

WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Annual Survey of the Associated Negro Press for 1926

Looking Back on the General Progress of Colored America—Looking Forward to the Possibilities of 1927

Curfew tolls the knell of the parting year. In America, 12,000,000—Colored America—cross the threshold of the New Year, facing the future with mingled hopes and desires. The year 1926 has lifted and lowered faith in many avenues, but upon the whole, there has been progress, and Colored America takes deep breath to continue the race, handicapped only too often by the hurdles of no understanding, misunderstanding and prejudice; and cheered, betimes, by good will and co-operation by those within and without the fold. The souls of those who lead the way are sorely tried most often, but there can be no giving up in the struggle to find the way out. Colored America goes on—and SINGS

Education

Immediately following slavery, when for 250 years it had been a crime to educate a Negro, wise men and women resolved that the first duty following liberated bodies was liberated minds. Schools were established in all sections of the South, and Negroes were admitted to those North, already established. The war-poor South, per se, could not help, was not so inclined. The white South could not help her own. The blacks' cause appealed to the heart, and afforded an outlet for religious zeal. All religious organizations, and many private philanthropies, opened schools. Many of these flourished; some were short-lived. Some of them still exist, but they are suffering, even the best of them, including Atlanta and Fisk, for immediate finance for current requirements. There are few Negro schools in the South today equal to, or beyond, financial aid.

Education is the big fundamental in understanding and progress. The new white South sees this. More than ever before, through city, county, and state, the white South is backing Negro education in better schools and better teachers. The surface is merely scratched in most places. North Carolina, as a state, remains the shining example in encouraging and helping Negro education. The results are gratifying in a better feeling between the races, more contentment, and finer economic development for both races.

North, there is the problem of assimilation. Migration in many sections increased the enrollments to the point of real problems. Separate schools have become not only a subject of discussion, but in many instances, a reality. Colored America, in the aggregate, opposes separate schools North, where there have been mixed schools. The solution is in sympathetic adjustment to the new conditions. Not only must Colored America be educated, but new outlets must be found for those who qualify for service.

Religion

Colored America is religious. Church property has been our greatest investment. Religious obligations are regarded as sacred, and there are thousands who will "give to the church" when they are in personal need. The leadership of the church is not keeping pace with the congregations. The number of educated young men going into the ministry is far below the need. In the South the Negro minister has been the real leader and guide to the people in his flock, and his influence has been far-reaching.

It is interesting to know that in all the Metropolitan centers of the North there are few of the "big churches" that are not filled to overflowing on Sunday, and other times in the week the organizations function. Many of the churches have constant overflow services. Yet, North and South, there are many thousands who do not attend church. This may be accounted for in two other ways, besides the religious and personal appeal. First, the call of

the outside world, automobiles and radios. Colored America is no different from white America. Second, thousands within the race continue to grow in skepticism because of the white man's religion falling down, so frequently, at the "color line."

Home

The HOME of Colored America has been revolutionized! This is a fact that neither group fully comprehends. A larger realization of this would help in many ways. There would be more general respect.

There are three distinct types of homes in city and rural districts: The Humble, the Middle Class, and the Exceptional. These three types must constantly be reckoned with in all consideration of the homes of Colored America. The humble home must be improved and sanitized.

The great Middle Class furnishes the real background of our general progress and future possibilities. These people not only represent stability, but loyalty; and they look with faith on the future. They are the ones, more than any others, who help Negro business to thrive, who keep up their insurance and savings accounts in banks, who buy and improve their property, and educate their children at least as far as the grades and high schools. They sustain the churches and lodges, and are loyal to the government. If there be real faith in the future of Colored America, it is to be observed in the careful study of this great class.

The home of the exceptional Negro is to be reckoned with. He has weaved through the morasses of American handicaps, and found a firm footing. He has bought, or builded, an exceptional home and furnished it accordingly. He sees life with the same vision of the exceptional white citizen, and chafes bitterly under any imposed limitations. In some respects he is handling the estate of the second or third generation; in most instances, he is enjoying the fruits of his own sacrifices and labors. Of taste in furnishings as well as taste in living there are hundreds of these homes that could be shining examples for any who wish to know of the standards of culture and refinement. They are North, and South, East and West, and to be denied any of the rights of an American because of color, makes those of this class, who pay large taxes and serve humanity, think deep thoughts.

