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EDITORIAL

A FAKIR IN EBONY.

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A convention was held in Boston last week of the National Negro Business Men's League, and the condition of the colored race was discussed by the "leaders." This discussion brought out one point clearly; that is, if the Negro race has not developed as well along some lines as the more enthusiastic champions of emancipation believed it would, it has produced a choice collection of fakirs, who only differ from the Gompers-Arthur brand in color of skin.

Here is how they establish their right to belong to the fakirs' association:

"The colored people are passing through a severe economic struggle. They are face to face with the most efficient and exacting people the world has ever known. Their death rate in the cities is nearly twice as great as that of the whites. This is entirely due to low wages, poverty and ignorance. The dross is being driven off."

This was said by one of the delegates, who is described as a "close student" of the industrial conditions of the Negro race. In addition, he goes on to contest with the other Judases for the position of Chief Green Goods Man with the following neat touch:

"The colored people are rapidly acquiring property and thousands are saving money. According to the census of 1890 they had representatives in every business listed in the census schedule."

This was the keynote of the convention. The ninety-nine per cent of the race, "the dross," was being plundered and killed: what of it? Was not the one per cent "saving money" and able to hold conventions, where they could advertise their business skin games and political pulls?

The consciousness of class displayed; the unconcealed contempt for those of their race who were not "business men," is one of the most disgusting and disheartening sights to the believers in human rights; no thoughts of freedom or

happiness for the honest, hence unfortunate, members of the race. The black working man has already become a different, an inferior, creature to these nasty apers of bourgeois methods.

The class struggle produced the fakir, black and white. To smash the fakir and the capitalist class for whom he battles, the wage workers of every color must unite against the capitalist of every color. Only then will we see the finish of the white fakir and the fakir in ebony.

**Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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