

SOUTHERN IRONY AND SARCASM INJECTED INTO DEBATE ON ABOLISHING JIM CROW CARS

Those Opposed Ask the Time-Worn Question Concerning the Belief in Social Equality.

TREATMENT IN OTHER CITIES

Washington, D. C., Sept. 8.—Abolition of the "Jim Crow" car in interstate railroad traffic was urged today before the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. Representative Madden, Republican, Illinois, who has introduced a bill requiring "equal and identical rights, accommodations and privileges" for both races on railway trains, urged that it be made part of the Esch railroad bill. Several negro spokesmen appeared with him in behalf of his plan.

"The Government has no right," declared Mr. Madden, "to draft its citizens in defense of its flag and compel them to yield up their lives that the country may be able to live, and at the same time say to those people that their rights are inferior to those of other citizens of the United States."

Representative Madden asked insertion in the general railroad legislation a provision abolishing separate car laws, and maintaining equal service and convenience for the entire traveling public.

"We think the negroes in the South should be treated as in the North," said Mr. Madden. "Our negroes down South knowing they are not welcomed in the white man's coach, don't go in there," retorted representative Saunders of Louisiana. "Negroes in my community are treated better than in your city of Chicago and better than they were in East St. Louis or Springfield, Ill., a few years ago."

"The Chicago incident was an unfortunate one that nobody can explain and which crops out here and there," replied Mr. Madden.

"You are bringing in a bill to force the Negro to ride in the white man's coach regardless of his wishes," deplored Mr. Saunders.

"I want to make the rule uniform throughout the country," rejoined Mr. Madden.

"You didn't believe in uniform law, when you voted on prohibition," shot back Mr. Saunders.

"I wanted the country uniformly well," replied Mr. Madden.

"You believe in the absolute equality of races so far as travel is concerned?" interrupted Mr. Rayburn of Texas.

"Yes, I do," replied Mr. Madden.

"Do you believe in social equality in all respects?" continued Mr. Rayburn.

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To this Mr. Madden made no reply. Southern Congressmen nowadays seem to be patting one another on the shoulder regarding the treatment of their colored brother in the South, and continue to varnish their misconceptions with the plea that the colored people are much better off in their communities than those who live in Washington or Chicago.

Spasmodic fury of man is likely to break out in any locality and is not restricted to any one section. The sudden, blind irresponsible delusion into which our Southern Congressmen have just fallen can only be removed as the light of discretion dawns upon them and leads them to see the vision of their own folly.