

General Race News

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR NEW YORK AGE WINS PRIZE

Over Eight Hundred Contestants.

Philadelphia, October 19 — James Weldon Johnson, contributing editor of the New York Age, won the third prize of \$200 in the editorial contest in the Public Ledger. He was one of the three winners who wrote on "Why Charles E. Hughes Should Be Elected." There were also three prizes offered to those who wrote the best essays on "Why Woodrow Wilson Should Be Re-elected." One thousand dollars in prizes were offered on each side.

The judges did not know that the New York editor was a colored man, each contestant being required to sign a pen name. Mr. Johnson wrote under his middle name, Weldon.

His editorial, which appeared on the front page of the Public Ledger Wednesday morning, October 18, severely arraigns the Wilson administration for its vacillating policy.

Mr. Johnson is the author of a number of books, one of which is "The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man," published anonymously in 1912. He also is a contributor to a number of the best magazines. He speaks several languages.

The Age has the following editorial comment on Mr. Johnson's success:

"To win recognition in a contest participated in by eight-hundred trained writers is nothing short of an achievement, and Mr. Johnson has signally distinguished himself, The Age and his race. His accomplishment is another body blow to the arguments of some that the colored man's brain is inferior to the white man's. It would be absurd to pit a colored man of untrained mind against a white man with a trained mind for honors in a contest in which brains were to prominently figure, and vice versa. However, Mr. Johnson has shown what a Negro with a cultivated mentality can do.

"The Age, for a number of years, has claimed the best editorial staff ever collected in Negro journalism. This is no idle boast. Its leading writers are not 'good colored newspapermen,' but good newspapermen, who have measured arms with the best journalists in the country and won recognition. They write well and interestingly on subjects of general concern as well as matters affecting the Negro.

To us it is gratifying that the public—colored and white—is gradually waking up to this fact. In winning third prize in the editorial contest conducted by the Public Ledger, James W. Johnson gives Negro journalism a big boost.

PLAN VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 19.—Juulis Rosenwald, the Chicago philanthropist and others are behind a movement to start a Negro vocational school near Independence.

Charles D. Irvin, of Steubenville, O., has invented a new and useful improvement in skimmers and troughs for blast furnaces. The invention has for its primary object, a novel method for conveying the residue of a skimmer trough to moulds or ladels, thereby dispensing with a side-gate heretofore used in a trough for removing the residue and forming pigs or pieces of iron.

The Arkansas Synod of the Presbyterian Church in U. S. A., had a heated discussion over a proposed report offered against lynching. The motion was defeated, because the majority held that the question was not a proper one for the synod.

Let me leave with you two thoughts, the first, that it is not possible to know a race or a people without contact with them; and second, that Colored and white people are exactly alike in their qualities of heart and their mental abilities where they have had equal advantages. Nothing is worse for a race than to be thought different or odd.—From speech of Mr. Wm. D. Brigham, at Washington.

The strike of the Colored workers in the Panama Canal zone, which began two weeks ago, is about over. An attempt to revive the strike in Colon was a failure.

Ten carloads of Colored people left Alabama for the North last week and the city council of Birmingham became so "het up" over the situation that they have passed a law imposing a fine of \$100 upon any person or persons trying to induce their Colored citizens to leave Dixie.

A newly discovered novel of Alexander Dumas has just been published in England. It is called "The Neapolitan Lovers." Nelson, the great admiral of English history, is the hero.

Howard Drew, the well known Colored sprinter, will locate in Des Moines, Iowa, it is reported. He will engage in the newspaper business, and at the same time will prepare to study law at Drake University.

James A. Cobb, former special assistant United States Attorney, has been appointed as a member of the faculty of the Howard University Law School, to succeed the late A. A. Birney.

William White, Colored private in service schools detachment at Ft. Leavenworth, was sentenced to hang for the killing of Sergt. J. F. Jackson. December 15th was the date set for the execution.

An impending strike of the native labor of Porto Rica has resulted in a hurried call for American Colored labor. It will probably be unheeded from the fact that the wages are exceedingly lower than that of the wage scale of the United States.

The Southern papers assert that the Colored Schools exhibit at the Chattanooga fair is one of the best to be seen.

Over two thousand Colored men are now employed by the Bethlehem Steel Company, at Sparrows Point, Pa. Charles Schwab is reported as saying that the company will give employment to Colored men in any department for which they have qualifications.

The Tri-State Fair at Memphis, Tenn., was entertained by a jubilee chorus of 500 Colored voices, on two occasions last week. The first, on Wednesday, as a matter of program, and the last on Sunday by special request.

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