

## GARVEYISM

**I**N the present circumstances of "Rt. Hon." Marcus Garvey—the "Negro Moses" and "Provincial President of the Republic of Africa"—Mr. O'Neill might find material for a play as gripping, almost, as "The Emperor Jones." Uptown, at Liberty Hall in Harlem, New York City, Garvey dons robes of green, crimson, and black to preside over his third "world congress" of Negroes, grants titles of nobility, and divides up Africa into "dukedom." Downtown, meanwhile, officials of the United States Department of Justice are preparing for his trial, early this fall, on charges growing out of misfortunes that have overtaken his steamship corporation, the Black Star Line, whereby the \$600,000 invested by hard-working Negroes vanished into thin air.

In his schemes his Black Star Line was "vital." For years, now, he has told his followers that only by supporting the "merchant marine" and linking together the fragments of "scattered Ethiopia" could they hope to liberate Africa, unite it, civilize it, develop it, arm it, and make it a black Zion of refuge and at the same time a defender of black men everywhere. Invariably his speeches, as well as the state documents issued through his newspaper, "The Negro World," led up to "And now a word about the Black Star Line; we must have ships—more and larger ships!"

Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois has gone on record as declaring his belief in the man's honesty, though he long ago foretold the consequence of slipshod business methods. Judge Panken, lecturing Garvey in the Seventh District Court, said, "It seems to me that you have been preying upon the gullibility of your own people, having kept no proper accounts of the money received for investment," but added, "There is a form of paranoia which manifests itself in believing one's self a great man." The Friends of Negro Freedom, however, are less charitable. Their poster, headed "Marcus Garvey Must Go!!!" invites "men and women, white and colored, foreign and native" to Shuffle Inn, where anti-Garveyism challenges Marcus (and the police) every Sunday afternoon.

According to Garvey's figures, Garveyism the world over has 4,500,000 adherents. According to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Belgian Consul has been inquiring about Garvey apropos of unrest in certain Belgian colonies. This has

led the Association to call up the French Consulate, who, according to report, attributed unrest in certain French colonies to the same cause. According to Garvey's own published statement, his newspaper has been excluded from certain British colonies. A page of that paper is printed in Spanish. To reach Spanish-speaking America? Perhaps only to reach the now fairly numerous Spanish-speaking Negroes of Harlem, where a branch of the New York Public Library maintains a Spanish department. In all that relates to Garvey and Garveyism one expects exaggeration. Not long ago an anti-Garveyite statistician reviewed the Provisional President's figures in the light of his finances and concluded that, at most, his followers numbered 90,000.