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FOR QUALITY READ
The New York Age
THE HOME PAPER

The New York Age

WHEN YOU SEE IT IN
The Age
YOU CAN DEPEND UPON IT
News That Is Informing

VOLUME 33. NO. 20.

THE NATIONAL NEGRO WEEKLY

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7, 1920

BEST EDITED—BEST

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Does the New Negro Differ from the Negro of the Past? Thoughtful Men Consider Question From Many Angles

Symposium on "New Negro—What Is He?"

Readers of The Age Write On
Distinctive Qualities of the
Negro of Today

A New Racial Unity

Opinions Advanced Showing that Present
Conditions Have Developed Under-
standing and Determination.

An editorial in The New York Age of January 24 asked a question as to the "New Negro—What Is He?" and suggested that readers of The Age might give on paper a fair sample of the qualities that go to make up the New Negro.

The question evidently struck a responsive chord for there have come to the editor a number of letters discussing the matter and offering opinions on qualifications of the New Negro. These letters are interesting, not only because of the various points of view given, but also because of the manner in which the subject is treated.

The first and last paragraphs of the editorial are reproduced as follows:

Below are reproduced several of the letters received.

CHURCH OFFICIALS TO HOLD MEETINGS

Members of Two Denominations Will Gather in
Baltimore Next Week

(Special to The New York Age.)
BALTIMORE, Md.—Bishops, general officers, prominent ministers and laymen of the African Methodist Episcopal and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion churches are expected to be here next week for the semi-annual council of the bishops of the two denominations.

The Pennsylvania Avenue A. M. E. Zion Church has been renovated throughout for the meeting of Zion bishops. The A. M. E. bishops will meet in Bethel Church, which has also been entirely renovated.

The A. M. E. Zion bishops will hold their first session on Tuesday afternoon, February 9. During their stay here they will hear reports from the general officers, an educational report from Dr. D. C. Suggs, president of Livingstone College; discussing plans for the successful outcome of the centenary drive for \$1,000,000, and complete plans for the quadrennial session of the General Conference of the denomination at Knoxville, Tenn., next May. The Rev. J. W. McCoy, pastor of the Pennsylvania Avenue Church, has provided a special program for each night during the week.

Beginning with Sunday, February 10, there will be a week of special services at Bethel Church. The edifice will be dedicated on Friday morning, February 13. Bishop Charles S. Smith and Exalted Tyler will be among the speakers. The burning of mortgages aggregating \$70,000 will take place the same evening. The mortgage burning will be the result of the successful labors of the Rev. W.

WM. PICKENS JOINS N. A. A. C. P. FORCES

William Pickens, who recently resigned as vice-president and dean of Morgan College, Baltimore, Md., has been appointed to the position of associate field secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. of New York and will devote all of his time to the organization. His specific duties, according to announcement from the association, will be the organizing of the Negroes throughout the country.

Since graduating from Yale in 1904, Mr. Pickens has been engaged in teaching, having been connected with Talladega College, Alabama; Wiley University, Texas, and Morgan College, Maryland. He was the first colored man to be elected as vice-president of the latter institution being also the first race teacher to hold the position of dean.

Mr. Pickens was born in Anderson county, S. C., in 1881, but his parents moved to Arkansas in 1882. He entered the school of North Little Rock in 1891. He was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa, a much sought for honor, and he won a number of literary and oratorical prizes. He entered Yale in 1902 and in a class of 200 men he won the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

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MRS. A. W. HUNTON A PREJUDICE VICTIM

Subjected to Humiliating
Experience at Sanatorium Built up by
Negro Patronage.

Mrs. Addie W. Hunton, widow of the late W. A. Hunton, swept off her feet during the epidemic of illness that has gripped the country during the last few weeks, had her physician, Dr. Richard Still of Brooklyn, arrange for a room either in a hospital or sanatorium where she could have complete rest and the skilled attention that could be brought to her by a trained nurse, as well as the continued attention of her physician. Dr. Still, after much effort, finally secured such a place at the Mulderig Sanatorium, 2365 Seventh avenue, New York City.

