

# 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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## Farm Property Value One Billion Dollars

Statistics Surprising in Showing the Race's Stupendous Success in Securing Rich Tillable Land.

THERE ARE FOURTEEN NATIONS

Numerically Greater than the Colored People in the United States of America.

Dr. Booker T. Washington, in his splendid address, replete with common sense, sound advice and encouraging facts, delivered before the National Negro Business League in Boston, recited some surprising statistics which show that despite opposition the reproach of our being a landless people is being rapidly rolled away. It is worth while to know that the colored people of this country own farm land aggregating more than one billion dollars in value. This fact was brought out by Dr. Washington, who said:

"We have not the figures covering all the Negro's wealth, but the federal census bureau has just released a document which gives the value of the Negro's farm property alone as \$1,142,000,000. From 1900 to 1910 the Negro's farm property increased 128 per cent. In 1863 we had, as a race, 2,000 small business enterprises. At the present time the Negro owns and operates about 43,000 concerns with an annual turnover of about one billion dollars. Within fifty years we have made enough progress in business to warrant the operation of over fifty banks. With all that I have said we are still a poor race, as compared with many others, but I have given these figures to indicate the direction in which we are traveling.

During the last six years we have experienced as a race not a few business failures, including the closing of several banks. We must not let these failures discourage us. We must remember that it is with a race as it is with an individual; that it is only through seeming failure, as well as success, that we finally gain that experience and confidence which are necessary to permanent success. With all that I have said we should remember that we have but scratched the surface of industrial and business success. Our future is before us, not behind us. We are a new race in a comparatively new country. Let any who may be inclined toward pessimism or discord consider with me for a few moments the opportunities that are before us. It is always of more value to consider our advantages rather than our disadvantages. In considering one's opportunities it is worth while not to overlook the size of our race.

### The Race's Opportunities.

"There are only fourteen nations in the world whose population exceeds the number of Negroes in the United

## Let's Play MUF



BOULEVARD SCENE IN OMAHA

States. Norway has a population of only 2,400,000; Denmark, 2,700,000; Bulgaria, 4,000,000; Chile, 4,000,000; Canada, 7,000,000; Argentine, 9,000,000. When we contemplate these figures and then remember that we in the United States alone are 10,000,000 Negroes, we can get some idea of the opportunities that are right about us.

"Let me be more specific in pointing the way to these opportunities. If you would ask where you are to begin I would answer begin where you are. As a rule the gold mine which we seek in a far off country is right at our door.

Over a million of our people live in the Northern and Western states. In these states at the present time our people operate about 4,000 business enterprises. There are opportunities in the north and west for 8,000 business enterprises or double the present number. In the Southern states where the great bulk of our people live we have about 40,000 business concerns. There should be within the next few years 20,000 more business concerns.

"In all this, we should never forget that the ownership and cultivation of the soil constitutes the foundation for great wealth and usefulness among our people. I have already indicated that we operate about 800,000 farms. Within the next decade let us try to double the number. To indicate a lit-

tle more in the directions in which we should seek. There are now 4,000 truck farms operated by us; we ought to increase this number to 8,000. We ought never to forget that in the ownership and cultivation of the soil in a very large measure we must lay the foundation for our future.

"A landless race is like a ship with a rudder. Emphasizing again our opportunities, especially as connected with the soil, we now have for example 122 poultry raisers; the number should be increased to 1,500. We now have 200 dairymen; the number should be increased to 2,000.

### Too Many Negroes in Cities.

"At present there are far too many of our people living in the cities in a hand to mouth way, dependent on someone else for an uncertain job. Aside from what the soil offers there are other opportunities in business. For example, we now own and operate seventy-five bakeries; the number can be increased to 500. From thirty-two brickmakers the number can be increased to 3,000. From 200 sawmills, we can increase the number to 1,000. From fifty furniture factories, the number can be increased to 300. Where we now have 4,000 dry goods stores and grocery merchants we should have in the near future 15,000. Where we now have 700 drug stores we should have 3,000. Where

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## The Divine Mission of Negro In New World

To Help Win Personal Freedom for All Mankind and Final Triumph of Democratic Principles.

AS SAVIOUR OF WEAKER RACE

Organizes First Armed Resistance on Western Hemisphere—Joseph Carr Writes Interestingly.

Some day or other from some land, the tongue of some dusky warbler will woo the Goddess of Song and send forth in the inspired strain of an epic poem the coming of the Negro to America to free it from these twin curses, slavery and political oppression, that the white man, fleeing from yet clinging to, brought with him to oppress and degrade a weaker and defenseless race of God's children.

In the year 1492 America was discovered. The discoverers found here a gentle, inoffensive and hospitable people, who were called by them Indians. These natives wore trinkets of virgin gold, the sight of which awakened the cupidity of the Spaniards and then forced the natives to disclose the source of their golden trinkets, and then inhumanly enslaved and forced them to dig for this metal that these Spaniards might enjoy life free from the mandate of their Maker to "earn their bread by the sweat of their own faces."

Nature had not provided these natives with strong bodies and constitutions, hence in a very short time they disappointed their masters by dying so rapidly as to presage their early extinction, which has been their fate. Yet extinction was delayed and, due to another cause, absorption in another and stronger race of people that has crowded the then master race from the beautiful West Indian isles that he made a curse of to their aboriginal inhabitants.

Bishop Las Cases, filled with almost a divine pity for these frail natives and their deplorable condition, urged his countrymen to import Negroes from Africa to replace the natives and to labor in the mines, as they, the Negroes, were of a physique to withstand the hardships of slavery, and thus as a saviour of a weaker man, the Negro, from urgent necessity to the American Spaniard, in obedience to the Divine Will and for the ultimate benefit of the whole human race was ushered in as a native of this new world, to be at some future time when thoroughly understood the place of his glory.

Barely had the Negro set his foot in this, his new home, that he registered the first protest to the inhumanity of his captors in robbing him of his personal freedom by running away and getting with the Indians and organizing the first armed resistance to that curse of humanity, slav-

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