KELLY MILLER WRITES REGULARLY FOR THE AFRO

EDITORIAL PAGE

FEATURES
OLD TIMER — AMOS HOKUM
DAY BY DAY — 16 YEARS AGO
WATSON'S CARTOONS PROF. FUDGE

THE AFRO-AMERICAN

A Champion of Civic Welfare and the Square Deal

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Independent In All Things; Neutral In Nothing

What The "AFRO" Stands For

1. Colored policemen, policewomen and firemen.
2. Colored representatives on city, county and State Board of Education.
3. Equal salaries for equal work for school teachers without regard to color or sex.
4. Colored members on board of State institutions where inmates are colored.
5. The organization of labor unions among all groups of colored workers.
6. A university and agricultural college for colored people supported by the State.
7. Closer co-operation between farmers and the State and Federal farm agents.

Punctuality

Much of a man's progress in life depends upon the impressions he creates. One of the easiest ways to make a pleasing impression is by being punctual. The slight effort necessary in arriving on time is soon forgotten and few things will assist as greatly in putting us in tune with our work and in causing the day to pass smoothly and pleasantly.

Punctuality creates confidence, and causes others to feel that the one on time is trustworthy.

A Sordid Selfishness

The flowers and blooms along the highways are nature's contribution to the delights of mankind. The individual who takes or destroys these is displaying a sordid selfishness of which he should be ashamed. Our motorists are all too free in appropriating these things that do not belong to them. They have no respect for either the rights of the land-owner or their fellow travelers. These things are no more public property—excepting to enjoy—than the flowers in your private garden in the city.

Many Booker Washington Monuments

Atlanta, Georgia, has about decided to give up its plan to erect a $20,000 monument to the late Booker T. Washington in front of its new high school.

The reason assigned is that the money can be better invested in a library or gymnasium.

Actually Booker T. Washington needs no shaft of marble or tablet of bronze as a monument to his greatness. Tuskegee Institute is his specific memorial and every trade school in America is a perpetual reminder of the "father of industrial education."

Booker T. Washington founded an American institution. As long as it lives his memory is green.

No Negative Side

A group of pupils of the Douglass High School asked to prepare a debate on the question, "Resolved, That the Employment of Colored Police Would Prove Beneficial to the City," hesitated to accept the subject on the ground that sufficient arguments cannot be found on the negative side.

Yet, presupposing Governor Ritchie and Police Commissioner Gaither to be sincere and conscientious public officials there must be a negative side of this question, else police examinations would not be closed to colored persons in the city. In the minds of these officials there must be reasons of sufficient number and importance to justify them in the stand they take.

There is no better time than now to ferret out these arguments and debate them for what they are worth. Usual scholastic debates feature silly subjects so foreign to the practical life of colored citizens that a change would be welcomed.

We suggest that the debate be staged by all means and the governor and police officials be invited as guests or judges.

Africa For The Africans

Followers of Marcus Garvey are asking the question, how shall Africa be redeemed with their leader in prison for five years.

The world has a fashion of getting along without old leaders, by the simple method of raising up new ones.

Two decades ago before Garvey uttered the war cry of "Africa for the Africans," Bishop H. M. Turner, of the A. M. E. Church, exhorted the South Africans to independence. So potent was his influence that the British government today muzzles every black American missionary before he is allowed to land in British Africa. He must swear not to discuss politics or or he is deported on the first ship.

In the past few months Morroccan troops gained notable victories in their fight against Spain for independence. Whole Spanish units were wiped out. Italy is having its hands full in holding rebellious Senussia tribesmen of North Africa in check. Some 22,000 South Africans Kaffir workmen went on a strike against the English government's attempt to stop the brewing of native beer.

Evidently in the long run, native Africans will work out their own salvation without outside help. America needs all the resources and ingenuity of black citizens to solve the problems at home.

Spring Cleaning

The time has come, to paraphrase the Walrus, to talk of many things, especially of house-cleaning and gardening. It's an age old joke with men, and one which they always depend upon to get them a good laugh, that women are never happier than when they are cleaning house. It is just as traditional that when Father pulls this joke, Mother must flare up and tell him just how much "fun" house-cleaning really isn't.

