



# CHICAGO DEFENDER

17 May 1919

## WHERE WE ARE LACKING

THIS PAPER does not like to appear in the role of a common scold, yet it would be recreant to its duty if it did not call attention to some acts of flagrant conduct on the part of our people. Among these there is none that stands out so offensively as the practice as corner loafing. It is not an uncommon thing to see a crowd of two or three hundred young and old, idly gaping about the corners, and especially at the transfer points.

SO GREAT A NUISANCE has it become that respectable women and young girls shrink from running that gantlet of foul-spoken, leering loafers. Professional and business men are loud in their complaints against these insects, who block the entrances to their offices and stores, preventing ingress and egress. 'We have frequently called the attention of the police department to this intolerable nuisance, but for some reason have been unable to obtain any action.

IF OUR ALDERMEN wish to render a great service to the section represented by them, they will take whatever steps that are necessary to remedy a condition that has become an eyesore. They need not be afraid of adverse criticism. They will be supported in this move by all the self-respecting elements in their ward. While paying our respects to corner loafers it would not be out of the way to offer some timely advice in the way of becoming conduct on the part of our people riding on the street cars.

ENTER THE CARS QUIETLY, have your fares ready, and ask for your transfer at the time of paying your fare. This is a rule of the street car company, and the conductor must see to its enforcement, so far as transfers are concerned, or lose his position. Once inside the car, sit quietly and avoid loud talk with your neighbor. Above all things do not attempt a conversation with any one at the opposite end of the car or several seats removed from you. The other passengers are not interested in what you have to say, and the way you say it may give offense.

A LITTLE COMMON POLITENESS, a little of the old-time courtesy which prompts one to say "Excuse me" or "I beg your pardon" gives one the stamp of good breeding and always calls for a favorable notice of the person using such civility.

GENTLEMANLY and unobtrusive conduct on the part of man or woman always excites a favorable impression. And we must not forget those of us living on the avenues and boulevards. Do not sit in the open windows and upon the steps half clad. Do not arrange your toilet in view of the public. These things should be done behind drawn blinds. There is no reason why a Colored neighborhood should be marked by conduct on the part of its residents that belongs to a day that should have long since passed. Such practices may find ready excuse upon the country cross roads of the South, but people living in large cities are intolerable of such things and mark the neighborhoods where these things are observed as plague spots. The pastors of our churches can lend a powerful hand in remedying the evils complained of. Two or three times a week they have large audiences to which they can address themselves. They can render especial service in dispersing the large crowds that congregate around the churches. After the services are ended those in attendance should be told to leave the neighborhood immediately and not loiter about obstructing the sidewalks while indulging in social chit-chat and neighborhood gossip.

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## **SOME “DON'TS”**

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A fierce agitation is being waged by certain classes of citizens against immigration of Southern people to northern cities. It is charged that they are undesirable and are supplanting white laborers in various branches of work. In seeking a remedy to prevent laborers from the Southland securing employment and making an honest living for themselves and their families, every vile thing possible has been said and unlawful acts committed against the men and women who have come to this and other cities of the North, during the past several months, while the Southern white is coming in droves on the same trains and we hear no kicks from any one.

It is evident that some of the people coming to this city have seriously erred in their conduct in public places, much to the humiliation of all respectable classes of our citizens, and by so doing, on account of their ignorance of laws and customs necessary for the maintenance of health, sobriety and morality among the people in general, have given our enemies ground for complaint. We consider it absolutely necessary that a united effort should be made on the part of all law-abiding citizens to endeavor to warn and teach those who by their acts bring reproach upon the Colored people of this city to strictly observe the laws, city ordinances and customs and so conduct themselves as to reflect credit upon themselves: by so doing it will disarm those who are endeavoring to discredit our Race.

### **We Call Attention to Some Things Which Should Be Observed by Our People**

- Don't use vile language in public places.**
- Don't act discourteously to other people in public places.**
- Don't allow yourself to be drawn into street brawls.**
- Don't use liberty as a license to do as you please.**
- Don't take the part of law breakers, be they men, women or children.**
- Don't make yourself a public nuisance.**
- Don't encourage gamblers, disreputable women or men to ply their business any time or place.**
- Don't congregate in crowds on the streets to the disadvantage of others passing along.**
- Don't spend your time hanging around saloon doors or poolrooms.**
- Don't live in insanitary houses, or sleep in rooms without proper ventilation.**
- Don't violate city ordinances relative to health conditions.**
- Don't allow children to beg on the streets.**
- Don't allow boys to steal from or assault peddlers going their rounds during the day.**
- Don't be a beer can rusher or permit children to do such service.**
- Don't abuse or violate the confidence of those who give you employment.**

**Don't leave your job when you have a few dollars in your pocket.**

**Don't work for less wages than being paid people doing same kind of work.**

**Don't be made a tool or strike breaker for any corporation or firm.**

**Don't allow buffet flats or rooms rented with privileges to be conducted in your neighborhood.**

**Don't allow children under 15 years of age to run the streets after 9 o'clock p. m.**

**Don't get intoxicated and go out on the street insulting women and children and make a beast of yourself — some one may act likewise with your wife and children.**

**Don't undermine other people by taking from them their work.**

**Don't appear on the street with old dust caps, dirty aprons and ragged clothes.**

**Don't throw garbage in the back yard or alley or keep dirty front yards.**

**Don't attempt to make an express wagon of street cars.**

**Don't forget street car conductors are bound by rules of the car company which the law compels them to obey.**

**Don't oppose police officers in the discharge of their duty; you should be the one to assist in keeping the peace.**