modern World."

In this department articles will be published by college students and others representing various races and nationalities. Mr. Holley writes the N.A.A.C.P.: "We are exceedingly anxious to include in this department the articles representative of the best thought of young colored people."

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