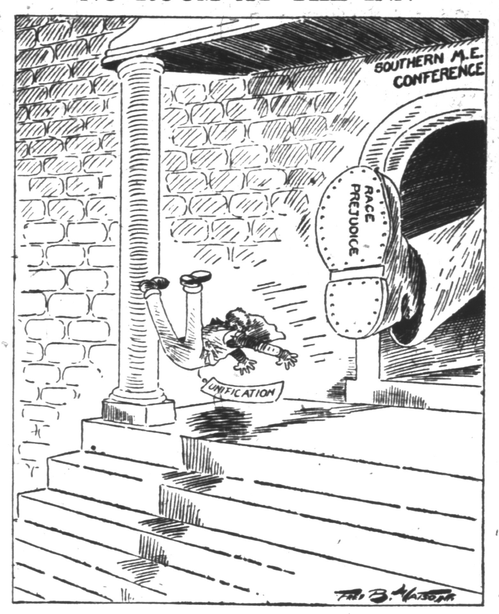
But whether it is fun or whether it is not, there never was a woman who didn't feel all happy and contented inside when the rugs were all clean and the windows were bright and all the old newspapers had been thrown away. There is something in the good clean air of spring which makes one hate the winter dust in rugs and curtains, and the mist which will gather on the windows.

Mother, however, can get back at Father everytime, if she only wants to. For while she is tossing furniture and dust around inside the house, it is altogether likely that Father will be tossing the dirt about in the garden or the back yard and getting ready for his spring spree of planting.

And it is these two annual sprees which make our homes the delightful things they are. To really love a home one must work with it, although it would be a highly idealized saint who would have true thoughts of love for anything while she was in the midst of house-cleaning. The love for the home comes later when the ache is gone from her back and the stiffness from her knees. And the garden is truly a part of the home, as much as the father and mother are two parts of the family.

So to make our habitations real homes, Mother must have her annual spring upheaval and Father must dig around in his garden—and the result is HOME.

"NO ROOM AT THE INN"



DAY BY DAY

WITH WILLIAM N. JONES

Irresistible Jazz

When William H. Handy, the father of "Blues," working in a little Beale Avenue office in Memphis, Tennessee, and wringing his heart and soul out in an attempt to produce a paying Negro classic caught the spirit of mingled sadness and song, which he expressed in the "Beale Street Blues," he started something.

Wm. N. Jones

The writer, whose headquarters was at that time in an adjoining office well remembers the constant thumping of the piano in the making of that first "blues" and of hearing him tell how that first piece was sold for about $30.

Last week in one of the largest theatres of Philadelphia a great symphony orchestra received prolonged applause following the rendition of a special arraingement of a number based on the Handy type of music. This is this irressistible music fighting its way to supremacy.

High brows may rage; critics may frown with assumed disgust, and moralizers may condemn, but the human soul cannot help leaping to the appeal of the "blues."

Even its degenerate younger sister, Jazz, has an appeal that crashes through to the heart

Were Sorrow Songs

But those who knew Handy and the depth of feeling which prompted the writing of that first "blues" know that much of the modern development of the new music called "jazz" is as far from the original as the old morality plays were from their modern development into "Getting Gertie's Garter" and Simon "Called Peter."

Handy heard the sorrowing mother, ground down by prejudice and economic pressure of the Southland, singing her soul out over the wash tub; he heard the chain gang victims raising their picks with a song that lightened their awful lot; he listened to loneliness wailed out of the banjo behind the little log huts which dotted the cotton plantations where men and women still worked under the tightening grip of slave drivers, and he set it down in the "blues" music.

It has been one of the most interesting facts of human behaviour that oppression in the South did not develop human hatred as economic oppression in the Northern labor centres did with its submerged and oppressed masses. There those of extreme religious tendencies sung their sorrows away in the spiritual cadences, and the real "blues" are no less a genuine expression of the ability of the masses to sing their everyday troubles away.

When the maiden, heart sick and crushed because she had lost to a rival; or the wife with aching heart gathered her children after a conscienceless husband had found another made realized their condition, they did not grasp a revolver and snuff their lives out; THEY SANG

When the white land owner deliberatly manipulated the figures that deprived the farmer out of his year's work and he and his hard worked family faced another barren year, they did not throw bombs through the windows of their lordly oppressors; but they gathered in their miserable huts AND SANG.

Thus we have the "blues," the irresistible appealing blues which are made of that strange combination of laughter, tears and forgetfulness.

