

SOVIET NEGRO COLONY

Revolutionary Message to U.S. Negroes

Otto Hall, national field organizer for the Negro department of the Workers (Communist) Party, who has recently returned from the Soviet Union, dropped in to the Daily Worker to tell of a visit he made to a Negro colony in the Caucasus, as well as to announce a tour he is making throughout the country.

Hall has spent three years in the Soviet Union, studying the problem of the nationalist movement of oppressed races and colonial peoples under imperialism. Upon one of his trips to the south he came across a Negro colony which has been in Russia for over 300 years. They are now a part of the Caucasian Soviet Republic, a small autonomous republic on the Black Sea.

Negro Peasants.

There are 600 Negro families there, of whom about 50 are still almost purely Negro—the rest having intermarried with the neighboring whites. They are peasants, growing the staple crop of that region—tobacco, and produce some of the finest tobacco grown anywhere in the world.

Since the Russian Revolution they enjoy full participation in the government. Several members of the colony are high officials, some of them chairmen of the district and village soviets, and some members of the central committee of the All-Union Communist Party. Before the Revolution this colony was in a comparatively low state of culture, and this was particularly true of the masses. These had no schools, hospitals, or any of the modern conveniences known to more advanced countries.

Came From Africa.

The tribe originally came from northern Africa, says Hall, from where they were brought by the Turks, who used them as mercenaries in their attempts at the military subjugation of the native people. Later these slave soldiers turned against the Turks and helped to drive them out. Since the climate was congenial and the cultural level of the native people was much the same as theirs, the tribe remained there.

When Hall visited them, members

of the colony were surprised to know that there were Negroes in the United States. They knew that Negroes were to be found in Africa, since this was traditional knowledge, handed down by word of mouth from one generation to another. When he told them of the segregation and terrorism to which American Negroes were subjected, they were emphatic in their expression of sympathy. Their spokesman requested Hall to give the following message to their fellow-Negroes in America: "The only way to lift the oppression under which the American Negroes suffer is by the establishment of a proletarian government in the United States."

Hall will speak in the chief cities of each district of the Workers Party—in all, about 40 to 50 cities. His first meeting is to be in Baltimore on Sunday, Nov. 28, and then he will go southwest to Southern California, north to Seattle and back east to New York. The speaking and organizing tour he is making will take about two months and will be under the auspices of the Negro department of the Workers (Communist) Party.

HAVANA, Nov. 15 (UP).—The United Fruit liner Ulua docked today from New York after one of the roughest trips in the ship's history. A number of the passengers were slightly injured when the vessel was tossed about on gigantic waves during a 90-mile gale encountered off Cape Hatteras Monday.

W. I. R. Tag Days. Today and tomorrow. Give generously to the fullest extent possible for the destitute strikers in New Bedford and the miners.

First Soviet

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