

Conditions of Negro Masses in U. S. Is Tragic, Homes Being Broken Up, Admits Boss Agency

By CYRIL BRIGGS.

NEW YORK.—After severely apologizing to the bosses for bringing up the "distasteful question" of unemployment, the National Urban League, in a pamphlet just published on "How Unemployment Affects Negroes," admits that "the conditions of employment among Negroes are not improving, and in some sections of the country are apparently becoming worse."

"In only a few cases are conditions improving for Negro workers. In most instances conditions have either grown worse or continued unsatisfactory during the past four months."

Characterizing the situation of the Negro workers as tragic, the pamph-

Negro and White Workers! Fight Starvation and Persecution! Demonstrate May Day!

let points out that the percentage of Negro unemployment is in every case far higher than among other workers:

Percentage of Unemployed Higher.

"In every instance where figures are available, the percentage of Negroes among the unemployed is higher than their population percentage warrants, sometimes running as high as four times the proportionate amount, and in some instances, five and six times as high. It is of particular significance that the high-

est disproportionate figures are found in Northern industrial centers where the Negro is limited to unskilled occupations, and is in truth the marginal worker. This is not to be taken, however, to mean that the disproportion does not appear also in Southern communities where the percent of cases handled by relief agencies is also in excess of the percent Negroes form of the total population." These figures clearly do not take into consideration the tens of thousands of Negro workers and

farm laborers who are not on the lists of the "relief" organizations and who are denied relief.

Admission of gross discrimination by government agencies against Negro workers is also made:

Discrimination by Government

"There is abundant evidence that in the public works programs of the various states and the national government Negro workers are receiving scant consideration, and is a not uncommon practice in some cities to deliberately oust Negroes from jobs in order to make room for unemployed whites."

Although the Urban League heads have been among the Negro misleaders in the campaign to displace

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foreign born workers, they admit in the present pamphlet in connection with the campaign of Ku Klux elements to displace Negro workers that such campaigns are aimed at fooling the masses:

"This practice which obviously will not solve the problem of unemployment, increases the number of Negroes in the bread lines...."

Crisis Used for Wage Cuts

The crisis is being used by the bosses to undermine the standards of the working-class and wage cuts are common, the report admits:

"Needless to say that wages have been cut—races competing with each other in order to gain favor with employers."

Figures are also given showing how effectively capitalism is breaking up the homes of the workers:

Outlook "Discouraging"

"At no time in the history of the Negro since slavery has his economic and social outlook seemed so discouraging. The present period of unemployment is sapping the foundations of Negro family life. . . . The records of Family Relief Organizations indicate an alarming increase in the number of Negro families wholly dependent on charity in almost every city in the country. In Cincinnati relief cases among Negroes increased from 85 to 800 from December, 1929 to January, 1931. In Greensboro, North Carolina, the cases for relief increased 300 percent in the period of a year. In Chicago Negroes, although but 4 percent of the population, constitute 25 percent of the total number of relief cases. In Baltimore 34 percent and in Dayton 50 percent; in Philadelphia 40 percent and in Pittsburgh 44 percent." Sole dependence is here again placed by the Urban League on the figures of relief organizations which clearly do not cover the whole situation, as thousands of Negro workers denied even this fake "relief" can testify.

What the Urban League fakers are most concerned with, however, is the effect of the miserable conditions of the Negro masses on the status of the Negro professional and business groups:

Must Demonstrate May Day

"That the economic structure of the entire Negro race is in an alarming state of disrepair, with dire effect upon business and professional interests dependent upon the patronage of Negro wage-earners."

Their next chief concern is the growing rest permeating the Negro masses.

The terrible misery facing the working-class generally, and the Negro masses in particular, emphatically point to the necessity of the workers, native and foreign born Negro and white, coming out in gigantic mass demonstrations on May First, in continuation and intensification of the struggle against starvation, wage cuts, persecution of Negro and foreign born, imperialist war, and for real relief and unemployment insurance to be paid by the bosses and their government and administered by the workers without discrimination because of race or place of birth.