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# American Negro Labor Meet Opens With Gigantic Mass Demonstration in Chicago

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The American Negro Labor Congress, the first of its kind to be held in the United States, opened its sessions yesterday at the Metropolitan Community Center, 3118 Giles Avenue [Chicago], with a gigantic mass meeting with workers of all races participating.

The persecution of the Negro in America has become one of the most paramount issues among Negro workers. In Detroit and Cleveland, attempts have been made to keep the Negroes in segregated districts. In Philadelphia and Cleveland Negro children are forced to attend Jim Crow schools. In Chicago a Negro church was bombed in an attempt to scare Negroes from residing in the district.

## **Discuss Race Bars.**

The American Federation of Labor continues its passive opposition to the anti-Negro bars raised by our international unions. Negro workers are unable to join hands with white workers in a common struggle against the class that exploits them both. The Negro in American industry is the most underpaid and overworked and is often used by the bosses in strikes to crush the struggle for better conditions.

These are some of the problems that face the first gathering of Negro workers and working farmers in America. Last year, the Sanhedrin met [Chicago: Feb. 11-18, 1924], but there the Ne-

gro worker received but little consideration. The Negro worker has now decided to act for himself.

### **Delegates Arrive.**

All day long delegates that had been sent by organized and unorganized longshoremen, cotton and sugar cane farmers, steel, pottery, and turpentine workers, kept arriving at the headquarters of the American Negro Labor Congress at 3456 Indiana Ave., where they registered, received their badges, and were then taken to a nearby hotel where delegates are being quartered.

### **Real Work Starts Monday.**

The real work of the congress will start today [Oct. 26, 1925] with a discussion on the American Negro and the trade unions. In the evening a mass meeting will be held at which speakers of both races will speak on the theme which occupied the day's session.

On Tuesday [Oct. 27], racial persecution, Jim Crowism, and racial segregation will be discussed and acted upon.

On Wednesday [Oct. 28], the relation of the Negro to American political life will be discussed.

On Thursday [Oct. 29], the task of the American Negro in the anti-imperialist movement taking place in Egypt, India, Morocco, Syria, and other sections of the world will be discussed.

### **Abolish Peonage System.**

On Friday [Oct. 30], the task of organizing and educating the Negro farmer will be discussed. The peonage system which exists in the South is the important issue for the farmer delegates to the congress and its discussion will result in strong action being taken by the congress to abolish this system.

### **International Ball Saturday.**

Saturday [Oct. 31] will be the day when workers of all races will mingle at the international ball arranged by the American Negro Labor Congress as the windup of the congress and as the means to raise funds to carry out the program adopted by the delegates at the congress.

The congress has also arranged for musical numbers and other artistic talent to participate at the opening session meetings.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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