

# PROF. BOAS PREDICTS RACE AMALGAMATION

May Be Retarded by Legislation,  
but Cannot Be Avoided,  
He Tells Negroes.

## MEANS NEGRO ELIMINATION

Union of White Fathers and Black  
Mothers Will Bring This About—  
Danger in Reverse Conditions.

Race amalgamation was advocated as the solution of the negro problem in the United States last night in the Berkeley Theatre, in West Forty-fourth Street, by Prof. Franz Boas of Columbia University. Prof. Boas, who has the Chair of Anthropology at Columbia, spoke under the auspices of the National Negro Committee. He said:

"The problem of race antagonism between the negro and European races in America will be solved inexorably by the leveling of the degrees of distinction between the negroes and whites by the amalgamation of blood. This may be retarded by legislation, but it cannot be avoided. The end will be accomplished by the elimination of the most pronounced type of negro.

"The result of such amalgamation as has already occurred shows that the proportion of negro blood becomes less as the amalgamation progresses. Most of the cases—the great majority of the cases of mixed types—are the children of white fathers and black mothers. Such a mixture tends inevitably to reduce the amount of negro blood, and means, in the end, the elimination of the negro type. There would be danger that this process would not work out into race amalgamation if the mulattoes were children of white mothers and black fathers, but such is the case only in a negligible percentage of cases."

Prof. Boas took issue with the theory that mulattoes have none of the virtues of either of their parent stocks, but the vices of both.

"There is a grave doubt," he said, "whether the cases which are commonly cited against the mulatto are not the result of the social conditions under which he lives rather than any evil inheritance from either parent."

Prof. Boas spent much time discussing whether either the white or the negro race might be considered superior one to the other. He said this would depend "on their remoteness of type from a hypothetical common ancestor." He said that the negro was "less remote as regards facial formation and weight of brain," while the white "was less remote in formation of certain bodily features." He said that neither type might be considered superior, since each appeared to be a "specialized development along different lines."

The difference in brain weight between the two races, Prof. Boas said, did not interfere with the mental capacity of the negro, since, though there was a greater proportion of brains smaller than the average brain among the negroes, and a greater proportion of brains larger than the average among the whites, the difference in weight did not exceed the amount of individual variation. The study of the brains of geniuses, criminals, and normal persons by anthropologists, he also said, had shown that brain weight does not bear a fixed ratio to mental ef-

ficiency. Hence, he would pronounce neither race superior to the other.

Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, who is a member of the School Board of the District of Columbia, spoke on the effect of the disfranchisement of colored men on the condition of colored women in the South. Mrs. Terrell said that "the cold acquiescence of the North in the disfranchisement of negro men in the South is treason to the Constitution."

She predicted disastrous consequences to the Nation from this disfranchisement, because she said it would either make the negroes a cowardly, supine, useless race or a race of desperadoes and Anarchists, seeking violent vengeance for their wrongs. Mrs. Terrell repeated her previous declaration that it is impossible for a colored girl to reach virtuous womanhood in domestic service in the South because of the persecution of Southern white men.

Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart of Harvard University declared that on the whole the negro race was rising. He denounced as harmful errors what he called the general belief that only Southerners can form right judgments on the race problem; that the mass of the negroes will not work; that education unfits the negro for the work he was put in the world to do; that negro education breeds crime, and that the negro race has deteriorated since slavery. He advocated a classical education for ten times as many negroes as now possess one, "in order that the race may have leaders fit to develop an educational system."

"The negro who won't work," said Prof. Hart, "is not found in the large cities where there is a demand for labor in the factories. He is not found in the cotton belts. The negro in the cotton belt is industrious, and many of them work their plots on rental arrangements which make industry an object, for they share in the crop. It is only in the smaller cities and towns, where the demand is principally for domestic service, that a shiftless class of negroes, drifted in from the surrounding countryside, is to be found."

"If Booker Washington had been born in slavery times he could have expected to have become nothing better than a trusted butler for a wealthy family, a position for which he would probably have been chosen for his character and ability. The Southerner of to-day would keep other negroes of marked ability simply to be his servants, and views their education to be leaders of their race with selfish alarm. But the interests of the Nation are better served when negroes of ability are so educated that they have an opportunity to be of service to their race."

The afternoon session of the conference was held at the Charity Organization Society Building. William H. Maxwell, Superintendent of the Public Schools; Jacob H. Schiff, Prof. John Dewey, Prof. Kelly Miller, E. B. Du Bois, and the Rev. Horace Bumstead spoke.