

# THE CRUSADER

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## THE WORM TURNS



505

### Congress, the Lusk Committee and the Radical Leaders

A resolution pending in the House authorizes an investigation of the race riots throughout the country. If it is adopted Congressmen will insist that the editors of the Messenger, the Crisis and The Crusader be subpoenaed.—New York World Washington Dispatch of October 6, 1919.

The Negro question is at last before the Nation. It is now acknowledgegely of national concern and not the private business of the murderous South. Where the Old Time Negro Serviles have failed, the radical leaders, backed up by the militant spirit of the New Negro, have scored a tremendous success. The race question, long carried around in the hip pocket of the white Southerner as his own *private and personal property* which no one (not even the downtrodden race most concerned), but

a Southern gentleman, Suh, was capable of understanding and discussing, is now to have the ear of the American public and of the world. The question of the rights of the American Negro is to be taken out of the domain of a private Southern question and treated as a matter affecting all sections of the nation and deserving the consideration of all.

There will almost certainly be a Congressional investigation and so, open and national discussion of the race riots and, we hope by the aid of Northern representatives, of the causes leading up to them.

And, strange as it may appear, it is from the white South comes this call for a Congressional investigation. Silent during the

long reign of mob murder and persecution directed against the Negro, or opening its mouth only to shout the admonition of "Hands off—this is our affair," at the slightest sign of Northern inclination to intervene to stop its barbarous pastime, it is the White South that has squealed at the first taste of Negro steel, at the first sight of its own blood, at the first grim evidence of the Negro's new-found determination to fight back in *self-defence*. With the Negro refusing to be killed like hogs at the sweet pleasure of the Dixie savages, there is "real apprehension" among the Southern whites, as we are informed in another part of the New York *World's* Washington dispatch of October 6:

There is real apprehension among Southern people in Washington that a series of deadly race wars will break out in some of the States largely populated by Negroes if the papers that print inflammatory stories are not suppressed or barred from the mails.

Note the threat of suppression of the agitators, and the total absence of any kind of interest in the *causes for the agitation and unrest*. In truth it is not with the causes of unrest that "investigators" like Congressman Byrnes of South Carolina and the Lusk Committee are concerned. Their sole concern is with those who *dare* to agitate against the wrongs of the people and with the removal or suppression of these *agitators*.

Both the Lusk Committee and the Southern Congressional "investigators" of Negro unrest are motivated in their "investigations" not by the slightest interest in locating the real causes underlying Negro (or other) unrest or by desire to remove or ameliorate these causes, but *principally and primarily by the malicious desire to remove or suppress the radical leaders of the race*. They are not concerned with the causes for agitation and protest, but only with the agitators.

The same threat of suppression evident in the second quotation from the *World's* Washington dispatch is also to be seen in the boast of the Lusk Committee that they have put ten radical (white) publications out of business, since beginning their Czarist activities in New York City.

On October 17, this Lusk Committee, operating at 51 Chambers street, summoned before it the editors of THE CRUSADER and *The Messenger* to tell what they knew "in regard to matters concerning the public peace, public safety and public justice." This investigation was carried out in inquisitorial style under an ordinance passed in 1917 by the State of New York to meet

certain war-time emergencies only, but under which the editors of *The Messenger* and THE CRUSADER were denied the privilege of having counsel and threatened with prosecution for criminal misdemeanor, "punishable by fine or imprisonment," should they divulge the nature of the inquisitorial catechising to which they were subjected.