What Price Goodness

Mr. Lepold Scheff, New York Cocoanut importer, has set aside $2,500,000 as a fund to help young men lead clean, moral and useful lives.

According to his plan from $100 to $300 is to begiven youths who lead such lives for certain periods. This money, it is supposed, will not only be an incentive, to right living but will serve to help the young man at a time when money counts.

There are many serious minded people who believe that some philanthrophy may be more hurtful than good. There is, of course, a certain reward fo revery young man in this world who travels the path of rectitude, honesty and thrift. But to set up artificial stimulants often weakens rather than strengthens.

What the average young man today needs is self-contained will power, rugged determination and the idea that he can forge success out of a world and in the same manner that any man can. When you push him too much, he fails to develop the very faculties that he needs to sustain him when these stimulants are gone.

These will always be plenty of real rewards in life What philanthropy wants most to do is to help take away the stumbling blocks and increase the natural opportunities which require struggle and make them available to ALL YOUNG WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE OR COLOR.

The spirit which prompted the generous impulse of Mr. Scheff is good, but we wonder what its practical effects will be.

A Changing Continent

Every American youth should read the illuminating dispatches from the "dark continent of Africa," following the trail of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales.

You get a picture, not of heathen man eaters, but such power pomp and glory, as will make the most privileged Negro group in this country do some new thinking.

Picture to yourself a spectacle where 20,000 native calvarymen in rich uniform surge by and receive His Highness' salute Picture genuine African boy scouts richly dressed creole maiden, white settlers and native dignitaries and moonlight dances.

This is England's way of reassuring the natives that a new day is dawning. It is the natives, way of showing England and other nations that black men there have caught the spirit of freedom.

Do you think a Free town Monday there was another native revolt. Even Belgium is revising its attitude toward Africans.

Now come back home. Down in our Southland in this land of the free and home of the brave we cannot yet have genuine boy scouts. Even here in Baltimore, it took a three year determined effort to open the way for official scouts.

That visit of the Prince will mean a lot to England. It will mean more to native Africans, but it ought to mean most to American Negroes in the way of waking them up to the possibilities in that rich continent. If it is worth the dangers that imperil the head of the most powerful government on the face of worth something to a few enterprisethe earth certainly it would be ing young colored men.

The Sleeping Klan

Every now and then something happens to tell us that the Ku Klux Klan is not dead, but sleeping

Even in Maryland, where the Catholics and the Jews are sufficiently powerful to keep its activities "within the law," it bobs up now and then. Last Saturday, 500 men, women and juveniles, including 50 from Baltimore, donned the hoods and robes and publicly marched to a Baptist church near Baltimore, where a celebration took place.

At that ceremonial the hobgoblin, or some high muck-demuck of the organization again set forth beneath the fiery cross their objective to banish all catholicism and kick all aliens into the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

That objective helps us. For by the time that is accomplished there wont be enough of them left to do much to our group.

We wonder if the Grand Goblin has read recent dispatches from France, and what happened to a powerful government head who tried to buck the Catholic organization.

Questions-Answers In Negro History

Who was the first white millionaire in the slave states and the first Negro millionaire after 1865?—L. W. B., Ed.

I have no data upon this matter.

Was Herod, proconsul of Judea, a Roman or an Asiatic?—K. L. N., Mason City, Iowa.

Herod was a Roman citizen, otherwise he could not have been proconsul. However, the house of Herod was linealy descended from Thesus and Cecrops, both of African descent, the latter having founded Athens in Greece; the other was one of the most celebrated kings of Athens and a famous hero.

Who was King Thair?—H. H. G., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Thair was a famous and powerful king of Vemen, Ethiopian by blood, who conquered and plundered the ancient Persian capital.

Will you kindly give me some information about Edmund Dede?—C. C., Boston, Mass.

Edmund Dede was a composer and violinist. He was born of slave parents in 1829 in New Orleans. He took up the violin and was regarded as a virtuoso at 21. He was of pure African blood and spoke the French language. He established himself in Paris and became a teacher of the violin and a composer of note. He was a close friend of Dumas.

When was the first colored school started for Negroes in the South?— J. P. Buxton, Iowa.

The first colored school south of the Ohio was formed May 20, 1865, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Was Scipio Africanus an African?—F. J. D., Chicago, Illinois.

