

Editorials

The Carolina Times

Comments

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117 E. Penbody St., Durham, North Carolina
Published at Durham, North Carolina
Every Saturday by
THE CAROLINA TIMES PUBLISHING CO., Inc.

Phone J-7871 L-2421

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$2.00 Per Year in Advance; \$1.25 Per Six Months
in Advance; 65c Per Three Months in Advance;
Canada, \$3.50; Other Countries, \$5.00.

Entered as second-class matter at the Durham
Postoffice, under act of March 3rd, 1879.

Advertising Department—
Those desiring information concerning national
advertising rates, address all communications to
CAROLINA TIMES, Durham, N. C.

SATURDAY JULY 3, 1937

CRIME IN DURHAM

This is the second editorial we have written concerning crime and the delinquency of Negro boys and girls in the city of Durham, and the Carolina Times hopes that the citizens of Durham will be aroused after this is read to the extent that they will take steps towards passing a law against children under sixteen years of age being in the streets after 9 o'clock at night.

The rioting which followed the Joe Louis-Braddock fight last Tuesday night, a week ago, was participated in, for the most part, by youngsters in their early teens. This could not have been had the city possessed a curfew law, and the Negro citizens of Durham would have been saved a lot of emprossment caused by a bunch of young hoodlums who have never learned to regard the rights of others.

The present term of Superior Court has been forced to hold six murder trials in the past two weeks. All of the defendants tried have been Negroes. Is this not enough to remind decent people in this city that there is something wrong somewhere? So terrible has the condition become that it is a marvel if this city reaches Monday morning without one or two murders having been committed over the weekend.

What is Durham going to do about crime? You, Mr. Citizen, while reading this, ought to ask yourself the question: "What am I going to do about crime among Negroes in Durham? You may sit complacently by and think yourself safe within the walls of your own home, but even they do not guarantee you and your loved ones against the midnight prowler and murderer. Crime marches on in Durham, and tomorrow may carry the news that you or some one dear to you has been killed by a fiend in human flesh.

The Carolina Times does not look for utopia. Somehow we Americans have been taught to expect a certain amount of crime within a city the size of Durham, but we do feel that the high rate of crime which Durham has could be cut in half if law-abiding citizens can be aroused to the task of clearing this city of so many criminals who lurk in certain streets and dives.

Durham can at least strike at embryonic criminals by passing a law which would force children in doors after a certain hour at night. Durham can not afford to pay the price it is paying for criminals and crime. Durham must be made a safer and better place in which to live.

THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

Recent reports from the state of Alabama say that outstanding newspapers of that state and other sources of influence are determined to perfect a compromise in the Scottsboro case before it comes up for trial July 6. Unless we are sadly mistaken the only compromise the International Labor Defense will accept will be absolute freedom for all nine of the Scottsboro boys.

Doubtless there are many white people in Alabama who are tired of the disgrace which the Scottsboro case has brought their state and would like to have it over with as soon as possible. There are others who look at it from purely a financial standpoint, and would like to save the state the expense of having another trial of the case. Be that as it may the Carolina Times votes against any form of compromise which will not give the Scottsboro their absolute freedom.

If the nine Negro youths deserved the death penalty when they were first taken from a freight train, and accused of criminal assault they deserve it now. On the other hand if they are innocent of the crime now they were innocent of it then, and should not receive punishment in any degree. About the only charge that can be brought against them is hobnobbing. Punishment for riding the freight train will have to be shared by the two white girls and their white male companion as well. The nine Negroes have already spent six years behind prison bars, and will need no further punishment as far as we can see.

The International Labor Defense will take all these and more facts under consideration before it submits to a compromise. The state of Alabama will find, if it has not already done so, that the I. L. D. is a tough adversary with which to attempt to compromise, when such means an injustice to those the organization has decided to defend.

Looking at the situation from all angles the state of Alabama is in a tough spot. To continue the case means more unfavorable publicity for her people, and to free the boys means an admission that the law in Alabama was in error when it accused the boys of criminal assault. Either way the case goes means sympathizers for the International Labor Defense, and likewise more members.

