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Melvin L. Shakespeare

Publisher and Editor

Business Address 2225 S Street Phone 2-4055

Rubie W. Shakespeare Advertising and Business Manager
Dorothy Green Office Secretary
Mrs. Joe Green Circulation Manager

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EDITORIALS
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Negro Colleges Show Great Progress in Half Century

WASHINGTON. (ANP)—Negro colleges during the first half of the 20th century have shown greater progress, more in most instances than the nation's colleges as a whole, according to a statistical circular just released by the federal office of education.

These conclusions are based on a survey taken this past year of colleges attended mainly by Negroes. Not all colored schools answered the survey, however. Negro students at predominantly white colleges are not included in this report.

Student enrollment at these schools has jumped 28.4 times 74,526 was enrolled in these schools, compared to only 2,624 during the 1899-1900 school year. For the nation the increase was only 10.7 times.

Another advance along this line was virtually the elimination of the less-than-college grade students from the rolls. In 1900, nearly all students registered in the so-called colleges were not of college level.

These schools conferred 13,108 bachelor's degrees in 1950 compared to 156 in 1900, and 768 master's degrees in 1950 compared to none in 1900. There is no record of a Negro school's awarding a doctor's degree at any time.

More Negroes are faculty members than in the past. In 1924 schools supported by public funds mainly, 85 percent of the teachers are colored, and in colleges privately financed, slightly more than 50 percent are colored.

Financially, the schools are a lot better off today although their growth in this phase has not been as great as the national average. In 1900 they had an income of \$1,111,783, and in 1948, a sum of \$38,318,254.

Physical value of these schools' property 50 years ago was \$7,930,949, and in 1950, \$119,857,859.

This survey included schools for Negroes that call themselves university, college, normal institute, or normal school. Some included do not confer a bachelor's degree.

General information about these schools reveal the following facts:

Texas and North Carolina are states with more schools, 12 each, than any other state. A total of 19 states and the District of Columbia have schools attracting Negro students mainly. Only Pennsylvania and Ohio are northern states that have colored colleges.

Largest Negro college in the land is Howard university in the nation's capital. Second is Agricultural and Technical college in Greensboro, N. C., and third, Alabama State in Montgomery, Ala.

Other large schools with enrollments around 2,000 or more include Tuskegee institute in Alabama; Florida A&M in Tallahassee, Fla.; Southern university in Scotlandville, La.; Tennessee State college in Nashville, and Texas State university in Houston.

Among these colleges are three schools for women and two for men. Women's colleges are Spelman in Atlanta, Barber-Scotia in Concord, N. C., and Bennett in Greensboro, N. C. Schools for men are Morehouse in Atlanta and Lincoln university in Pennsylvania.

More men (2,733) attended Howard than any other school. A total of 2,085 attend A&T, and 1,414, Tuskegee. Most women (1,768) are enrolled at Alabama State. Howard has 1,349; Prairie View, 1,223, and Florida A&M, 1,036.

Howard offered more degrees at the end of the 1949-50 school year than any other school. It awarded 763 undergraduate and 110 graduate degrees. Florida A&M awarded 393 undergraduate degrees.

Atlanta university led in the number of graduate degrees with

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by **JAMES C. OLSON**, Superintendent
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

One of the great accomplishments in Nebraska's history has been the construction of the railroad network over the state, and the men who actually built the roads deserve much more extended treatment in our history than they have had.

Nebraska History, the quarterly magazine of the state historical society, has helped to rectify this condition by publishing during the past year a notable series of articles by Dr. Thomas M. Davis of North Dakota State College in Minot, on the life of George W. Holdrege, the man who built the Burlington in Nebraska and for whom the city of Holdrege is named.

Those articles are more than the story of man's life or of the building of the railroad—they constitute a chapter in the saga of America and the West.

The career of George W. Holdrege will fire the imagination of any American. Born into a New York family of position and wealth, forced to discontinue his career at Harvard because his father's fortune was destroyed, he found himself at the age of 22 reporting for a job as chief clerk in the paymaster's office of the Burlington in Plattsmouth, Nebraska, at wages of a dollar a day, "with a raise promised if he showed improvement."

The young man "showed improvement." He was transferred to Burlington, Iowa, where in a year he was promoted to the position of trainmaster. In a short time, he came back to Nebraska as assistant to the general superintendent of the B. & M. in this state.

As assistant superintendent, Holdrege was responsible for supervising new construction. So well did he carry this responsibility

that following were Texas State with 124 and Howard with 110. Only 15 schools awarded master's degrees.

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Granger Urges Repeal Cutback

NEW YORK.—The National Urban League's Board of Trustees, meeting May 22 in New York, N. Y., unanimously endorsed the statement released Friday, May 18th, by Lester B. Granger, president of the National Conference of Social Work, and executive director, National Urban League, urging the Congress to repeal its drastic cutback of the low-rent public housing program. The House of Representatives on May 4th cut the program from the 75,000 units requested by the President, to 5,000.

ability that by the time his first major project was completed—building the main line to Denver—he was general superintendent of Lines West.

Before his career as a railroad builder was completed, George W. Holdrege had constructed 3,000 miles of track, and had opened up more of the West than any other person.

He was not content merely to build railroads. He was deeply concerned that the country through which his roads ran should support a flourishing agriculture, and he assumed distinguished leadership in developing the agricultural possibilities of Nebraska and other states served by the Burlington.

You cannot read Dr. Davis' articles without agreeing with him that, "the biography of George Holdrege typifies the growth of the region in which he lived and served," and that he was, indeed, as the author states, "one of the West's most illustrious sons."

The League's Board of Trustees labelled the cutback "detrimental to the welfare of the country, and unnecessary even in the present national emergency." It would, said the Board, reduce housing available in increasingly crowded war production centers. The Urban League does not engage in lobbying, but the Board determined that this situation was so clearly within the League's responsibility that this exceptional action was required. The Board urged local Urban Leagues to use all proper means at their disposal to interpret the meaning of the House action to their membership.

Mr. Granger, in his statement said "it is neither sensible nor just to build 5,000 homes for those living in our slums, and 800,000 or more for those who can afford to pay current rentals and prices for privately-built housing."

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