

Theatrical Notes

"SHUFFLE ALONG" CO. HAS SPLIT IN RANKS

(The Associated Negro Press)
New York, July.—Wilfred R. Bain, of the staff of the Atlantic City, N.J. Daily Times-Gazette, and special correspondent for many out of the city papers, reports that the original "Shuffle Along" company closed its phenomenal three years continuous season at the Appollo theatre in that city on June 23.

Dissatisfaction between the four principals has been growing for some time. A number of causes had been assigned, but Sissle and Blake in an interview with Mr. Bain, stated that it grew out of Miller and Lyles desire to participate in the royalties on the song numbers made famous by the show. It is reported that the latter have been engaged for a George White production. So strained were the relations between the people, that when "Auld Lang Syne" was sung at the final curtain, some members of the company walked off the stage.

Sissle and Blake have opened a "Plantation Days" Revue at the La Marne Cafe on the Boardwalk in conjunction with Roy Smith and his band. The opening performance took five encores. Mildred Smallwood, Johnnie Hudgins, and a number of the former "Shuffle" people are in the cast. Among those are Lottie Gee, Bob Davis, and Four Harmony Kings. Mr. Sissle's grandmother was a guest at the opening.

By J. A. Jackson of the Billboard (For the Associated Negro Press)
New York, July.—Since the separation of Miller and Lyles, and Sissle and Blake, the two teams who were the co-authors and principals in the tremendously successful colored show "Shuffle along", there has been many

rumours and much speculation as to what Miller and Lyles would do next. It was made plain at the time of the split, early in June, that Sissle and Blake, with some members of the former management, would continue with "Shuffle Along".

On July 10, Miller and Lyles who had been quietly assembling a company that included all but about eight of the former "shufflers" and enough new faces to total more than sixty people, began rehearsals in Bryant Hall, for a show that they are producing for George White of "Scandals" fame. The production, as yet unnamed, is based upon a book by Miller and Lyles that is said to be another episode in the lives of the mayor of Jimtown and his business partner, the two characters that provided the comedy for the "Shuffle" show.

Music for the more than twenty song numbers is by James P. Johnson, the foremost Negro pianist and composer, if the recorded numbers are accepted as a standard of measurement. The lyrics are by Cecil Mack, the pen name of R. C. McPherson. Will Marion Cook is conducting the choral rehearsals and Elida Webb is staging the dances. Miller and Lyles are personally supervising the entire production.

The supporting company is a strong one, and includes Mattie Wilkes, Ravella Hughes, Blanche Deas Harris, Onions Jefferies, Paul E. Floyd, Arthur Porter, Wesley Hill, Bass Woodson, Adelaide Hall, George Stevens, Bass Foster, Ina Duncan, Bessie Allison, Charles Olden, Monty Hawley, Vernon Porter, William Andrews, Percy Colson, Arthur Ray, and a number of others that have been culled from both the Negro dramatic and musical comedy first ranks.

The show is scheduled to open for an out of town engagement early in August, after which it will be booked for the season by the Klaw and Erlanger office, with the very great likelihood of being presented at a Broadway house very early in the season.

American Missionary Association Work Among Negroes in Canada

(Continued from last week)

The American Missionary Association realized that there would be great difficulties to be faced in the Canadian field and some of these difficulties reflect themselves in the annual reports. The annual report for 1849 is typical of later reports in its record of obstacles to be overcome. Isaac Rice left the Association in this year to become an evangelist among the colored Baptists. Goods which were collected in both the United States and Canada for the benefit of sufferers failed to reach their destination. The work at the Dawn settlement dwindled, the managers being embarrassed by debt. Incompetent trustees had projected a college when common schools were the real need. At Mt. Hope the work in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Brooks was disturbed by the migration of their flock to a point on Georgian Bay where they had been attracted by government grants of land. There was need generally of competent teachers.

On the other hand, there were some encouraging signs. About one third of the adults had professed religion. The settlement at London which was visited this year by Rev. J. P. Bardwell was found to be making headway though the Negro community was divided between three rival sects each with its chapel or meeting house. At London there was a free school, a temperance society with 100 members, and most of the colored people were in comfortable circumstances, several being freeholders

and some in business. At Dawn, Hiram Wilson and his wife carried on two schools, Mrs. Wilson having 25 women and girls in her charge. One of these was a grandmother who learned to read and write in three months. About two miles from Dawn was another school conducted by a Miss Huntington, working under the Baptist Board.

