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National Museum of African American History and Culture

Pamphlet: The Negro Worker Vol. 2 No. 6

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patriotic demagoguery, and as a result, have been able to put over one of the biggest swindles in Trinidad, an important naval base for the North Atlantic Fleet. Thanks to their Jesuitic manoeuvres, they succeeded in getting one of the officials in the Department of Education to close up one of the oldest elementary schools supported out of public revenue and turn the building over to them in order to establish a club for sailors visiting the island. It is here the ladies of easy virtue congregate to make their contacts with the navy men. What do these people care about the fact that thousands of little black children are now denied the opportunity of learning to read and write by having their schoolbuilding taken away from them. These women, like their men, realize that the British navy is the greatest instrument which they have to keep the Negroes and other colonial peoples in subjection, so they leave no stone unturned to see that all the wants of their armed protectors are fully satisfied.

Here is another case which serves to show how Empire Day is utilized in promoting British Business in the colonies.

In a circular letter sent out to the African and West Indian press, by these Empire "builders", the natives of the Empire were asked on Empire Day, 1932, and in the succeeding years, to agree to use at their tables solely the food products of British lands.

The circular advances the following reasons:

- "1. In humble acknowledgment of the gracious dispensation of Providence which enables the British Empire to produce every article of food needed for human sustenance. (Emphasis ours—G.P.)
2. To aid and encourage the food producers of the Empire to develop the resources of their lands. First preference should be given to the products of the Colony. Then the products of other parts of the Empire.

The help is sought of all private house-holders and managers of all clubs, hotels and restaurants, asking them:

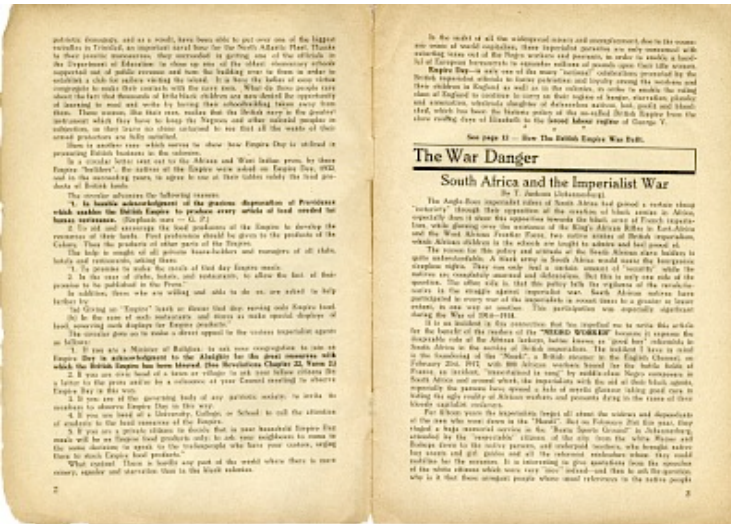
- "1. To promise to make the meals of that day Empire meals.
2. In the case of clubs, hotels, and restaurants, to allow the fact of their promise to be published in the Press."

In addition, those who are willing and able to do so, are asked to help further by:

- "(a) Giving an "Empire" lunch or dinner that day, serving only Empire food.
- (b) In the case of such restaurants and stores as make special displays of food, reserving such displays for Empire products."

The circular goes on to make a direct appeal to the various imperialist agents as follows:

- "1. If you are a Minister of Religion: to ask your congregation to join on Empire Day in acknowledgment to the Almighty for the great resources



with which the British Empire has been blessed. (See Revelations Chapter 22, Verse 2.)

2. If you are civic head of a town or village: to ask your fellow citizens (by a letter to the press and/or by a reference at your Council meeting) to observe Empire Day in this way.

3. If you are of the governing body of any patriotic society: to invite its members to observe Empire Day in this way.

4. If you are head of a University, College, or School: to call the attention of students to the food resources of the Empire.

5. If you are a private citizen: to decide that in your household Empire Day meals will be on Empire food products only; to ask your neighbors to come to the same decision; to speak to the tradespeople who have your custom, urging them to stock Empire food products."

What cynism! There is hardly any part of the world where there is more misery, squalor and starvation than in the black colonies.

2

In the midst of all the widespread misery and unemployment, due to the economic crisis of world capitalism, these imperialist parasites are only concerned with extorting taxes out of the Negro workers and peasants, in order to enable a handful of European bureaucrats to equander [[squander?]] millions of pounds upon their idle women.

Empire Day - is only one of the many "national" celebrations promoted by the British imperialist officials to foster patriotism and loyalty among the workers and their children in England as well as in the colonies, in order to enable the ruling class of England to continue to carry on their regime of hunger, starvation, plunder and annexation, wholesale slaughter of defenceless natives, lust, profit and bloodshed, which has been the historic policy of the so-called British Empire from slave raiding days of Elizabeth to the forced labour regime of George V.

See page 12 - How The British Empire Was Built.

The War Danger

South Africa and the Imperialist War

By T. Jackson (Johannesburg).

The Anglo-Boer imperialist rules of South Africa had gained a certain cheap "notoriety" through their opposition of the creation of black armies in Africa, especially does it show this opposition towards the black army of French imperialism, while glossing over the existence of the King's African Rifles in East-Africa and the West African Frontier Force, two native armies of British imperialism, which African children in the schools are taught to admire and feel proud of.

The reason for this policy and attitude of the South African slave holders is quite understandable. A black army in South Africa would cause the bourgeoisie sleepless nights. They can only feel a certain amount of "security" while the natives are completely unarmed and defenceless. But this is only one side of the question. The other side is, that this policy lulls the vigilance of the revolutionaries in the struggle against imperialist war. South African natives have participated in every war of the imperialists in recent times to a greater or lesser extent, in one way or another. This participation was especially significant during the War of 1914-1918.

It is an incident in this connection that has impelled me to write this article for the benefit of the readers of the "NEGRO WORKER" because it exposes the despicable role of the African lackeys, better known as "good boy" reformists in South African in the service of British imperialism. The incident I have in mind is the foundering of the "Mendi", a British steamer in the English Channel, on February 21st, 1917, with 800 African workers bound for the battle fields of France, an incident, "immortalised in song" by middle-class Negro composers in South Africa and around which, the imperialists with the aid of their black agents, especially the parsons have spread a halo of mystic glamour taking good care in hiding the ugly reality of African workers and peasants dying in the cause of their bloody capitalist enslavers.

For fifteen years the imperialists forgot all about the widows and dependants of the men who went down in the "Mendi". But on February 21st this year, they staged a huge memorial service in the "Bantu Sports Ground" in Johannesburg, attended by the "respectable" citizens of the city from the white Mayor and Bishops down to the native parsons, and underpaid teachers, who brought native boy scouts and girl guides and all the reformist misleaders whom they could mobilize for the occasion. It is interesting to give quotations from the speeches of the white citizens which were very "nice indeed - and then to ask the question, why is it that these arrogant people whose usual references to the native people

3

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