

THE MONITOR

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Bruce Chosen to Head Club

The Members Feel Confident Former High School Teacher Is Ablest Man in State.

IS SUPERIOR TO WASHINGTON

Once Successful St. Joseph Principal, Now Superintendent of Bartlett Farming School.

St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 26.—Prof. N. C. Bruce, former principal of the Bartlett high school of this city, now head of the Bartlett Agricultural and Industrial school of Dalton, Charlton county, Missouri, known also as the "Missouri—West" and "Country Life" school, has been chosen leader of the Negro Freedom Progressive Colored Men's club of Missouri.

The school at Dalton was made possible through the generosity of the Bartletts, Judge and Mrs. W. K. James and other white people of St. Joseph and other cities. It is almost in the center of twenty-seven south and north Missouri river bottom counties, the black belt of Missouri, and was established in a small way in 1909, and since has grown into one of the leading Negro educational centers of the United States. The school is planned "to help the Negro people get back to the land and to their best place for desirable, useful, productive citizenship."

Judge W. K. James is president of the board of control, Herschel Bartlett is treasurer. Charles Nagle, former United States secretary of commerce and labor, Clarence H. Howard, president of the Commonwealth Steel company; William B. Litner, architect, and Judge Joseph Wheelless, all of St. Louis; George D. Dayton, Minneapolis; Huston Wyeth, St. Joseph; Alexander Massey, Kansas City; Prof. Joseph D. Elliff, educational commissioner of the University of Missouri, are on the board of trustees and have given time and money to the work.

School Well Equipped.

The school now has 180 acres, a boys' building, girls' dormitory, modern stock barn, repair and manual training barracks, several cottages for housing students, a good start in stocks, teams and farm tools, vehicles and implements worth some \$50,000. The school stresses farming and domestic service training. It is supplying competent, educated farm workers and domestic servants. The students lead in corn raising and acreage crop yields and are good spellers, readers and figurers and excel as cooks, laundry and sewing workers and in field, kitchen, shop and barn work. The school needs more land, tools and equipment and is trying to deserve these by making proper use of what little it now has.

Negroes Make Appeal.

In the following article Dr. William J. Thompkins of Kansas City, a lead-

Honor Frederick Douglas

The Frederick Douglas Memorial held at Zion Baptist Church is the one gathering together by Omaha Colored citizens that has spelled the word excellence in every respect. Only a few speakers were absent, but in the flood of eloquence, music, humor, and reminiscences, they were not missed. All the speakers were in prime condition and each left the audience pleased and unwearied. The most appreciated talk of the evening was by a gentleman who was not named upon the program, the Hon. R. L. Desdunes. Mr. Desdunes reviewed the career of Frederick Douglass, relative to the little county of Hayti and showed how, through his moral courage and uncompromising honor, he forced the United States to end the intended dismemberment of the black republic. In appreciation of this service Hayti afterwards made Douglass their commissioner at the Columbia Exposition.

The vocal duet by Misses Cochran and Stewart was beautifully rendered and the vocal solo by Mrs. Dewey Allen, "Dear Lord, Remember Me," more than thrilled with her sweet, well modulated and well controlled voice. The Mandolin Club was decidedly one of the supreme treats of the evening. Mrs. Alphonso Wilson and Mrs. J.

ing Negro surgeon, gives an account of a recent meeting in Jefferson City of the forward movement for the Negro people of Missouri, and of what the governor and some leading educators and statesmen think of the work of Principal Bruce:

"A score of trained solid, capable, colored men, real, educational, religious and industrial leaders among their race in Missouri, met in Jefferson City to present an appeal on behalf of Missouri rural life Negro people to the especially called joint session of the senate and house appropriating committees.

"These men were met in a most decent and respectable manner by the governor and freely expressed themselves and were seriously spoken to by the governor.

Favored by Both Houses.

"The senate and house committee gave their chairman and several of them a careful hearing and expressed their appreciation, approval and sympathy with the appeal for the aid to the "back to the land" movement of the Negro Farmers' Business and Professional Men's association, whose headquarters are at the "Country Life" school for Missouri colored people, which Principal N. C. Bruce so successfully heads in Charlton county, the central county of the Missouri Negro black belt, agricultural counties. In making the presentation of the delegation to Gov. Gardner in the executive guest chamber, Principal Bruce showed all the fineness, simplicity and skill of a Booker Washington.

Surprised Best Friends.

"He surprised even his best friends in his consummate poise, tact and master of pertinent figures and facts.

