

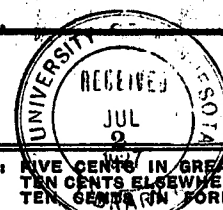
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THE Negro World

A Newspaper Devoted Solely to the Interests of the Negro Race

Reaching the Mass of Negroes
The Best Advertising Medium



VOL. XXII. No. 21

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1927

PRICE: FIVE CENTS IN GREATER NEW YORK
TEN CENTS ELSEWHERE IN THE U. S. A.
TEN CENTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Release of Marcus Garvey Seen Near As Delegation Has Heart-to-Heart Talk With Attorney General Sargent

A week ago a delegation of nineteen Negroes, men and women, headed by Hon. Frederick A. Toote, Acting President General of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, sat in an office of the Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., and for over two hours presented to Hon. John R. Sargent, Attorney General of the United States the claims of the Hon. Marcus Garvey, Founder and President General of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, to executive clemency. The delegation, we learn, found Mr. Sargent in a very patient, affable and serious mood, disposed to weigh very carefully the reasons given by the various spokesmen for the immediate release from prison of a man whose incarceration has provoked more agitation and worldwide chagrin than that of any Negro within living memory.

It is safe to say that not since the imprisonment of the late Eugene Debs, Socialist leader, has such a storm of protest arisen from the masses against the legalized punishment and persecution of a single man. But the appeals and protests of the people in the case of Debs hardly approached in intensity and fervor and volume those that the confinement of Marcus Garvey has evoked. Then, the war hysteria distorted many men's judgment, and it was not difficult for the authorities to ingratiate themselves with thousands by an attitude of unyielding severity toward Debs. Today, in the case of Marcus Garvey, only a negligible minority of the citizenry of the United States would be unwilling to concede that the victim should be set free without further delay.

Frankly Mr. Sargent informed the delegation that there were two arguments that should be elaborated in Mr. Garvey's behalf: One, the condition of his health; the other, the absence of any intention to defraud.

With this guidance from Mr. Sargent the delegation could not but make a profound impression on the first law officer of the Federal Government. It would be a very ingenious soul, indeed, who could convince that Marcus Garvey, who when he entered Atlanta Penitentiary had a bank account of less than fifty dollars, could have sought to enrich himself at the expense of his followers. What Marcus Garvey set out to do he did—revolutionize Negro thought—and it would be as rational to believe that Lindbergh in the midst of his epochal hop to Paris was thinking of dollar-grabbing as that Marcus Garvey, sowing the seeds of Negro nationhood with lavish hand, had a single thought for personal gain.

As to the great leader's health, it gives his friends and followers real cause for alarm. As he went about his deathless task, he never spared himself, and a splendid constitution was seriously undermined. In prison his ills were aggravated, and the prison doctors can furnish the best evidence.

The case of Marcus Garvey cries aloud to high heaven for redress. His immediate release is desired by millions, and the common canons of justice which should suffice to free him have failed.

Marcus Garvey, gentlemen, is in poor health; his certainly was not the intention to defraud a single person. For these reasons, then, if for none other, he should be returned to his race without delay.—The Editors.

