

The Workers Party, Marcus Garvey and the Negro

1357

What the New Party Stands For—Sure, the A. B. B. Sent Delegates. Only Garvey Is Fool Enough to Believe Negro Should Prefer to Fight Alone When He Could Have Allies.

By CYRIL V. BRIGGS

UNDER the heading of "THE RACE PROBLEM," the program of newly organized "Workers Party of America" has the following commendable plank on the Negro:

"The Negro Workers in America are exploited and oppressed more ruthlessly than any other group. The history of the Southern Negro is the history of a brutal terror of persecution, rape and murder. The formal abolition of slavery made it possible for the northern capitalists to penetrate the south and to bring cheap Negro labor north. This was, however, detrimental to the interests of southern capitalists, and they have sought by every means to maintain the enslavement of the Negro. It is in order to subjugate him and break his spirit that secret murder societies such as the Ku Klux Klan have been established.

"Because of the anti-Negro policies of organized labor the Negro has despaired of aid from that source, and has either been driven into the camp of labor's enemies, or been compelled to develop purely racial organizations which seek purely racial aims. The Workers Party will support the Negroes in their struggle for liberation, and will help them in their fight for economic, political and social equality. It will point out to them that the interests of the Negro workers are identical with those of the white. It will seek to end the policy of discrimination followed by organized labor. Its task will be to destroy altogether the barrier of race prejudice that has been used to keep apart the black and white workers, and weld them into a solid union of revolutionary forces for the overthrow of their common enemy."

The fact that the A. B. B. saw fit to send fraternal delegates to the convention at which the new party was organized appears to have seriously affected the nervous system of Marcus Garvey, who, believing that at last he had "something on the A. B. B.," sent out a heated college yell of a news release, claiming that the A. B. B. was "unearthed and shown up in its true light"—as "colored radicals" and Bolsheviks.

In pursuance of its policies of encouraging and utilizing all divisions within the white race and of uniting against our oppressors all elements of the discontented of their own and other races, the African Blood Brotherhood sent fraternal delegates to said convention. Sure, we sent delegates! And what of it?

It is not worth while to have the support of a party which embodies the very essence of the Negro Liberation Struggle in its program and which has eleven daily newspapers in the various foreign languages spoken in this country, twenty-eight weeklies and a chain of monthlies? A party with a membership of over 50,000 in the United States, among them the pick of the white workers, and having powerful international connections? A party that possesses several million dollars worth of property in printing plants, buildings, etc., etc., and having fraternal organizations in affiliation which count a membership of over 200,000? Is the support of such an organization to be sneezed at? Or, should we rather seek, per Garvey's idiotic plan, the support of kings and governments that have been for centuries engaged in the domination, rape and slaughter of the Negro race? Which is the more intelligent plan? A fruitful alliance with those

whose interests are identical with ours or a barren alliance with those whose interests lie in our exploitation and oppression and are, therefore, diametrically opposed to our interests? Surely, only prostitutes who were out to milk the Negro financially and who, therefore, have no thought of doing real effective liberation work could make the servile suggestion that the Negro subordinate his interests to the interests of his proven enemies. Only a Garvey could sink so low as to lick the boots of the traditional enemies and enslavers of the Negro race by sending telegrams to the crowned heads of Europe, and otherwise fawning upon them, for recognition of his "leadership."

Marcus Garvey, upon learning that the A. B. B. sent fraternal delegates to the convention of the Workers Party of America, did his best to capitalize the anti-radical sentiment of the white press and set the "best" white people about our ears. How well he succeeded can be learned by the fact that the papers, with one exception, ignored his "red" release against the A. B. B., and that exception, The New York Evening Globe, gave him a sort of publicity he did not court. Said the Globe in its issue of December 29, 1921:

BLACKS TURN RED

**Universal Negro Improvement Association
Prints Bolshevik College Cheer Scoring
Blood Brotherhood.**

The Universal Negro Improvement Association, which runs a steamship line with a crap-shooting captain, who keeps the line tied to the dock and which plans some day to make Africa all black under the rule of a black emperor, the same to be the Honorable Marcus Garvey, D. S. O. E., president general of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, well, this same association issued a pronouncement today attacking the African Blood Brotherhood as "Negro radicals."

The African Blood Brotherhood, says the pronouncement, sent delegates to the Communist convention at Labor Temple Sunday, thus "being unearthed and shown up in its true light." The statement bears this at its head:

Bolsheviki, Bolsheviki, Bolsheviki. Bang!
We belong to the international gang.
Are we Bolsheviki? We should smile.
We're for revolution all the while

And that, comments the college cheer-leader obviously employed by the Universal Negro Improvement Association as press agent, was the keynote of the Communist convention and of the "colored radicals" attending. (New York Globe, Dec. 29, 1921.)

THE REASON

The conference is quite ill at ease
In regards to their friends, the Chinese.
There's no country finer
To exploit than China—
The Japs must not get all the cheese.

—Rassferiefo.

ALLIANCES

(Excerpt from A. B. B. Program)

There can be only one sort of alliance with other peoples and that is an alliance to fight our enemies, in which case our allies must have the same purpose as we have. Our allies may be actual or potential, just as our enemies may be actual or potential. The small oppressed nations who are struggling against the capitalist exploiters and oppressors must be considered as actual allies. The class-conscious white workers who have spoken out in favor of African liberation and have shown a willingness to back with action their expressed sentiments must also be considered as actual allies and their friendship further cultivated. The non-class conscious white workers who have not yet realized that all workers, regardless of race or color, have a common interest, must be considered as only potential allies at present and everything possible done to awaken their class-consciousness toward the end of obtaining their co-operation in our struggle. The revolutionary element which is undermining the imperialist powers that oppress us must be given every encouragement by Negroes who really seek liberation. This element is led and represented by the Third Internationale which has its sections in all countries. We should immediately establish contact with the Third Internationale and its millions of followers in all countries of the world. To pledge loyalty to the flags of our murderers and oppressors, to speak about alliances with the servants and representatives of our enemies, to prate about first hearing our proven enemies before endorsing our proven friends is nothing less than cowardice and the blackest treason to the Negro race and our sacred cause of liberation.

(Complete copies of the A. B. B. Program may be obtained by remitting fifteen cents in stamps to headquarters.)

DISARMAMENT

O, Gentlemen! why not disarm
The hordes who daily do us harm,
Who ply their trade, relentlessly
On suffering Humanity?

Disarm the bed-bug,
Disarm the flea,
Disarm the mosquito,
The cootie and bee.
Disarm the barbers of their tongues
And back-yard songsters of their lungs.

But while there's money to be got
By sending folks off to be shot;
Just keep your side-arms at your hips
And hold on to those battleships.
For, my last pair of socks, I'll bet
That we are booked for more wars yet.

—Andrea Razafkeriefo.

London, Sept. 9—Serious rioting by the unemployed in many parts of the country, the worst being in Sunderland and Dundee, indicates the gravity of the unemployment problem here.