Social

The social standards of Colored America are growing. An exclusive or formal event in any city of America; except probably in wealth, cannot be excelled in standards of beauty and excellence. There is but little snobbishness, thus far, in Colored America; therefore, there is a generous share of democracy. Standards are measured by personal worth and character rather than by natural gain. If there is any assembly of human beings more beautiful and inspiring than a formal cultured group of Colored Americans, it is yet to be discovered. Back of the culture and luxury of the growing social standards is Service. There is yet no leisure class among us.

Industry

Colored America is a factor in industry, and becoming more so each year, because of migration laws. He is not yet a factor in labor unions so far as membership is concerned, except in isolated instances. For many years to come, because of the attitude of unions in their policy of discrimination, the Negro workman will be no appreciable part of them. Employers employing Negro workmen have shown, in notable instances, such an improved inclination to be fair, that the worker has made himself satisfied with conditions, always indulging in the hope that improvements will continue. There are certain groups, notably this year, the Pullman group, that seek organization for betterment. Efforts of this kind are proving beneficial by indication, if not by direction. There are a number of large employing concerns (Continued on Page Two)

AFRICA NO PLACE FOR THE AMERICAN NEGRO SAYS WOMAN AUTHOR

White Men's Morals So Low That Natives Refuse to Permit Their Women to Work for Them

Los Angeles, Cal.—"I would not advise any American born Negro to go back to Africa," Vera Simonton, author of "Hell's Playground," from which the much discussed play "White Cargo," was dramatized, told the correspondent at the Biltmore hotel here recently. "The lines between the races are strictly drawn; there are no hotel or rooming house accommodations and while the natives would welcome them, their primitive customs would be unbearable to the American Negro. It would be slaughter to send them there. 'Yes,' she answered to my question, 'every foot of ground in Africa is owned or claimed by some country.'"

As to female domestic servants, there are none, according to Miss Simonton, who is considered an authority on the African, "you always hear the foreign explorer refer to their 'boy' servants. The reason for this is because the morals of the white men are so low the natives refuse to permit their women to work for them."

Opposed to Mixed Marriages

"The Negroes of America are very loyal to their country; there are no traitors among them, and they have no other home," explained Miss Simonton, who is known among her intimate friends as "Africanus." "The Negro who has been fortunate enough to leave Africa is done with the country forever. Yes, I am bitterly opposed to mixed marriages for they always mean damnation for both parties concerned."

"I believe in every educational and economic opportunity for the Negro; I have the highest and most sincere respect for them and believe there are no heights which cannot be obtained by them. The younger generation is breaking away from the oppression of other years. They should keep their race pure like the Chinese and Japanese; the past is past, but the present and future can be controlled. There is no folklore like the Negro Spirituals. Negroes can and should write about people other than themselves, brains cannot be controlled."

Condemns Odiums

"I would not be ashamed of the use of the word 'Negro' or 'Ethiopian,' they both mean black, but I hate the word 'nigger.' In Africa it is worth a person's life to call a free man 'nigger,' which means slave."

Miss Simonton is leaving here this week for a tour of the world and is paying California her first visit. "This climate is so wonderful, I wonder why the whole East doesn't move here," she said. She is gathering material for a new book, "The Great White Eye," which is a story of the Ju-Ju hoodoo Portuguese Angola of West Africa. Miss Simonton was born in Pittsburgh, of Pennsylvania Dutch and English extraction; she is a public lecturer for the Board of Education of the state of New York, and has written the following books: "Thumbnail History of the West Coast of Africa," "Life and Customs of the Savages of Central Africa," "Housekeeping in Savage Africa," "Christianity Vs. Mohammedanism in Africa," "My Experiences in the Canary Islands," and others.

SPEAKER BURNS UP "NIGGER HEAVEN"

New York, N. Y.—In order to show his disgust for Carl Van Vechten's novel of the Harlem Negro, "Nigger Heaven," Prof. S. R. Williams, director of the National Negro Center Political party, which held a meeting at the Imperial Elks Auditorium, took a copy of the book and burned it in front of the hall.

Mrs. Ruth Whitehead Whaley drew great applause when she told the assembly that lynching would stop in the South when every person lynched took a lyncher with him.