Professionals and amateurs use the same tools, but otherwise they have practically nothing in common.

American white people won a tremendous victory themselves on Tuesday night when Joe Louis was crowned heavyweight champion of the world. For many years it had been said that no Negro would ever again be champion. Many Negroes believed this, and precisely all were skeptical about it right up to the knockout punch in the eighth round. When Joe was crowned, then of course the skeptics folded their tents and silently marched away, but not without much joy in their hearts.

Kelley Miller Writes.

IS INDEPENDENT RACIAL ECONOMY POSSIBLE?

Mr. Ira Lewis, managing editor of the Pittsburgh Courier, writes me concerning a statement in one of my recent releases to the effect that the Negro is no more willing and able today to support higher institutions of learning than he was fifty years ago. This statement arouses in his mind the query: whether are we drifting economically? Are we going ahead, remaining stationary, or drifting backward? The issue which he raises is of such serious significance that I have decided to base several releases upon it.

The regrettable split in the NAACP was precipitated by the unwillingness of that militant organization to relax its militancy for political and civil rights and devote a greater part of its attention to economic and industrial well-being. Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, who created the growth upon which the NAACP has thriven, insisted that the demands of the times require a switch from agitation for abstract rights to construction of a program of economic interest.

"Take no heed what ye shall eat, what ye shall drink, or where-withall ye shall be clothed," is applicable only to the sanctified few who have withdrawn themselves from the affairs of this world and consecrated themselves to the spiritual affairs of the world to come. Someone has said that you cannot eat the Constitution; neither can we eat political rights or the doctrine of equality; but eat we must. In fact, we live in an exacting economic age. The prevailing philosophy of our day and generation is expressed in a nutshell—"Man eat man last."—Man is what man eats. Our energies should be divided in proper proportion between the theoretical and the practical.

Dr. DuBois' philosophy that the Negro should establish his own intraracial economy is subject to severe limitation. It is impossible for any submerged minority to do this. The Catholic in this country cannot establish an independent economy based on religion. The Jews never undertake to conduct business for Jews only. Women, who constitute half of our population, would fail utterly in attempting to establish a feminine economy. It is only where the Negro is completely segregated that he may hope to operate small establishments for his own group. Even there, he is hopelessly outclassed if the business world with its greater resources and resourcefulness should enter into competition.

To a limited extent only, the Negro is permitted to combine or compete with the economic system; race prejudice forbids. The effort, several years ago, to employ colored clerks and salesmen in stores operated by Jews in Negro districts in Chicago, has succeeded to an encouraging degree;

but the Negro nowhere has shown the ability to "beat the Jews" in catering to his own needs and necessities. It is only where the white man's race prejudice and pride do not permit him to conduct Negro business that the Negro makes any considerable headway. The Negro barber is the most successful business man in the race. It is because the white barber does not deign to compete with him. Likewise the Negro undertaker enjoys a large measure of success for the same reason; but even in these lines the Negro performs the manipulative end of the business, equipment and supplies are furnished by white dealers.

Negro business almost always is limited to sumptuary pursuits such as catering to the appetite or decorating the person. He rarely ever engages in general business, such as dry goods, hardware, furnishing and general supplies.

If any large Negro congregation in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore or Chicago should give their pastor 200 to equip himself from hat to shoes and from overcoat inward, stipulating that he must deal with members of his own race only, he would have to return the money unexpended. This illustration pictorializes the actual business backwardness of the race.

By reason of his lack of resources, and experience, he is wholly unable to compete with aggregation of capital as required by the syndicated and the chain stores. As the bulk of our business is absorbed by the associated enterprises, the Negro is eliminated from the process. A few decades ago any person with a few hundred dollars could open a grocery store and make a living for himself and family, but this is no longer so, since the grocery business has become organized and syndicated. The Negro's only hope is to induce the chain stores to employ Negro clerks in neighborhoods catering exclusively to Negro customers.

I used to believe, and still hope to a degree, that the Negro will find opportunity on the farm as a self-proprietor, but since the farming industry has become so belittled and hardpressed, the Negro's chances even in this field are rapidly dwindling. If the cotton picker should ever prove successful, the Negro would be excluded from the only occupation in the South in which he has an indispensable place.