A Congressional investigation should be conducted in a fairer manner and should be open to the press and public. If the resolution in the House calling for such an investigation goes through, and the editors of *The Messenger*, *The Crisis* and THE CRUSADER are subpoenaed to appear before Congress, it is just barely possible that Congressman Byrnes and others of his ilk below the Mason-Dixon line may be enlightened as to the real causes underlying Negro unrest. It is barely possible. But we do not look for such a gratifying development. "There are none so blind as those who will not see" and the Southerners in Congress (having in mind the United States Constitution we cannot refer to them as representatives) are not really interested in the causes of Negro unrest, but only, as said before, in the removal or suppression of those who dare to stand up for the rights of our downtrodden race. If really interested in locating the causes of Negro unrest they would not need to ask for a Congressional investigation, but merely to take a look into their own guilty hearts and States. A glance at the lynching record for the period between 1889 and 1918 would be sufficient to reveal one of the principal reasons for Negro unrest. During this period *two thousand four hundred and seventy-two Negro men and fifty Negro women were lynched*. In the present year, from January 1 to October 1, the record is *fifty Negroes lynched*. For 1918 the score was sixty-three lynched! Add to these lynchings the wanton attacks on Negroes by white hoodlums (as in Washington and Chicago), the unpunished raping of Negro women by white degenerates (and the knowledge that Negro men who dare protect their woman are in danger of being lynched, as in the case of the 72-year-old Negro whose act in protecting two girls of his race from white rapists cost him his life), unjust discrimination, denial of suffrage and manhood rights, injustice in the courts and insulting jim-crowism on public conveyances, and the Congressional "investigators" would have a *few* of the principal grievances (which the white press

labels "imaginary") of the Negro and the prime causes of Negro unrest. Remove these and they will destroy that unrest. Suppress radical magazines and jail Negro

radicals and they will only increase the possibilities of a gigantic conflagration. It is the New Negro they are facing, not the Old Serviles.

## FACTS, FUN AND FANCIES

By the Staff

The Negro question passes out of the domain of an immense joke for the white man with the demonstration of the Negro's determination to sell his life dearly.

Formerly we could hear nothing from the white South but "Keep your hands off the Negro question. It's the South's concern," but now comes a terrible yell of "Help! Help! Congress, Help! Investigate! etc., etc." How times do change!

In reference to nothing in particular we want to quote our "noble" president's remark of "Force! Force to the Utmost! Force without stint or limit!" We wonder if it could have had anything to do with the riot at—er, on the Planet Mars.

We wonder, too, if those hifalatin phrases about the "rights of peoples—great and small," "world democracy," "self-determination," "security of life"—to quote only a few—we wonder if they did not have something to do with bringing the Martians to an appreciation of what were their rights? We wonder?

### Ain't This Awful!

"The thin lips of the European and their American descendants are a character that brings them nearer the monkeys."—Oscar Peschel.

Well, well, we must admit Oscar said "a mouthful."

### A Startling Discovery

The *Amsterdam News* of September 10, 1919, page 11, column 3, makes the startling announcement that:

"Many times a good desert has made the dinner a success, but sometimes it becomes quite a problem."

Yep, look at the times it has made dinner a sheer impossibility, according to the testimony of the many who have travelled in the desert.

In the same issue the erudite *Amsterdam* reports that "the air-male service is not

full-grown yet." We wonder if the air-female (service) is.

"What's in a Name?"

Bolshiviki, I. W. W. What does it matter to those who are fighting in the cause? Calling names won't help.

Gary, the High Priest of Capitalism, stands firm for "principle"—whatever that means coming from Gary.

Even in the steel strike both sides have found it possible to quote from convenient Woodrow.

Those benedictions of Rockefeller and his kind are much like the returns of a tolerant thief of an insignificant part of the loot.

"Veterans from France in Parade of Strikers."—Headline.

These the foreign strikers we have heard so much about?

The radical publications have won for the race problem what all the genuflecting antics of the Old Serviles were never able to gain: national consideration and open discussion.

### "WHATSOEVER A MAN SOWETH"

By Genevieve Grandcourt

From Mannheim leveled to the ground,  
To Poland spit and parceled 'round;  
From India under British yoke,  
Egypt and Ireland bent and broke;  
From Serbia's brutal regicide,  
To Austria's autocratic pride;  
From Barb'ry pirates, Boxer raids,  
From Cossack prongs and Spanish blades;  
From Japan, Chili and Peru,  
From Italy to Timbuctoo,  
From north and south the wide world  
through,

And back again to me and you;  
From Yankee lynchings, one by one,  
And plund'ring of the Red Man done,  
From Belgian Congo to the Hun—  
We are not gulltless—NO, NOT ONE!