RACE EDITOR TELLS WHITE AUDIENCE OF INSULTS TO RACE WOMANHOOD

He Addresses 1,500 Women of the Pacific Northwest on the South's Insults to the Negro Race

Portland, Ore.—"When the civilization of the South gets through with the black man then it impoverishes him of practically every grace with which God endowed him. Men in the South are not addressed as 'Mister' nor women as 'Miss' or 'Mrs.' and white men do not tip their hats to Negro women. As a black man, no one can expect that I feel good toward anyone who insults the womanhood of my race," said Dr. Lorenzo H. King, editor of the Southwestern Christian Advocate of New Orleans, La., recently, when before 1,500 women at the recent women's session of the Methodist Men's Council held at the First Baptist Church (white Temple), he spoke his mind in a plea for a Christian social program in the inter-racial relations.

Southern Woman Resents Remarks

Dr. King's remarks met with flurries of applause. When the large audience disbanded, discussion seemed to center upon what he had said. One Southern woman was heard to say: "I could not approve of Dr. King's remarks. I come from the South."

Shares Honors with Ralph Connor

Sharing honors with the noted novelist, Ralph Connor, author of the "Sky Pilot" and other novels of early life in the middle west, Dr. King addressed many audiences throughout the Northwest, including the Ladies' Aid Society of the Spring Methodist Episcopal church, also of Seattle, where he delivered an address on "Methodism and the Negro Race," and also nearly 2,000 women at the First Baptist church, Portland, Ore.

WHITE DAILY URGES PASSAGE OF FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

The Philadelphia Daily News Comments That Since States Will Not Stop Lynching, Congress Must

Philadelphia, Pa.—Attention is called to the fact that Congress has been asked to pass the anti-lynching bill now pending before that body. The President, in his annual message to Congress, has referred to it, and leading metropolitan dailies are editorially speaking of it, one case in point being the Daily News (Philadelphia), which says, under the editorial caption:

ANTI-LYNCHING LAW IS GOOD.

"The lynching of Negroes is a national disgrace. In the South it is engaged in as part of the policy of 'keeping the blacks in their place.' Negroes in the South are regarded as inferior to whites, no matter how depraved, cruel and useless a white may be. Any white man, they believe, is better than a black or a colored one."

"The idea is wickedly and cruelly false," continues the editorial. "It therefore produced nothing but wickedness and cruelty. And in doing so it brings world-wide disgrace upon the United States."

"The South will not correct the evil itself. It becomes necessary, therefore, to make the crime of lynching a federal concern. It becomes more necessary to do this because there have been incidents of lynching in the North and the steady migration of Negroes from the South appears to be encouraging the evil."

"The crime of lynching must be abolished from America. Since the South, the chief offender, will not stop it, the nation, through Congress, must assume the responsibility."

THE N. A. A. C. P. TO MEET SUNDAY

The Omaha Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. will hold its regular monthly meeting Sunday afternoon at four o'clock, at the North Side "Y."

Mrs. Mary Morris is reported confined in the hospital.

SUCCESSFUL RACIAL ENTERPRISE PLANS BROAD EXPANSION

North Carolina Mutual Fire Insurance Company With \$45,000,000 of Insurance in Force, Enters New Fields

Durham, N. C.—In response to the urgent demands, stretched over a period of some seven years, according to President C. C. Spaulding, the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, with home offices in several northern states at the beginning of the new year.

After having built up one of the largest enterprises owned and controlled by Negroes, with more than \$45,000,000 worth of insurance in force, an income annually of more than \$2,000,000 and a reserve totaling \$3,000,000 to protect its one-third of a million policy holders, the officers and directors of the company feel that it can now comply to the requests that have been made by many of the policy holders now living in the North and of prospective policy holders in that section.

This action, according to Mr. Spaulding, was taken to carry out the policy upon which the company was founded and has developed, that of rendering the greatest service to the largest number possible. The field in the North has been surveyed and studied carefully and the need is apparent and it is the opinion that North Carolina Mutual should help in supplying this need in the North as well as in the South.

OXFORD WINS BUT LOSES DEBATE WITH LINCOLN

Baltimore, Md.—Oxford University debaters in a word-tussle with representatives from Lincoln University, here Thursday night, figured on everything but the audience, and, as a result, when the audience had voted Oxford found that Lincoln had won the debate, 803 to 376.

The question was: "Resolved, that this house opposes any change in the Eighteenth Amendment." Lincoln defended the affirmative side and Oxford the negative. Lincoln's debaters were: Richard Hill, Baltimore; Mark Gibson, Oklahoma; Estrah Turner, Arkansas. Oxford's were: Patrick Monkhouse, Michael Franklin and Gyles Isham.