I do not wish to paint the picture more gloomy than the facts justify, but there is no use to shut our eyes to the ugly facts before us. The Negro is essentially a handworker and a day laborer, dependent more and more upon large aggregation of capital and industrial organization. No immediate hope of escape for this is seen as long as race prejudice which has become a part of the mores of the American people operates with present degree of severity.

Health Talk

(By W. E. Richardson)

Raleigh — "It requires fifteen grains of lime a day, during pregnancy, to provide the child with sound teeth," said Dr. Ernest A. Branch, director of the Division of Oral Hygiene of the State Board of Health, who insists that mouth health is a matter of education, plus the exercise of common sense principles of living, based on cooperative effort.

"A quart of Grade H milk a day, consumed by the expectant mother will provide the necessary fifteen grains, with three grains to spare. Corrective methods are necessary, of course, in handling dental cases which require such; but, in our oral hygiene program, the real objective is prevention, starting even before the birth of the child. The enamel caps of all the first teeth are formed then. That is why the expectant mother should not only keep herself fit but provide the child with those elements necessary to make it well-born, from a health standpoint. The moment a woman is aware of the fact that she is to become a mother there are some very definite duties she owes both to herself and the prospective child. She should consult a competent physician and a good den-

tist and do what each says. Nor does the mother's responsibility end with the birth of the child, in the matter of oral hygiene. It continues through the nursing period, when she still transmits to the child that which she takes in to her own system, in the way of food.

"When the child enters school he is taught mouth health by the school dentist and his health is inspected. Parents of those who are able to take care of their children's dental needs are sent a post-card by the school dentist, calling attention to these needs and suggesting the family dentist be consulted for a complete examination and whatever work is necessary. The school dentist works only for the underprivileged, but he teaches mouth health to all."

Here Dr. Branch called attention to a new publication which has been assembled and is being sent out of his office, to supply the requests for plans of North Carolina's oral hygiene program that have come not only from States throughout the Union but in some instances, from foreign countries. This booklet is prepared

in such a way as to emphasize the fact that this State is handling mouth health problem from an educational, or teaching, standpoint. "Beginning with the expectant birth of her child is recorded, our teaching activity continues with the pre-school, primary, grammar grade and high school students, the students in the teacher training institutions, civic clubs, and parent teacher groups.

The Message of Education
"This piece of educational literature is being sent out," Dr. Branch said, "not only to outside inquirers but is being distributed throughout North Carolina, in order to help make our people more mouth health conscious and to carry the teaching principle to the minds of those who are interested in this very important subject." In other words, the book, if it meets the requirements intended for it, in the hours and days of preparation that preceded its issuance, will carry an educational message.

"All the work was done by staff members in the Oral Hygiene Division. On the front cover, which is black, there appears a drawing, in white ink, of a normal tooth, showing enamel, dentine and pulp. The contents of the book are carefully divided, so as to convey a very clear message to those the publication is intended to help and to give inquiries outside the State the benefit of North Carolina's helpful experiences and accomplishments, in order that they may incorporate into their own programs such portions as they might wish to adopt.

The book also contains sample sheets of educational material and facsimiles of postcards and letters sent to parents by school dentists, in referring these children to their own private dentists for examinations, diagnoses and necessary work. All such communications are mailed to the parents and not sent by the children themselves.

A radio message also is contained in the book, together with copies of news releases, 26,600 copies of which go out twice a month to school papers all over North Carolina during the scholastic season. These papers are edited and managed by the school

children, whose interest quite naturally is stimulated through the reading of these releases, which are also read by teachers and parents, as a part of the oral hygiene program involving education. "Little Jack and his Puppet Show, which have covered so many hundreds of miles in North Carolina and were loaned the District of Columbia schools, at their request, are represented in this educational booklet, and there is also a description of the Board of Health's Oral Hygiene School, the only one of its kind in the United States, which is held at Chatham Hill, in connection with the public health school there.

