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New Negro Opinion Newspaper, September 1, 1934

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NEW NEGRO OPINION

NEW NEGRO
OPINION
WASHINGTON'S PROGRESSIVE WEEKLY

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Saturday, September 1, 1934

LAWLESSNESS AND MORE LAWLESSNESS

Increase in mob spirit and mob violence during the past few months should cause all America to stop and consider. The monster of mob violence, unrestrained in its destruction of innocent and defenseless Negroes, is rapidly becoming generally out of control. No longer are attacks limited to one race or to one section of the country.

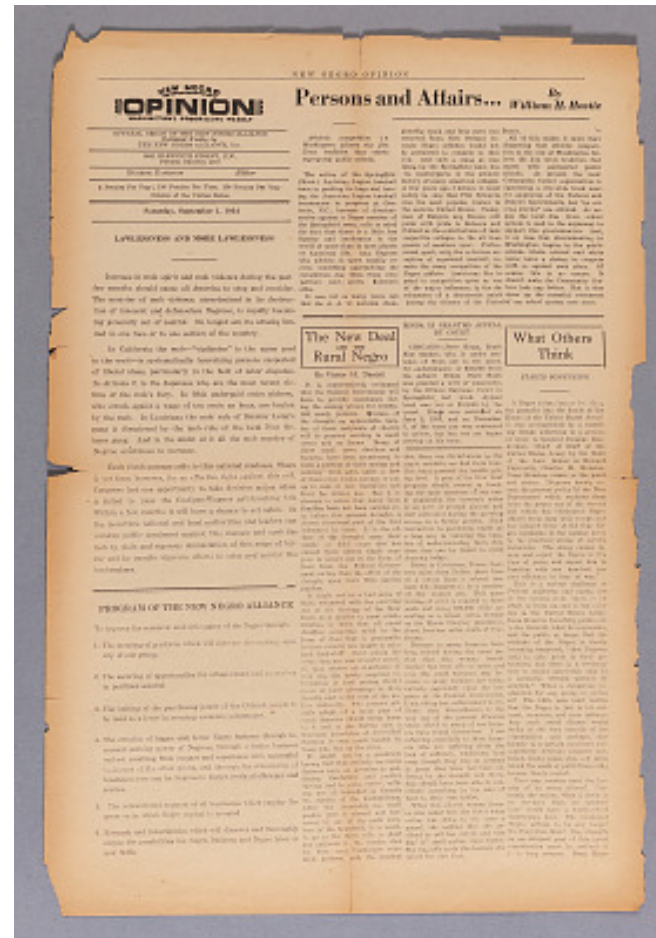
In California the mob—"vigilantes" is the name used in the west—is systematically terrorizing persons suspected of liberal ideas, particularly in the field of labor disputes. In Arizona it is the Japanese who are the most recent victims of the mob's fury. In Ohio underpaid onion pickers, who struck against a wage of 10 cents an hour, are beaten by the mob. In Louisiana the mob rule of Senator Long's gang is threatened by the mob rule of the local New Orleans gang. And in the midst of it all the mob murder of Negroes continues to increase.

Each fresh outrage adds to this national madness. There is yet time, however, for an effective fight against this evil. Congress lost one opportunity to take decisive action when it failed past the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill. Within a few months it will have a chance to act again. In the meantime national and local authorities and leaders can awaken public sentiment against this menace and curb the mob by plain and vigorous denunciation of this reign of terror and by equally vigorous efforts to seize and convict the lawbreakers.

PROGRAM OF THE NEW NEGRO ALLIANCE

To improve the economic and civic status of the Negro through:

1. The securing of positions which will increase the earning capability of our group.
2. The securing of opportunities for advancement and promotion in positions secured.
3. The uniting of the purchasing power of the Colored people to be used



as a lever in securing economic advantages.

4. The creation of bigger and better Negro business through increased earning power of Negroes, through a better business outlook resulting from contact and experience with successful businesses of the other group, and through the stimulation of businesses now run by Negroes to higher levels of efficiency and service.

5. The concentrated support of all businesses which employ Negroes or in which Negro capital is invested.

6. Research and investigation which will discover and thoroughly analyze the possibilities for Negro Business and Negro labor in new fields.

Persons and Affairs... by William H. Hastie

Athletic competition in Washington follows the Jim Crow tradition that starts segregated public schools.

The action of the Springfield (Mass.) Amtrican Legion baseball team in packing its bags and leaving the American Legion baseball tournament in progress at Gastonia, N.C., because of discrimination against a Negro member of the Springfield team, calls to mind the fact that there is a little less bigotry and intolerance in the world of sport than in most phases of American life. And Negroes who achieve in sport usually receive something approaching recognition due them from competitors and sports followers alike.

It was not so many years ago that the A.A.U. national championship track and field meet was removed from New Orleans because Negro athletes would not be permitted to compete in that city. And such a stand as was taken by the Springfield team has its counterparts in the athletic history of many American colleges. A few years ago I believe it could safely be said that Phil Edwards was the most popular runner in the eastern United States. Today, men of Rutgers and Brown still point with pride to Robeson and Pollard as the contributions of their respective colleges to the all time greats of amateur sport. Professional sport, with the notorious exception of organized baseball, veals the same recognition of the Negro athlete. Americans like to point to competitive sport as one of the major influences in the development of a democratic spirit among the citizens of the United States.