No. Scipio was of Roman birth. The probabilities are that he was a mulatto the same as all the Romans of his day. The ancient Romans were not a white race, but a mixture of African and other bloods.

PROFESSOR FUDGE

Taxi Cabs Combine

It is alleged the hacking drivers of the city are about to organize. However, the organization is not to be the kind of organization you expect. It is not the purpose to raise the rate from fifty cents a head to seventy-five cents, nor is there purpose to put on an additional cover charge.

The fact is the wolf has made them take a certain amount of cover. Their patronage has been silently slipping away because they would not bring us a meter and the old cab. Therefore, they have come to the conclusion the only thing to do is to gang the situation.

Regular Cabs With Meters Coming

As I understand it, they are to turn in all those beautiful gas wagons and have sent back to them some regular taxi cabs with the meters on them and everything. They will even do better than that, there will be a regular telephone number and you will be able to get a cab on short notice without coming out of the house and locating the chauffeur. There will be one grand organized service run on a big time plan and the boats will look good enough to draw up in front of anybody's house.

All this is written in the constitution of the organization and any one knows you must live up to your constitution. We all know how the United States lives up to everything in its constitution, especially the fourteenth and fifteenth amendment. We all wish the new company, health, wealth and prosperity, but we also believe that if it does not want to be "crowded" by those other cab companies it had better not tamper with those meters.

Half Century

The Half Century Club held its regular Easter Carnival at the New Albert Auditorium Wednesday a week ago. At this writing little is known by me of the ins and outs of the affair. Of course as time goes on some little bit of chatter will leak my way, but for the present I am not able to relay much information to the public. The best I can get out of it is that it was a beautiful thing. It is claimed the decorating scheme was wonderful and that it stood out in bold relief as a fly speck on a clean white collar. True there was some bungling of the music but this didn't count, in fact this part was straightened out before the sun came up.

Decorations And Fancy Cuts

Other than the decorations and the fancy cuts and slashes furnished by the dressmakers and worn by the different delegates to the convention, possibly the greatest feature of the event was the attitude taken by the Committee of Ways and Means in getting up the invitation list.

In order to appreciate the committee's work, "one must understand or know something of past performances," as a race horse tout would say. In the past the wives of the members of the club wielded so much influence or so much rolling pin that the slippery old fellows were afraid to invite any young girls at all.

This necessarily made the dance more like work than pleasure. In fact when those old fellows kept purposely crushing the madam's toe, it became clear to all of them that new arrangements would have to be made so that some other ladies could come to the thing and rest their toes up. Therefore peace was finally declared after three or four years and at least some young or some alleged young women were permitted to be invited by the women's auxiliary of the invitation committee. Thus this year's gathering saw many "debs" present. To tell the truth there were so many young girls present, the wives had a hard time telling with whom the boss was doing his stuff.

Other than the irregular local talent, a quantity of pleasure seekers were imported from Washington and surrounding territories. Just who they were I haven't learned yet, but I don't believe President Coolidge was there.

Alphas Dance

I am also keping my weather eye on the Alpha Phi Alpha dance which is scheduled for Wednesday at the New Albert. I hear these college boys are going to try to show the vagabonds where they get off.

It will be interesting to know much much of a dance can be had for $60 and how much of a dance can be had for $600, counting the hired suits, new dresses and all. If any of the clerical members attend I hope to be able to note the fact.

His Royal Highness

The Prince of Wales is now in Africa. It appears he is visiting the different parts of the British Empire as a sort of envoy of peace and good will. Not that the Africans can do anything to the Empire is it necessary for him to make the trip, but as we all know it is even well to have the good will of a dog.

When the natives see the charming prince with his cowboy suit and his light blue overcoat on, naturally they will warm up to him knowing that he has come such a long distance to shake hands with them.

If the Prince makes them satisfied enough to stop squawking and do more work so that a lot of people in England can roll around in big Rolls-Royces he will at least be of some service to somebody. The Prince absolutely intends to make a good impression. This we all must agree if we look in the luggage aboard his ship.

Banjo And Red Tent

Among the many things aboard the ship the following articles were tabulated: One banjo which the Prince has learned to play, one big blood red tent which he will use when ashore and a special built blood red auto trimmed with plenty of nickle plate and which evidently looks like a bootlegger's car. Just as the Dutch and the English bought half of America with loud blankets and trinkets, so that Prince hopes to get the good will of his African subjects by the red tent, the red motor car and the banjo.

