

# SOCIAL EQUALITY FOR THE NEGRO

By JOHN H. OWENS.

Whenever the Negro asks for certain rights and privileges that are being denied him, the white bourgeoisie attempt to throw a smoke screen around the issue by screaming "social equality" Deprecatingly, the Negro "leaders" insist that Negroes themselves do not desire social equality. "In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers," said the late Booker T. Washington, "yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress." But can we?

The development and contradictions of capitalistic society precluded the possibility of any submerged and exploited group or class enjoying social equality or, for that matter, any equality within the social order. Unequality of opportunity is the keystone of any capitalistic state. The blacks are the most intensely exploited group in America; hence it is not difficult to understand that they must remain content with a minimum of social rights and privileges just so long as the present system is dominant.

Optimistic Negroes have held forth the opinion that social privileges would axiomatically follow the acquisition of education and property. The Negro has acquired both; but this has only intensified the struggle—social equality has been pushed further into the future. In the south, in things social—and in everything—the blacks and whites are as separate as the fingers. Even a bourgeois inter-racial commission could hardly de-

clare conditions in Dixie ideal—for the Negro at least.

However, in Dixie, white men and colored women do enjoy a peculiar kind of social equality. Many thousands of mulattoes have come out of the south within the past decade. It is patent that they must have resulted from closer social contact than the mere passage of a white man and a colored woman on the same side of the street.

In its final analysis, social equality is merely equality of opportunity within the social order. This, under capitalism, the Negro can never realize. It is also denied the white wage worker, perhaps in a less obvious degree.

Black and white, you have a common problem! Link up hands against a common enemy, the capitalistic system of production, that dooms you forever to a life of social ostracism.

Help the rising giant of international Communism bury forever in a sea of oblivion, race prejudice, caste prejudice, social and religious prejudice.

## Ex-Greek Minister Coming.

LONDON, England, Jan. 21.—G. Roussos, former Greek foreign minister, is coming to the United States on a mission to obtain the balance of \$13,000,000 due on the \$15,000,000 credit extended to Greece by the United States.

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