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WILL LEND AID TO NEGRO FARMERS

AFFORD GREAT OPPORTUNITY,
IS OPEN TO ALL ALIKE

Speaking before the ME Council, Constance E. H. Daniel of the Division of Information-Farm Security Administration, brought out some pertinent facts of how the bureau seeks to extend its aid to the millions of Negro farmers. The importance of the work was stressed by the fact that one-half of the nation's sharecroppers are Negroes and hence they should be the largest beneficiaries but that it is reported that in the South they reap very, very little of fit fruits. The address of the FSA representative in part was as follows:

One of the most important tasks of the Farm Security Administration so far as the Negro is concerned has been that of getting across to the Negro farm operators, information on the help that is available to them.

What Does the Farm Security Administration Have for the Negro,

In September, 1937 — just a year ago — the Farm Security Administration of the Department of Agriculture succeeded the earlier Resettlement Administration, and set to work to produce semblance of order out of the chaos of American farming.

**Half U.S. Share-
Croppers, Negroes**

Approximately half of these farm lands are in the Southern States. Here also we find more than 95 per cent of our Negro farm operators, 80 per cent of whom are sharecroppers and tenants. Of all tenant operators in the country, including croppers, one-third are Negroes. Of all the sharecroppers in this country, one-half are Negroes (Ag. Census 1935). Obviously then, so program for the improvement of agriculture in the South, can be effective, unless the Negro farm operator, tenant or sharecropper, share fully in its benefits, together with his white brethren of the plow.

The problems of these farmers, black and white, are briefly:

To get financial aid as small-owners, tenants, croppers or laborers, to buy tools, live-stock, or even food and clothing until they can make their first crop.

STARTS A COLLEGE

CAPE TOWN, South Africa. (C) — Bishop R. R. Wright, Jr., presiding over the Fifteenth Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church, with headquarters at 28 Walmer Road has announced the successful launching of the Preachers' Training College at Wilberforce Institute at Evaton, near Johannesburg.

The new work represents a fundamental change in the policy of the A.M.E. Church in South Africa. Formerly students were sent to America to be educated, with the aid of the church. Now it is planned to educate the youth in South Africa, but with the very best teachers the leading American universities afford. A year ago Bishop Wright brought to South Africa, Prof. Amos J. White of Harvard, who became principal of Wilberforce Institute, and since that time the Institute has been accredited by the leading British educational authorities.

As tenants, croppers, laborers, or owners with homes, but rented farm land, to get enough money to buy their own land, and put a long time farm program in operation.

Or to move away from barren land to land which can produce crops.

WHAT FSA OFFERS

The Farm Security Administration's answer to these problems has been:

To establish short-term Rehabilitation Loans, of from 1 to 5 years. To be eligible for these, the family must own or be able to rent land on which it can make a living. The family must agree to work out farm and home management plans with the county supervisor, and to follow them.

To provide long-term farm tenant loans for the purchase of suitable farms, large enough to operate with family labor.

To provide good land on which families now living on sub-marginal land can live under the supervision of government farm experts, many of them also Negroes, learning better methods of farming and housekeeping — finding out about community teamwork, in other words, the work of co-operatives — while working towards eventual ownership. This is done through homestead projects.

PRES. ROOSEVELT AND THE SOUTH

As a bystander watching the maneuverings of President Roosevelt and the white people of the South, we see an interesting political battle being fought which looks almost like a revival of the war of the 60's between the North and the South. Just who will win is problematical at this time. As a representative of the Federal forces it looks to us as though by all the rules of the game, the North will win again.

The war of the 60's under President Abraham Lincoln, was to save the Union, but the war today, under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, is to save the South. President Roosevelt has declared war upon the low standard of living of the people in the South, their economic enslavement and their ill-fed, ill-clothed and ill-housed conditions. The President knows that the majority of the people want to be helped but the South's statesmen do not want the people to have help. Hence, a war between these statesmen who claim to represent the people of the South, and the President of the United States, is imminent. The question is, who will win?

As we have said, the people of the South want help from the government they need help badly; many of the people are actually dying for lack of assistance . . . assistance which communities are unable to give them; some are in dire need with no place to turn. Will they be helped? Are they willing to give up the doctrine "of state's rights" to deal with its own problems? Is the South willing to give up her prejudices and accept salvation, or will it cling to its follies and perish? If the South does choose to cling to its follies and refuse the help of the government then it wins. But if it wins this way what will it have gained? If it gains the satisfaction of being left alone to pursue its old course the people will lose in the end. It will still be a backward South. But, if on the other hand, the President with all the influence of his office is able to help to scrub despite her backward statement, then the battle for the good of the people of the South will have been won.

Of course it is hard to say at this

BOY TELLS OF NINE- TEEN YEAR SLAVERY

LOS ANGELES, — (ANP) — He thinks his name is Robert Perkins; he thinks he is about 19 years old. He knows he was held a slave on a Louisiana plantation from early childhood until his escape about seven months ago. On that plantation, there are about 60 Negro men and about ten women. The men and women are kept separate and forbidden to even hold conversations with one another.

The men work in the field from 5.30 a.m. until 8.30 at night. The plantation is encircled by a wire fence, and if any person dares try to escape, he is shot and then beaten to death while his fellow slaves hold him hand and foot.

At night the slaves are locked each in a separate cabin without any toilet facilities. Bloodhounds keep an eternal vigil to check any attempt to escape.

Slaves for the plantation are recruited from the neighboring town of Lafayette and induced to go to the farm under the promise that they will be paid \$25 per month. They are never paid and their families never see them again.

A SIT DOWN STRIKE

MEMPHIS, (ANP) — Something new in sitdown strikes was launched among cotton picking members of the inter-racial Southern Tenant Farmers union in an effort to increase wages to \$1 per hundred pounds. In leaflets distributed by the union, cotton pickers were urged to sit down in their homes and "wait until prices reached \$1 a hundred pounds before picking another boll." H. L. Mitchell, white, secretary, said the strike call went out to 20,000 members in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

time just how the tide will turn. It is pretty hard to help any individual or group who will not be helped . . . the Christ himself cannot save a man unless that man will be saved. What will the people of the South do?

—St. Louis Argus