If you can imagine Wales sitting out-side of his red tent with the red auto in the back ground and the banjo in his "mit," doing a "Ukelele Ike" while a crowd of natives watch him, you have some idea of what he is going to pull in the old country. The fact is, the Prince is going in for vaudeville. This is all so well and so good. But I can't see why the papers let him get away with this stuff without giving him a name. When Kaiser Bill's son was directing the operations of the German troops during the war and was making it ever so unpleasant for the allies, all American papers that did not have German-American editors referred to the young man as the "Clown Prince" for no other reason than that he was giving all the troops in front of him a living fit.

If the German Crown Prince had to be called the "Clown" Prince, I see no reason why the English Crown Prince can't be called "Bert" Williams, specially so inasmuch as he is alleged to have Negro blood in his veins which is said to have come to him by way of descent from the famous Russion Poet Pushkin. Hey, hey.

AMOS HOKUM SAYS

Addition is the cause of a great deal of slander. Putting two and two together has started many a rumor.

All that's left of a Baltimore girl's wearing apparrel is the outskirt

Mary had a Thomas Cat
It warbled like a Caruso;
A neighbor swung a baseball bat
Now Thomas doesn't do so.

He—Life is a bore.
She—Yes; and how much you remind me of life.

Gladys says she has just about made up her mind to marry a cave man, because they seem to have more endurance.

OPPORTUNITY WOULD MAKE A POOR FOREIGN LECTURER IN AMERICA. IT KNOCKS ONLY ONCE.

What an awful mess Nebuchadnezzar would have started had he lived in the Hawaian Islands and started eating grass.

Breathes there a girl with soul so dead,
Who never to herself hath said,
Is there a burglar under my bed?

A Western couple had their wedding ceremony performed in a lion's cage. In a year or two the young man will look back and realize what a calm place a lion's cage really is.

Many people who meet with accidents these days worry more about damages than they do repairs.

The fireless cooker may be all right, but it's not as comfortable as the old kitchen stove when you back up to it on a cold day, muses William Mason.

POOR BILL! HE WAS KILLED BY A FLASK OF LIGHTNING.

Because a girl is easy to look at is no indication that she is easy to look after, snaps a Baltimore mother. Ask Ma, she knows.

Marriage, says S. S. Brookes is a failure only when men and women make it so.

There were three at the little table in the Royal Palace Hotel, a girl and two men. Suddenly the lights went out and the girl drew back quickly.

An instant later there was the smack of a compound kiss. As the lights went up each man was seen smiling complacently

"I thought I heard a kiss," said the girl, "but nobody kissed me."

Then the men glared at each other and flushed.

A Liberty Missouri man 90 years old says he has never chewed gum, eaten ice cream, seen a motion picture, taken a drink, been on a train or in an automobile, seen a "girl" show or building more than four stories high, or moved. But why, do you suppose, a man like that wants to bother to live?

Some "friends" of a recent groom put him in a cage after the ceremony. If they had been real friends they would have locked him in the day before.

"Why all this fuss about women governors?" asked Clyde Meeks, and then adds. "Everyone has one"

Divorce courts records show that the old flame doesn't always burn her love-letters.

The scientist who predicts that some day we shall live on air doesn't seem to have observed how many people have been living on hot air for years.

Father (sternly) Now you understand what I have just said, young lady. Small daughter (unimpressed) Will you please broadcast it again. I haven't quite got your wave length.

Some nice girls think that when they go to a public dance they can check their modesty at the cloakroom with the rest of their things, and get it again when they come out.

A beautiful woman gets talked about; a pretty woman gets talked to; a homely woman gets talked at; the rest do the talking.

IS IT KILLING THEM OFF?

A New York columnist said that the birth rate is declining since people stay up nights to do crossword puzzles.

A Maryland gentleman who rather suspected that some one was peeping through the keyhole of his office door, investigated with a syringe full of pepper sauce, and went home to find his wife had been cutting wood and a chip had hit her in the eye.

There is a bright side to everything, snaps Garland Mackey, even including last year's suit of clothes.