All of this makes it more than disgusting that athletic competition in the city of Washington follows the Jim Crow tradition that starts with segregated public schools. At present the local Community Center organization is sponsoring a city-wide track meet for employees of the Federal and District Governments but "no colored entries" are allowed. As usual, the local Jim Crow school system is used in the argument to support this discrimination. And, it is true that discrimination in Washington, begins in the public schools where colored and white never have a chance to compete with or against each other. Of course this is no excuse. It doesn't make the Community Centers look any better. But it does show up the essential rottenness of our school system once more.

The New Deal and the Rural Negro

By Victor H. Daniel

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It is conservatively estimated that the Federal Government will have to provide sustenance during the coming winter for 16,000,000 needy

persons. Because of the drought an appreciable number of these recipients of charity will be persons residing in small towns and on farms. Many of these small town dwellers and farmers have been accustomed to raise a portion of their spring and summer food, and, quite a few of these even would manage to put up in cans or jars vegetables and fruit for winter use. But it is strange to relate that many farm families have not been raising even before this unusual drought, a decent fractional part of the food consumed by them. It is the effect of the drought upon their staple or field crops that has caused these almost single croppers to accept aid in the form of food from the Federal Government rather than the effect of the drought upon their little garden patches.

It might not be a bad move if those entrusted with the carrying out of the ideology of the New Deal, as it applies to rural rehabilitation to insist that all rural dwellers accepting relief in the form of food that is procurable in their vicinity are taught to raise such food-stuff. Next season the areas that are now drought stricken may receive an abundance of rain and the newly acquired information in food raising should prove of some advantage to them directly and to the rest of the nation indirectly. The present pitiable plight of a large part of rural America should bring home to it and to the Nation that a thorough knowledge of diversified farming is very much needed by those who live on the farm.

It might not be a genuinely known fact that entirely too many farmers have an aversion to gardening. Gardening and poultry raising and to some extent milking, are all regarded as beneath the dignity of the husband-man. After the invariably too small garden plot is plowed and harrowed by one of the male members of the household, it is usually up to the farm wife to plant and cultivate it. No wonder then we have such inadequate vegetable gardens, and, the moment that there are disturbances in the staple markets, we find farm families hard pressed for health giving food. A part of the New Deal program should consist in teaching the male members of our rural population the economic value of an acre of ground planted and well cultivated during the growing season as a family garden. Such instruction in gardening might go a long way in reducing the number of under-nourished farm children that can be found in rural America today.

Down in Corsicana, Texas, fourteen miles from Dallas, there lives on a cotton farm a colored tenant who happens to be a member of the weaker sex. This mere woman of color is reputed to have made and saved \$20,000 while operating as a tenant cotton farmer on the Byron Cheyney plantation, about fourteen miles south of Corsicana.

Because so many farmers have been evicted during the same period that this woman tenant farmer has been able to make and save this small fortune; and because so many farmers are today entirely dependent upon the largesse of the Federal Government, I am citing her achievement to indicate that diversification is the way out of the present dilemma under which so many of our farmers have found themselves. I am referring especially to those farmers who are suffering from the lack of sufficient, wholesome food even though they live at present in areas that have not been affected by the drought and therefore should have been able to contribute something in the way of food to their own tables. When this colored woman farmer was asked how she fared when cotton was down to six cents a pound, she replied that she declined to sell her cotton and "jes kep' it" until prices were better. She was able to do this because she raised her own food.

BINGA IS GRANTED APPEAL BY COURT

CHICAGO - Jesse Binga, South Side banker, who is under sentence for embezzlement of \$32,500 from the defunct Binga State Bank was granted a writ of supersedas by the Illinois Supreme Court in

Springfield last week. Appeal bond was set at \$15,000 by the court. Binga was convicted on June 2, 1933, and on November 3, of the same year [[year]] was sentenced to prison, but has not yet begun serving on his term.

What Others Think STARTS SOMETHING

A Negro citizen has at last flung on the gauntlet into the hands of the Heads of the United States Army! It was accomplished by a scratching rebuke addressed in a personal letter to General Douglass MacArthur, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, by the Dean of the Law School at Howard University, Charles H. Houston. Dean Houston comes to the point and states: "Negroes keenly resent the present policy of the War Department which excludes them from the newer ars of the service and which has eliminated Negro officers from duty with troops and has reduced three of the four Negro regiments in the regular army to the practical status of service battalions. The Army cannot ignore and reject the Negro in the time of peace and expect him to function with one hundred percent efficiency in time of war."

This is a serious challenge to Federal authority and marks one of the boldest steps taken in an effort to force an end to the color bar in the United States Army. Dean Houston forcefully points out to the General, what he represents, and the public at large, that the attitude of the Negro is slowly becoming tempered; "that Negroes used to take pride in their patriotism, but there is a tendency now to accept patriotism only as a necessity, without warmth of emotion." What a dangerous realization for any group to arrive at! The white man must realize that the Negro is just in his cultural, economic, and civic infancy. Any such social disease would strike at the very entrails of his organization and perhaps, due largely to a certain emotional eusceptibility; however, properly nurtured, would provide rich soil upon which the seeds of patriotism could become firmly rooted.

Does any country need the loyalty of its every citizen? Certainly the axiom, "that a chain is no stronger than its weakest link" would have a double-edged significance here. The awakened Negro refuses to be any longer the Forgotten Man! Our strength as an integral part of this great organization must be realized is it to long prosper. Dean Hous-

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