

# SELL YOUR TOBACCO IN WHITEVILLE

## MORE REFLECTIONS FOR COLORED PEOPLE

The Bible writer said: "You shall hear the truth and the truth shall make you free." But I will put it this way: You shall hear the truth and the truth shall make you mad—but it may do you good just the same.—The other day I wrote an editorial entitled: "For Colored People Only,"—calling attention to how colored people undermine and bushwhack each other by writing anonymous letters "to the white folk down town," especially in the relief organizations, trying to hurt their Negro investigators, supervisors and WPA leaders. I showed the editorial to Miss Richetta G. Randolph, clerical executive at the NAACP office and office of one of the large tobacco stores. I appreciated her "blast" on that editorial—for whatever she has not learned about Negro Human Nature in the NAACP offices, she has certainly been able to learn in this great Harlem church. Although agreeing with that editorial, she made a suggestion: "Now you or somebody ought to write something about colored supervisors and office clerks in the relief stations, and their attitudes toward the colored people who must go to them. Their arrogance and airs of importance, especially when meeting colored applicants are certainly a part of the problem."

Quite right. Any person, white or black, who is too little for the little position into which he is

put, is exasperating when he is not nauseating with his exaggerated self-importance. As little people perhaps they have kowtowed to others all their lives, and now have a great deal to make others kowtow to them, as soon as they get the authority. And especially do they rejoice with exceeding great joy when they can humiliate some person whom they actually believe to be their superior in human worth. That is one of the worst things about military organization: some little coward with an inferiority complex suddenly finds himself, say, a "sergeant," and actually in command of people whose feet he is not fit to wash,—and the sweetest delight of his shriveled soul is to give them hell.

Have you ever noticed how much more "politeness" a Negro may meet in the shop of a Jew than in the shop of another Negro? Of course, it's not politeness at all. It's just good business, that the colored brother does not seem to understand. In some Negro stores we have often been treated as if they were doing us a favor in permitting us to buy from them. "It's just ignorance," says Miss Randolph. But it's expensive ignorance, and perhaps the costs of it will be its final cure.

Some relief workers forget that they sometimes act as if they are servants of the government, they sometimes act as if they are the beneficiaries and that only the little embarrassed individual standing before them is to be treated as beneficiary. The petty

office-holder dares look at the client as a beggar, while he and Mr. Roosevelt and Uncle Sam are

hardners in the charity business. Of course, all Negro relief workers are not like that. But too

many of them are like that: they like to affect a hard-boiledness and superiority of understanding, striking attitudes as if about to deal with a crook, a cheat, or a good-for-nothing. Really, some

times a Negro applicant meets a more kindly reception from a white functionary than from a black one.

Miss Ruth L. Royster, managing editor of his newspaper, spent Monday in Henderson, N. C., on business.

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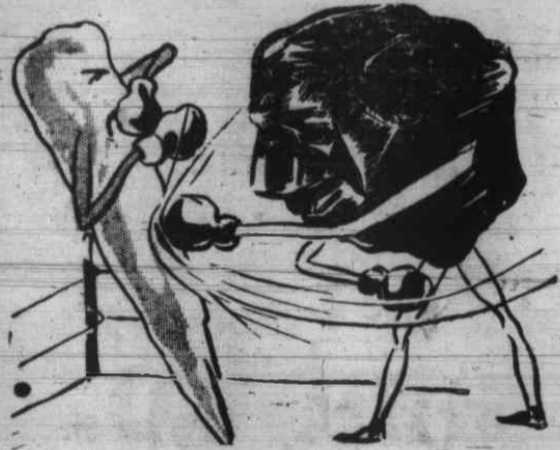
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