In this year, 1849, the expenditure on the Canadian work amounted to \$650. The departure of Rev. Isaac Rice does not seem to have been regarded as a very serious loss. Of his piety there could be no question but he is described as eccentric and as having little influence with the larger portion of the colored people. The name of Rev. Mr. Kirkland appears in this report as being stationed about ten miles from Amherstburg and there is also a reference to Henry Bibb as a collector for the Colporteurs and Slaves Bible Fund.

The annual report for 1850 records the work done at Amherstburg, St. Catharines, and Mount Hope. Rev. Hiram Wilson removed to St. Catharines in this year, leaving Dawn for good. In the course of his movements during the latter part of the year he saw a good deal of the results of the Fugitive Slave Law. His estimate was that 3000 fugitives had entered Canada recently and the immigration was still continuing. "That work not only in spreading terror among the colored people of the nominally free states but in breaking up families and driving them in a desolate and forlorn condition to these

northern shores to encounter the rigor of a cold climate and an unusually severe winter." He cites the arrival of a refugee from Utica, N.Y. whose right foot was so badly frozen that the bone protruded.

Rev. David Hotchkiss was at Amherstburg this year and found some opposition from colored preachers who were continually trying to establish new societies with the usual accompaniment of appointing an agent and starting begging tours. Miss Teall continued at Mount Hope but reported that the work there was diminishing owing to the continued removal of the people.

The next year saw some additional workers in the field. At New Canaan Rev. E. E. Kirkland, with his wife and Miss Theodosia Lyon, worked with the fugitives while the name of Mary A. Shadd appears as representative of the Association at Windsor. A tMount Hopt Miss Susan

(Continued in next issue)

C. T. CHERRY

Dealer in

Groceries and Provisions, Salt and Smoked Meats, Poultry, Butter, Eggs, etc.
East End Grocery, Chatham

AT

Keene Bros.

125-127 KING STREET

You will get the largest selection of

FURNITURE

RUGS

LINOLEUMS

DRAPERIES

CURTAINS

at the lowest prices in London.

Summer Jewelry

GIFTS THAT LAST

AND PLEASE ALL THE TIME

EXPERT AND PROMPT

SERVICE IN WATCH REPAIRING

Barnard's

379 RICHMOND ST.

LONDON

For

Mens and Boys
CLOTHING

Furnishings, Hats and Caps

QUALITY GOODS

AT LOWER PRICES

CUMMING

The Clothier

London Store

342 Richmond St. Op. Hobbs

Out of the high rent district
yet right in the heart of the city.

Stratford Store

40 Wellington Street

WEGNER'S

Wholesale and retail dealers in
Overalls, Sweater Coats, Gloves,
Mitts and Raincoats.

London's Largest High-Class
Workingmen's Outfitters.

Exclusive Manufacturers' Agents
for the best Canadian makes of
Overalls.

WEGNER, The Heart Of London
371 Talbot St. Opposite Market.

MANDRO

a vegetable tonic and blood purifier. Once used you will be wonderfully benefited and wont be without it in your home.

AGENTS WANTED

Progressive young ladies or gentlemen can make a good living and have time to themselves.

W. E. WALKER

Manufacturer

609 GOYEAU ST., WINDSOR

DONT THROW YOUR OLD RUGS
AND CARPETS AWAY

No matter how old, how dirty, how dilapidated; have them made into the famous

VELVETEX RUGS

We have hundreds of recommendations from our satisfied customers.

In London our driver collects the carpet, from attic, cellar or off the floor and delivers the finished rug without any extra charge. Send Postal card to 98 Carling St. to have our representative call, or Phone 2485. We pay express both ways on out of town orders.

Write for Folder no. 76

Established 1909

CANADA RUG COMPANY

Velvetex Building,

96-98 Carling St., London, Ont.



Be sure you buy her a Wray Diamond and then She will know you have chosen the best. We are giving a special discount of 1/3 off to induce customers from outside of London to purchase at our store. If you buy a \$100.00 ring from Wray's it will cost you \$66.35. Buy at Wray's Jewelry and you will get your money's worth. We guarantee satisfaction or your money refunded.

Wray Jewelry Ltd.

234 Dundas St.

London, Ont.