Oxford actually won the debate by a large margin. Its men were master platform artists with an experience of 30 debates on the same subject behind them already with United States colleges. Monkhouse, as a wit, seemed to be the equal of Will Rogers.

He declared that the prohibition trouble started in the Garden of Eden with cider—that Eve pressed an apple on Adam and both afterwards saw snakes.

"If we contend that wine should be abolished because it wrecks homes," asked Monkhouse, "why not abolish water because it sometimes wrecks ships?"

Isham, another of the English debaters, paid a tribute in his introduction to Turner of Lincoln, who, he said, made the best address he had heard from any American opponent on this visit to America.

Hill, of Lincoln, riled the Britishers with the suggestion that England, instead of taking 60 years to pay off its American debt of four billions, liquidate the debt with her annual liquor bill of a billion and a half. Hill also quoted a western daily which had the English debaters expressing their distaste for American whisky upon their arrival, and urged the Englishmen to discuss the question with their brains and not their stomachs. Monkhouse countered with the rejoinder that the question should be discussed with brains, not tongues.

Lincoln was weakest in rebuttal, her men being handicapped by their lack of experience and their set speeches. Oxford had more experience, more polish, more wit. While the ballots were being counted Monkhouse kept the audience laughing for fifteen minutes with quips based on his observations in America.

COLORED WOMAN SUES PULLMAN COMPANY AND ATLANTIC COAST LINE

Arthur G. Hayes, With Clarence Darrow Associated, Retained by Negro Advancement Association

Damages Asked for Expulsion Last July From a Pullman Sleeper at Palatka, Florida

New York—Suit for damages aggregating \$25,000 against the Pullman Company and the Atlantic Coast Line Railway was announced last week by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in behalf of Blanche S. Brookins, a colored woman who was ejected on July 18, at Palatka, Fla., from a Pullman sleeper on which she had purchased through accommodation from New York to Orlando, and by a Palatka court, was fined \$500 and costs after a night in the county jail for alleged violation of Florida's "Jim Crow" law which prohibits use of railway accommodations set apart for whites within the state by Negroes.

Arthur Garfield Hays has been retained as attorney in the case by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, with Clarence Darrow as associate. Damages are asked in the sum of \$25,000 each, on four separate causes of action. Papers in the case were served on December 21, by Hays, St. John and Buckley, 43 Exchange Place.

The complaint, drawn by Mr. Hays, recites that Mrs. Brookins, on July 16, purchased a through ticket for Pullman accommodation from New York to Orlando, Fla., on a car attached to the Havana Special, operated by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company. Mrs. Brookins, the complaint continues, began her journey south on July 17, and when the train reached Jacksonville a railroad ticket collector demanded that she leave the Pullman because she was riding in a car with white persons, in violation of the Jim Crow law of the state of Florida.

This Mrs. Brookins declined to do, being a passenger in interstate commerce not subject to the provisions of the Florida law. The following day, July 18, the complaint recites, Mrs. Brookins was "violently, forcibly and rudely ejected" from the Pullman car by order of and at the request of railway and Pullman employees by Florida law officers summoned for the purpose, was asked to ride in a day coach, and upon declining to do so was forcibly taken and imprisoned in the county jail at Palatka, Fla. After being compelled to spend the night in the Palatka jail, Mrs. Brookins was found guilty under Sections 4555 and 4556 of the Florida statutes, known as the Jim Crow law, of riding in a car set apart for whites with no accommodation for colored people, and was fined \$500 and costs amounting to \$18.17, which was paid under protest.

Damages of \$25,000 are asked for on the grounds that the defendants violated their contracts as common carriers, with Mrs. Brookins, thereby subjecting her to insult, mortification and injury to her nervous system and general health; that their agents acted "carelessly, negligently, forcibly and unlawfully" in having her ejected from the thorough accommodation she had purchased as an interstate passenger; and that they caused her to be unlawfully imprisoned causing her inconvenience, expense and injury.

HARLEM NUNS OPEN A NEW CHAPEL

New York, N. Y.—A new chapel was opened here this week by The Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, an order of nuns organized in 1917 in Savannah, Ga. The Right Rev. Thomas M. O'Keefe, pastor of the Church of St. Benedict the Moor, officiated at ceremonies attendant on the opening. Mother M. Theodore is Superior of the order.

Mrs. Willie Vann, 2403 Blondo, is improving after a five weeks illness.