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To the Editor of the *New York World*

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Jan. 2 [1915]

FAIR PLAY FOR NEGRO ALIENS

To the Editor of The World: Through your newspaper I desire to appeal to the American Congress and to the people of the United States in favor of fair play and justice in connection with the Immigration Bill now pending before the United States Senate, which by amendment excludes from coming into this country any person of African descent.

The bill, in my opinion, is unjust, unreasonable and unnecessary. It is unnecessary because only a few thousand people of African descent enter this country annually. Practically all of these that do come are mainly from the West Indies and almost none from the continent of Africa. It is evident that many of those who come into this country do not remain permanently, but I find, according to the census of 1910, there were in the United States only 40,319 negroes who were foreign born and only 473 of these had come from Africa.

The bill puts an unnecessary slight upon colored people by classing them with alien criminals.

The bill in its present form would seem to prohibit citizens from the Republics of Liberia, Cuba and Hayti, and also from Porto Rico and Santo Domingo, entering this country, thus placing an unnecessary hardship upon these smaller countries, which would not be done, in my opinion, if they were stronger.

In a personal conversation with a high officer of the Panama Canal Commission he told me that the services of the Jamaican negroes were invaluable in building the Panama Canal. Now that we are celebrating the completion of this great canal, it seems most unjust and unreasonable that the people who contributed in so large a measure toward it should be slapped in the face and told that they cannot enter this country even when they meet the requirements of our Government.

An investigation will show that the colored people who have come to this country from the West Indian Islands and from other foreign countries have proved as a whole to be a law-abiding, intelligent, industrious class. They have never become Anarchists or as a class given trouble to the Government.