Kelly Miller Says

Something new under the sun is the $200,000 bequest of the late Charles W. Troughton, white to Hampton and Tuskegee.

The money is given for scholarships to boys and girls who expect to go back to the farms.

In city life cards are stacked against the Negro. He is afforded every facility for leading a gay life, but is excluded from all except a few lines of business.

Farm life is his salvation.

A New Bequest To Hampton and Tuskegee

All roads lead to Rome. People are prone to travel a beaten path. To him that hath shall be given. Hampton and Tuskegee have captured the imagination of the American people. The benevolently disposed look to them as any outlet for their charity.

It is not so much because of any theory of education of social polity that these institutions have gotten the start of the educational world. It is rather due to the idea that two great Americans built their lives into the warp and woof of these great institutions and have brought the world to their door.

Armstrong And Washington

Armstrong and Washington, one white and one black, made a deeper impression upon the educational thought and opinion of their day and generation than any other contemporary teachers. The seed was planted in a new and fertile soil. The needs of the newly emancipated race appealed powerfully to the imagination of the American people.

Other forms of education were unfortunate in not finding equally persuasive advocacy. Indeed the higher education of the Negro has equally as attractive goods to sell, but it has not so far found as effective salesmen. Hampton and Tuskegee are the results of good salesmanship.

These institutions have been so deeply implanted in the minds and imagination of the American people that they are made the beneficiaries of more legacies than any other single charity. When we take up the morning paper and read that Hampton and Tuskegee have been left large bequests in the will of the late so-and-so, we experience no sense of surprise. We have become so accustomed to such announcements that we place them among the ordinary occurrences.

Latest Bequest Amounts To $200,000

The latest benefaction of this description came to notice in the morning papers of Thursday, the day on which this article was written. Indeed it furnished my theme for the week's release. Mr. Charles W. Troughton makes these institutions the legatees of his will, to share in the bequest in the ration of two to one in favor of Hampton. The amount of the fortune thus devised is said to be two hundred thousand dollars.

The most interesting feature of this bequest is that it is provided that the proceeds be used to establish scholarships in these schools for boys and girls who are preparing to live on the farm, instead of joining the mad rush to the city.

The testator recounts: "As farming is one of the most, if not the most, important occupations, and as it appears to be less sought after than other occupations, my earnest wish is to help make it an inducement to students to take up agriculture and kindred farming occupations in preference to occupations that will take them away from country life, it being my wish to counteract if possible the present tendency which is toward town and city."

Booker Preached From The House Tops

Before the beginning of the world war we used to hear this doctrine proclaimed with great fervor and persuasiveness. Booker T. Washington preached it from the housetop. He firmly believed that in the long run the Negro race as such would be far better off in the country than in the city.

His argument was plausible; his philosphy convincing. But the oncoming of the war created a sudden vacuum in the labor market of the city industries in the North. The Negro rushed in to fill the vacuum without rhyme or reason.

For the past few years we have been lauding the Negro in the Northern cities to the extent and degree that we have almost forgotten the old conception that the farm is the best place for the race considered as a mass. The old argument needs to be revised, and reviewed in light of altered circumstances and conditions.

Negro In North Still An Experiment

The Negro in the Northern cities is still an experiment. The recent Negro issue of the survey pointing out the lot of the Negro in Harlem is indeed an interesting portrayal. From the standpoint of immediate creature comfort and conveniences, these people are undoubtedly much better off than they were in their rural communities from which they came. Harlem is but typical of other centers into which these people are crowding.

By changing the name of the city and by making suitable modifications for local conditions, the Harlem edition of the Survey might as well describe Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, or Pittsburgh.

Business Competition Not Anyways Near

There is a sameness of life and relationship in all of them. If we think in terms of long units of time the prospect does not seem pleasing. There is not the slightest indication in a single instance that the Negro will probably, at any calculable date enter into the business competition of the cities in which he resides.

He is employed as a hand at good wages for the time of high wages. He does not become a self proprietor except in certain sumptuary lines such as barber shops, eating houses and beauty parlors.

Three hundred thousand Negroes in Harlem do not conduct as much independent business as an ordinary white community of five thousand souls. The competition is of the fiercest possible kind, nor is the Negro permitted to enter upon the competition on terms of equal competition. The whole economic fabric is organized, with the black man outside of the organized scheme. Try ever so hard, the cards are stacked against him.

