
GREETINGS TO NEGRO WORKERS

By A. L o s o v s k y

(The following article was written by Comrade Losovsky of the Russian Trade Unions and General Secretary of the Red International of Trade Unions, in 1928 for the first number of the "Negro Worker", Bulletin of the Negro Bureau of the R.I.L.U. It is of interest still to the entire working class, that is why we are reprinting it. — E d i t o r.)

Down to the present time the Negro worker was a step-child in the proletarian family, a step-child because the political and trade union organizations of the white workers, that arose scores of years ago suspected the coloured workers. This suspicion of the Negro worker is a characteristic feature of the whole

reformist labour movement. In its attitude to the coloured workers International Reformism upholds the racial superiority of the whites. Even when a reformist comes out in defence of the coloured workers he feels his own superiority. The theory of the higher and lower races, determines the policy of International reformism. Indeed, mutual relations between the white and coloured workers on the basis of equality cannot be understood by it, just as the bourgeoisie of the old capitalist countries consider that coloured workers and especially Negroes were made by the Lord God to be inhumanely exploited. Reformism is not only imbued with the spirit of imperialism, but has also all those racial prejudices that help the bourgeoisie to mobilize the toilers against their fellow workers of other races. In order to realise how perverted are many leaders of the labour movement, it is sufficient to remember that the Amsterdam International and the Pan-American Federation of Labour on the question of coloured workers and especially the Negro workers, differ in no way from the European and American bourgeoisie.

Despite this, activities among the Negroes are not reckoning with these objective facts. That is why the Fourth RILU Congress especially stressed the necessity of conducting serious organizational and political activities among the Negro workers.

The Negro question applies not only to the United States. There are also millions of Negro workers in Africa, West Indies, etc. The foremost Negro workers must seriously take up the organization of all the Negro workers, no matter where they may be. The Negro workers must be drawn into the political and trade union movement. Trade unions of the Negro workers must be built up where the unions of the white workers refuse them entry. Papers must be published for the Negro workers, for this potential force must be turned into an active force, into an instrument that will free the exploited masses from the capitalist yoke. The Negro workers must understand that the racial questions will be solved together with the social question. Real equality and fraternity of workers of all colours will be forged in the joint struggle against capitalism. Let the foremost Negro workers continue to organize and revolutionise their fellow workers — the Red International Labour Unions will render them every aid in their difficult but fruitful work.
