

Justice Sleeps
(February 1, 1930)

Although the Constitution declares that our Courts of Justice are opened equally to the stranger and citizen for the “remedies of injuries and for the punishment of crimes”, and “every person injured shall have remedy therefore by due course of law; justice will be done without sale, denial or delay”, we find an injunction case from Crozierville, filed since May of Last year, involving several thousand dollars worth of property, unattended to.

This case is between F.M.A. Porte, Executrix of Estate of the late Conrad C. Porte, (an Estate with heirs) Plaintiff, versus General G.S. Padmore, Administrator of the Estate of Jesse E. Padmore, who died intestate without heirs, Defendant. In our opinion, this breaks the record, and should be made public. During this period, since the injunction was served, Jacob A. Padmore, son of the defendant has been allowed to raid the premises in question, take off products and crops – coffee, sugar canes, fruits, bread stuff, pull up coffee scions – at his pleasure without reporting to any court. Complaints are made in the proper channels, and yet, for some reason, political or otherwise, nothing is done to remedy the situation. Politics has a lot to do with our affairs here, and Professor Buell in a book recently published, declared, unchallenged by the Liberian public, that all the government jobs are held by members of the Whig Party. Are we to infer then, that justice, too, shall only be done without denial or delay, to persons identified with that party?

One of the reasons given that this case has not yet been taken up is that the courts have not had the time; and although the administrator of Jesse Padmore’s estate disobeyed the injunction and was held up for contempt of court, that, even has not been attended to. If the courts are indisposed afraid, or fail to give justice the citizens are unsafe – the peace of the land is uncertain. Must the citizens then take the matter in their own hands? Will the courts then find time to sentence and condemn? Is this the mind of the law?

If the courts fail to deal with an injunction which is a special legal procedure, in which Liberians born and bred are concerned, we sympathize with those coming in and taking their oath of allegiance, and more so with the foreigners (aliens) in our midst! If these things are done in the green tree, what of the dry?

(Foot Prints, Democracy on Trial Edition, Vol. 5 No. 1 April/May 1986).