Facilities Open For A Good Time

He is afforded every facility for having a good time. Of eating and drinking and dancing there is no end. Gayety and frivolity are the order of the day, and especially of the night. There is little or no thought of the future of the racial group in the urban centers which allure, delight for the moment, and destroy.

When hard times come and employment is slack the soup line becomes long and lasting. Who will picture the future of Harlem fifty years from now? To add to the gloominess of the prospect, city property is appreciating so rapidly in value that it is becoming increasingly difficult for the ordinary person to own a home. The saddest prospect about the Harlem Negro is that comparatively few do or can ever hope to own their own homes.

Farming Communities Offer Contrast

Let me throw in contrast the Negro in Harlem with a little farming community that I know. This Negro settlement is located at Fowler, near Fresco, California. It comprises about thirty ranches owned and operated by Negroes who migrated there about twenty-five years ago from Georgia. These ranches are worth on the average of twenty-five thousand dollars each.

Every proprietor has his car in which he brings his produce to town or drives for pleasure about the country side. They are near enough to the city to drive in for any worthwhile occasion. Each family feels its independence and rejoices in its owns self proprietorship. They do not have to look to the white proprietor every day for their daily bread.

These simple minded, though intelligent people have learned the method of farming by irrigation. They have built splendid farm homes. They bask in the sunshine of their own settlement, and are happy. They in truth and indeed stretch forth their hands under their own vine and fig tree.

Settlement Of Only 100 Souls

I have taken this little settlement of some one hundred souls as typical of the Negro on the farm under intelligent self proprietorship. There is no reason why such settlements might not be multiplied by thousands in all parts of the country.

The white man is now leaving the farm with a reckless abandon. He is rushing into the city after the mad quest for gold. The Negro follows by imitation. But in following the white man to the city he loses in relative status.

The Negro on the farm has all but an equal chance with his white competitor. He can produce precisely as much to the acre under the same tillage, and sell it at the same market price. But when the two arrive in the city the white man is enhanced and the Negro depreciated. The city industries are organized, the agricultural activities are not. The Negro stands the best chance in unorganized callings and pursuits.

Can Find Farms In The North

It is not necessary for the Negro to remain in the South in order to remain on the farm. He can take up the abandoned farms of the North and West which are being neglected by the hundred of thousands. What the white man resigns, the Negro should learn to value.

But on the other hand when the Negro leaves the farm of the South, he never goes to the farm of the North or West, but always makes a beeline for the city, and usually the big city at that. Not only so he is rapidly leaving the farms which he formerly occupied in the old free States. There are probably fewer Negroes in the rural portions of Ohio and Illinois than there were in 1860.

The reason for their thinning out in the rural areas of the West is on account of social loneliness. One or two Negro families in an environment of whites which withholds social relations from them become an object of social pity. They fly to the city in quest of society of their own kind. The remedy for this is pointed out in the Fowler colony, where a group of Negroes carry their own social life with them.

Home Ownership Vital Necessity

A people who do not own a considerable share of their environment will figure but feebly in the management and control of the affairs of the community in which they live. The social value of proprietorship consists not so much in its absolute as in its relative value.

We are told in the Survey that Negroes in Harlem have contracted for property to the extent of sixty million dollars. This sounds large in the aggregate; but relatively it would not equal the value of a single skyscraper. What makes poverty oppressive is its close proximity to overweening wealth. On the other hand the Negro farm proprietor is more than apt to be on terms of comparative wealth with the other farmers in the community.

City Discipline Is Lacking

The Negro has not as a race yet acquired the discipline necessary to city life. Whether he will acquire this discipline in the city in time to save himself from destruction remains yet to be determined. A race of hired hands is a race of nobodies. A race of independent proprietors is the hope of any country and of any people.

Of course I am not making a one hundred per cent argument, but am rather speaking in terms of averages. Some will and should come to the cities. Here lies the larger field for the development and exercise of great talent and large powers. But the masses of the Negro peoples are apt to be ground to powder by the pressure and attrition of city life into which they rush unprepared.

Troughton Bequest Marks New Day

Well might we hail the bequest of Mr. Troughton as marking a new day in the trend of Negro movement away from the farm. It requires education and understanding to live advantageously and conveniently in the country. The provision made in this will looks in the right direction.