

Dr. Du Bois Misrepresents Negrodom

By Cyril V. Briggs

This publication desires to register an emphatic protest against the compromising tactics of Dr. William Edward Burghardt Du Bois at Paris.

When Dr. Du Bois, taking advantage of a public sentiment worked up by others than himself, jumped out of the very hot pot in which he had found himself as a result of his cringing, compromising editorial on "Close Ranks" and his willingness to accept a post in the Intelligence Department of the government, and placed himself (in the estimation of himself and friends, at the head of a movement in which until his departure for Paris he had shown little interest,) indignant as we were at the fraud we held our peace in the hope that, having gotten to Paris, he would aid in bringing about the fulfilment of the aspirations of the African race everywhere for a free Africa. But DuBois at Paris has been the same compromiser and traitor to the Negro's legitimate aspirations as DuBois in America during the war. It is now easy to understand why he was allowed to go to Paris when passports were refused to other Negroes—these others elected by popular will to present the aspirations of the Negro to the peoples of the Allies and, if possible to the Peace Conference.

Du Bois, the unelected, was granted the passport privileges refused to the Negro's elected delegates! And DuBois sailed in the brave company of Moton! In spirit he has apparently been in the same company ever since. His "exposure" of the ill-treatment of the Negro soldiers was a mild farce. Knowing much he told little. With facts and information easy to hand he assiduously refrained from using anything that might embarrass the government or get his publication in bad with Bourbon Bursleson.

And the work of the Pan-African Conference of which we are told Du Bois is "founder and secretary" is along the

same line of compromise and genuflection. While hundreds of colored men died in Nyassaland in 1914 and thousands are today dying in Egypt, Morocco and Nigeria for the African's right to govern himself this Du Bois' "Pan-African Conference" makes a mockery of the sacrifices of these Africans by presenting the Peace Conference with a set of resolutions calling merely for "better" white government of the black man.

How is a thing that is rotten to the core to be made better? Government without the consent of the governed is iniquitous and there are no two ways about it. European super-imposed rule has brought more suffering than anything to the African. The African is heartily sick of it. Native uprisings are the rule and not the exception. The entire continent of Africa is seething with dissatisfaction of alien rule. President Wilson and the rest of the Allied leaders have from time to time declared for the "self-determination of peoples." What reasons can DuBois have for not seeking to apply this principle of "self-determination" to the case of the Africans? Does he believe them incapable of governing themselves? Any people is more capable of governing themselves than is someone else of governing that people. Super-imposed rule may annihilate a people—it usually does!—but it can never elevate them. The African peoples got along fairly well before the advent of the cultured barbarians. They gave birth to civilization and erected such time-defying monuments as the Sphinx and pyramids. They can get along again without the white man. Better, in fact, without him than with him! And that Africa ardently desires her freedom is to be seen in the revolts taking place today in Egypt and Morocco and the uprising in Nigeria and other parts of Africa. What are Dr. Du Bois reasons for misrepresenting Africa?