"We hope to get our educational message over more and more as time goes on," Dr. Branch concluded, "and we are gratified not only with the results so far obtained but with the way our teachers, parents, children, dentists and physicians are cooperating in this very important health undertaking." We believe that all true advancement comes through the processes of education, and that is why we are emphasizing the value of dealing with mouth health from an educational standpoint.

NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

TRUSTEE SALE OF LAND UNDER AND BY VIRTUE OF THE power conferred upon the Trustee in a certain deed of trust dated April 30th, 1931, and executed by Holt McClain and wife Bertha McClain and duly recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Durham County, in Book of Mortgages 203, at page 14; default having been made in the payment of the same, the undersigned Trustee will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the Courthouse door in Durham, N. C., on FRIDAY, JULY 2nd, 1937 at 12 o'clock Noon, the following described land, to-wit:

BEGINNING on the East side of Chatham Street, 153 feet South 24 deg. 55' West from the southeast intersection of Chatham and Baxter Streets, running thence South 68 deg. 45' East 85.1 feet to the Northwest cor-

ner of Lot No. 2, map hereinafter referred to; thence with the Western line of Lot No. 2, South 28 deg. 20' West 60 feet; thence North 68 deg. 40' West 37.7 feet to Chatham Street; thence with Chatham Street, North 24 deg. 55' E 50 feet to the beginning. Same being Lot No. 1 of the N. C. Mutual Life Insurance Company's property, as surveyed and platted by S. M. Credle, April 23rd, 1931; for more definite description see Map on record in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Durham County, Book 3, page 203. Further reference is also made to Commissioner's Deed from W. L. Foushee, Commissioner, to Sam Barbee, Book of Deeds 47, at page 589, Durham County Registry. Further reference is also made to deed from Pattle Barbee to Sam Barbee, Book of Deeds 48, at page 222, Durham County Registry. See deed from E. R. Merrick, Trustee to R. N. Harris duly recorded in Book of Deeds 93, at page 533, Durham County Registry, and deed from R. N. Harris and wife to North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, Book of Deeds 91, at page 652.

No. 2.—BEGINNING at a point on the West side of Matthews Street, South 21 deg. 55' West 50 feet; thence North 89 deg. 40' West 87.7 feet to the southeast corner of Lot No. 1 map hereinafter referred to; thence with the eastern line of Lot No. 1, N 23 deg. 20' E 50 feet; thence S 68 deg. 45' E 85.1 feet to the point of beginning. Same being Lot No. 2 of the plat hereinafter referred to and being property belonging to the N. C. Mutual Life Insurance Company as surveyed and platted April 23, 1931 by S. M. Credle, C. E. See Map of said property on record in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Durham County, Plat Book 8, at page 203. (Further reference may be obtained from the conveyance in Tract No. 1.)

THIS SALE will remain open for ten days to receive increase bids as required by law. This

property is sold at the request of the holder of said note. Dated this 31st day of May, 1937.

E. R. MERRICK, TRUSTEE
M. HUGH THOMPSON, ATTORNEY

NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

TRUSTEE SALE OF LAND UNDER AND BY VIRTUE OF THE power conferred upon the Trustee in a certain deed of trust dated September 25th, 1930, and executed by W. C. Glover and wife, Mary Glover, and duly recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Durham County in Book of Mortgages 187, at page 589; and whereas, default was made in the payment of the same, the undersigned Trustee will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the Courthouse door in Durham, N. C., on THURSDAY, JULY 8th, 1937 at 12 o'clock Noon, the following described land, to-wit:

LOT NO. 36 lying on the North side of East Durham Road, fronts 55 feet on said road and runs back a distance of 157.0 feet on the Eastern side and 124.5 feet on the Western side. See deed from Larkin Woods and wife to E. R. Merrick, R. L. McDonald and W. H. Wilson, to Charlie Euse, Book No. 43, page 443. See deed from Charlie Euse (Single) to W. C. Glover and wife dated December 16, 1922 recorded in Book 87, at page 410, Office of Register of Deeds of Durham County.

This sale will remain open for ten days to receive increase bids, as required by law.

This property is sold at the request of the holder of said note.

Dated this 7th day of June, 1937.

E. R. MERRICK, TRUSTEE
M. H. THOMPSON, ATTORNEY

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