

THE MONITOR

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of the Eight Thousand Colored People in Omaha and Vicinity, and to the Good of the Community

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Negro Civilization In World's History

No Racial Characteristics Which Indicate Inferiority or Superiority.

HISTORY OF ANCIENT AFRICA

Notable Speech Delivered at Tuskegee Summer School.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Aug. 10.—Among the many notable addresses to the Summer School for Teachers, which closed Friday, July 23, was the address of Monroe N. Work of the Department of Research and compiler of the Negro Year Book on the subject, "Africa in Ancient and Medieval History."

Mr. Work declared that the current geographies, histories and encyclopedias characterized the so-called true Negro as having black skin, woolly hair, protuberant lips and receding forehead, claiming that these so-called racial characteristics stamped the race, per se, as inferior. This has given rise to the belief that for the Negro to attain superiority he must become like the white man in color, achievements and along all lines. This view, said Mr. Work, is detrimental to the progress of the Negro and he said the Negro must make his own special contributions to world progress. This can be done through music, art, history, science and mechanical developments, and a number of facts have arisen in the field of science and in the annals of history which justify this possibility.

No Racial Inferiority.

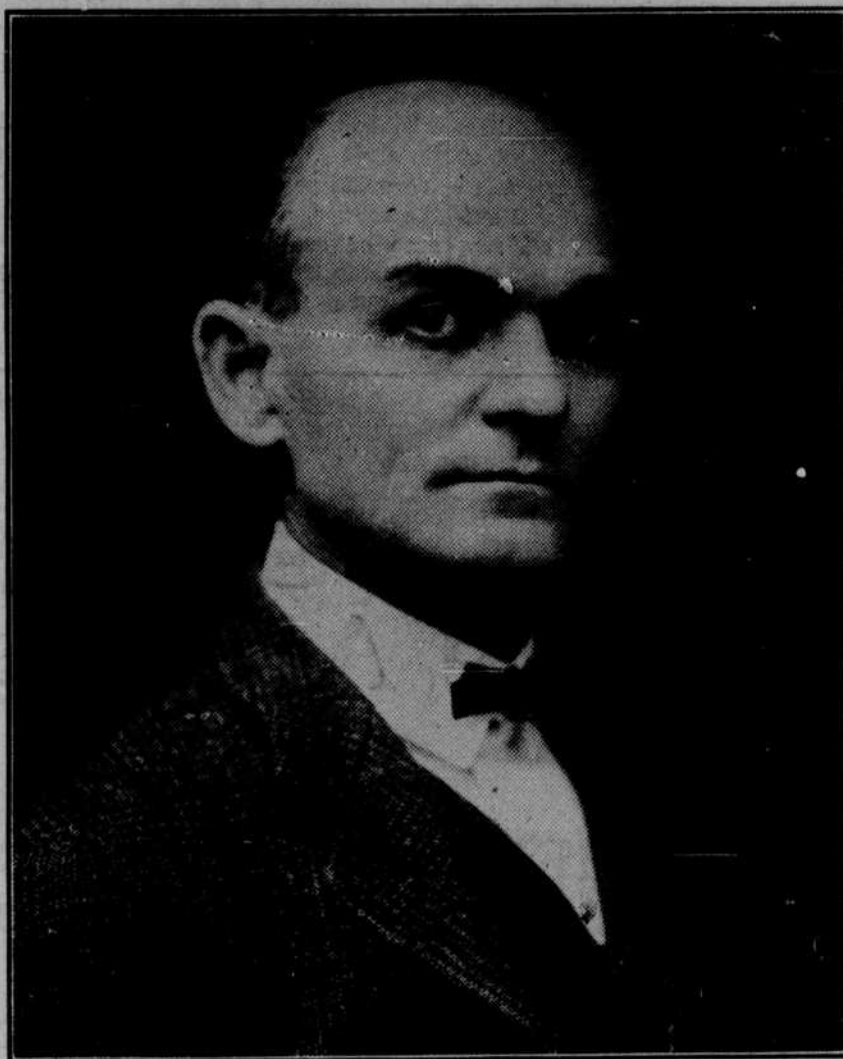
Said the speaker: "Leading scientists in the field of anthropology are telling us that while there are differences of race, there are no characteristics which, per se, indicate that one race is inferior or superior to another. The differences are in kind, not in value. On the other hand, whatever superiority one race has attained over another has been largely due to environment.