Alice Stewart, the only lady speakers, acquitted themselves finely and showed their deep acquaintance, not only with the history of the man whose memorial was being celebrated, but with the world forces of right and wrong and their inevitable consequences.

The committee which had this affair under control deserves the utmost praise for the intellectual treat furnished last Tuesday night. Dr. W. W. Peebles and Rev. W. F. Botts labored unceasingly to make this affair worth while and it undoubtedly surpassed the expectations of these gentlemen, as it certainly surpassed the expectations of the audience that crowded the church. A liberal sum of money was collected for the memorial and the same was sent Wednesday to The Crisis to become a part of the fund to lift the mortgage from the home of Douglass. The cause was a worthy one and worthily supported by Omahans, and it is to be hoped that all may one day visit Anacostia and tread the beautiful lawn, wander through the spacious rooms and commune with the courageous spirit of the race's greatest leader, Frederick Douglass, whose memory they have commemorated so lovingly.

He seems experienced as a veteran successful educator, a nation's crowned and champion farmer and a leader of hitherto divided and discordant factions of Missouri colored politicians, orators, and leaders.

"Like Booker T. Washington, principal Bruce is modest, practical, comprehensive, deep, thoroughly in earnest, unselfish and yet is one of the best speakers in the state when aroused. Unlike Booker Washington he is a thorough collegian, graduate of a leading New England college, a promoter A. M., man by a thesis contest after seven years post graduate and educational work and studies.

Held in Esteem.

"He has stamped his leadership favorably upon southern, northern, and western Colored people's hearts and minds and at the same time has the friendship of the best white people of all sections of the country. President Chase of Bates college, Maine, recently wrote: 'Principal N. C. Bruce for his achievements since graduation is our most distinguished alumnus.' Attorney General Scott Wilson of Maine says: 'N. C. Bruce was my wisest and truest adviser and was the best speaker and debater we had in college, yet one would never even guess it when he was seen, so quiet and modest and inobstructive was he. Secretary Daniels of the U. S. navy said in St. Joseph last October: 'There is nothing that N. C. Bruce would tell me but that I would believe. For twenty years he and I haven't failed in our mutual belief and friendship—The wisest Negro I know and the most retiring in his efforts and work for his race.'

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Colored Youths Win Signal Honors

They Are Paid High Tribute by Newspaper Correspondents and Critics.

SELECT PRACTICAL SUBJECTS.

Morris of Norfolk, Va., and Lane of Bowdoin College Chosen to Represent Their Respective Schools.

Boston, Mass.—Throughout the country the race is being ably represented in oratorical contests. Among those attracting considerable attention are Charles S. Morris, Jr., aged 17 years, of Norfolk, Va., who was chosen to represent his school, the Wilson Academy, of Nyack, N. Y., on March 2, in the oratorical contest at Columbia University, and David A. Lane, Jr.

One of the large daily papers here had the following comment, anent Mr. Lane's selection to represent his school:

"That the prize for the best original oration delivered by a Bowdoin College senior should this year have gone to David A. Lane, Jr., a Negro; will not surprise those who have observed the recent achievements of this race.

"What is particularly noteworthy about the incident mentioned, and no doubt contributed to the winner's success, was the fact that he chose no irrelevant and high-sounding subject, but a practical topic appropriate to the times and to himself, namely, 'The Task of the College-Trained Negro.'

"Were all orators as careful to choose common-sense subjects, on which they are able to speak with some authority, their audiences would oftener find it worth while to listen."

COLORED OR CREOLE?

WOMAN WORTH \$40,000

St. Louis Judge Takes Peculiar Case Under Advisement As To Mary Simpson's Racial Identity.

St. Louis.—Circuit Judge Henings last week took under advisement the question whether Elizabeth Mary Simpson, who died sixteen years ago, leaving an estate of \$40,000, was a Colored woman or a Creole.

Elizabeth Simpson was the housekeeper for Peter Lehman, who at his death left her the Lehman homestead, worth \$40,000. When the housekeeper died she willed the property to Lehman's cousin, Eugene Lehman.

Six Mississippi Colored citizens who claim to be heirs of Elizabeth Simpson brought suit against Eugene Lehman to contest the will. Lehman and his wife and several white witnesses testified today that they believed Mary Simpson was white.

The Negroes, headed by Saulsbury Simpson, who claims to be a nephew of the deceased housekeeper, testified that she was Colored—a slave in Mississippi who was set free by her master, Peter Lehman, just before the Civil War.