"A German writer in a discussion some time ago of the origin of African civilization said, 'What bold investigators, great pioneers, still find to tell us in civilizations nearer home, proves more and more clearly that we are ignorant of hoary Africa. Somewhat of its present, perhaps, we know, but of its past little. Open an illustrated geography and compare the bluish-black fellow of the protuberant lips, the flattened nose, the stupid expression and the short curly hair, with the tall bronze figures from Dark Africa with which we have of late become familiar, their almost fine-cut features, slightly arched nose, long hair, and you have an example of the problems pressing for solution. In other respects, too, the genuine African of the interior bears no resemblance to the accepted Negro type as it figures on drug and cigar store signs, wearing a shabby stove-

Think on These Things

BROTHERHOOD.

When the golden links of Friendship are severed here on earth,
And the Love that is eternal still lives on,
And the Truth that came from Heaven returns again from earth,
May the Master say to Brotherhood, "WELL DONE."



Hon. James C. Dahlman, Mayor.

pipe hat, plaid trousers and a varicolored coat. A stroll through the corridors of the Berlin Museum of Ethnology teaches that the real African need by no means resort to the rags and tatters of bygone European splendor. He has precious ornaments of his own, of ivory and plumes, fine plaited willow ware, weapons of superior workmanship. Justly can it be demanded, 'What sort of civilization is this? Whence does it come?'

Discoveries in Ancient Africa.

Mr. Work pointed out that one of the most important contributions to civilization, the smelting of iron, was probably made by the Negro race. In support of this view, he said: "Apparently no iron was smelted in Europe before 900 B. C. That about 3,000 B. C. there began to appear on the Egyptian monuments pictures of Africans bringing iron from the South to Egypt. That at a time considerably later than this iron implements began to appear in Asia. There is no iron ore in Egypt. In Negro Africa, on the other hand, iron ore is abundant."

Mr. Work pointed out that the Ne-

gro nation to attain the greatest fame was Ethiopia; that it was by the help of an Ethiopian army that Palestine was able to hold out against Assyria and the attempt of Sennacherib to carry the Jews into captivity was frustrated. In other words, the Negro soldiers of the Sudan saved the Jewish religion.

Closing, Mr. Work said: "And when the faint gleam of tradition and fable gives way to the clear light of history, the luster of the Ethiopians is not diminished. They still continue the object of curiosity and admiration; and the pen of cautious, clear-sighted historians often places them in the highest rank of knowledge and civilization.

"From this brief sketch which I have given of the African in ancient and medieval times it is seen that we should not despise the rock from whence we were hewn. As a race we have a past which is full of interest. It is worthy of our serious study. From it we can draw inspiration; for it appears that not all black men everywhere throughout the ages

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United Brothers of Friendship Here

Hold Their Forty-fifth Annual Session of the Grand Lodge in Omaha Next Week.

SISTERS OF MYSTERIOUS TEN

In Thirty-second Annual Session of Grand Temple—Official Program.

The forty-fifth annual grand session of the grand lodge of the United Brothers of Friendship, and the thirty-second annual grand session of the grand temple Sisters of the Mysterious Ten and the twenty-first annual grand session of the Royal House of the Missouri jurisdiction, will be held in the Douglas county court house, beginning Monday, August 16th, and concluding Saturday, August 21st, under the auspices of the local lodges of the order. The local lodges with their chief presiding officers are as follows:

Faithful Lodge No. 25, Earl Jones M. W. M.; Ak-Sar-Ben Temple No. 254, Cachenia Austin, M. W. P.; Diamond Square Temple No. 311, Mrs. Elvira Lewis, M. W. P.; Leona Burton Royal House No. 59, Mrs. L. B. Burton, M. E. Q.; and John Davis, M. N. K.; and Sweet William Juvenile No. 186, Aline Bentley, Maiden Princess, and Hazel Hall, Maiden Scribe. For the uninformed it may be wise to explain that these abbreviations stand respectively for most worthy master, most worthy princess, most eminent queen and most noble king.

The order was organized in Louisville, Ky., in 1861 by ten men for the purpose of promoting the intellectual and temporal improvement of its members and the general uplift of the race. From the original ten the number has grown into more than 100,000, with lodges and temples in every state in the union and members in Liberia, Africa. The order has homes and orphanages, and a publishing house. The publishing house is at Sedalia, Mo., where their official organ is published under the able editorship of C. G. Williams. The plant employs several young men and women. The Missouri jurisdiction maintains a home at Hannibal, valued at \$20,000. This home and orphanage, for it fills this dual office, is in charge of Dr. O. C. Queen.

The order is comparatively young in Omaha. Mrs. Leona B. Burton, district deputy, organized Faithful Lodge No. 250 October 7, 1908, the degrees being conferred by the Rev. W. F. Botts. Ak-Sar-Ben Temple was organized by Mrs. Burton in 1910; the Royal house in the same year; Diamond Square Temple in 1911, and Sweet William Juveniles in 1913.

While there has been an efficient local committee in making arrangements for the meeting of the grand

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