This was known to be a place where colored patients, as well as their colored physicians, had always been made welcome; but when Mrs. Hunton finally appeared at the door last Saturday evening, after a long taxi-ride through the biting zero weather, Miss Mulderig, the owner of the place, threw up her head in dismay, and said in most excited terms to Miss Kathryn M. Johnson, of 372 Grand avenue, Brooklyn, who had preceded the sick woman into the building, "I didn't know she was a colored woman; the doctor didn't tell me she was a colored woman."

But the friend knowing the weakened condition of the patient, said nothing to Mrs. Hunton until she had finally climbed the three flights of stairs, without assistance of a word of sympathy from the several nurses who stood around as if they were paralyzed and possessed of a spirit as frigid as the

Informing Side-Light On Inter-Racial Situation

President Moton in Annual Report Covers
Every Important Activity of
Tuskegee Institute.

Federal Aid for Schools

Conferences and Summer Schools With 1,700
Students on Roll, Show Widening
Circle of Influence.

(Special to The New York Age.)
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.—Urging federal aid for the public schools in the South, Dr. R. R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute, offered a most interesting report to the trustees. The report, which covers every important activity during the school term, includes a highly interesting and informing side light on economic conditions in the South as well as the inter-racial situation.

The report opens with a resume of Tuskegee's war work. By special contract with the government 1,229 men were trained as auto mechanics, chauffeurs, blacksmiths, leather workers, electricians, metal workers, for service in the army, and it is shown that these Tuskegee trained workers gave most efficient service in the camps and overseas.

The Saturday League.

One of the most interesting features of Tuskegee's war work was the or-

It is impossible to estimate the value of Tuskegee's work. Its Conference and meetings of the hundreds of people who visit the Institute throughout the year as well as the 1,700 students and 600 summer school teachers shows continuing confidence and means an ever-widening circle of influence for the Institute founded by Booker Washington.

Dr. Moton himself is coming to be recognized as a dominant figure in the South in bringing about better relations between the races as well as stimulating educational progress among the

NEW NEGRO—WHAT IS HE?

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The question evidently struck a responsive chord for there have come to the editor a number of letters discussing the matter and offering opinions on qualifications of the New Negro. These letters are interesting, not only because of the various points of view given, but also because of the manner in which the subject is treated.

The first and last paragraphs of the editorial are reproduced as follows:

NEW NEGRO—WHAT IS HE?

Every now and then we come across a reference to the "New Negro," which provokes the inquiry what and who is the new Negro, and in what particular does he differ from the Negro of the past. What virtues has the new comer that the Negro of yesterday, or the day before, did not possess?

The Negro of the past generation made a pretty fair record of achievement in the various lines of diversified activities opening to a newly emancipated race.

It may be that the new Negro signifies the development to the highest degree of the good qualities of the past, enriched and stimulated by the fuller opportunities of the present.

But we would like to be introduced to a concrete example of the new Negro, in order that a fair comparison might be made with some of his antecedents. As the introduction need not be personal, perhaps some of our readers can give us on paper a fair sample of the qualities that go to make up the new Negro.

We await the portrayal with expectation.

Among the letters is one which declares that the "New Negro" is found in the great unrest, and that the spirit now aroused will never be quelled or subdued by acceptance of a few political plums or pleas for equal accommodations. This writer declares for the elimination of blind or selfish, ignorant or criminal leadership.

Another writer gives as outstanding characteristics of the "New Negro," Spirit of Independent Unity, Racial Understanding and the Self-Defending Negro. He declares that the Negro of today is not wondering about what he is going to get, but is determined to get what he should have always had and never got.

Below are reproduced several of the letters received.

WHAT IS "THE NEW NEGRO?"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK AGE:

You ask in a recent editorial for comment on the "New Negro." The "New Negro" or "New Consciousness awakening in Negroes" is but a re-awakening of the spirit that died with men like Frederick Douglass and women like Sojourner Truth. Whether you know it or not, your paper contributes largely to the evolution of a "New Negro" through Mr. J. W. Johnson's editorials and your treatment of news. All through the South, on the border of which I live, there is a steadily growing feeling finding lodgment in the minds of the masses of Negroes that there is something rotten in society, that the steady decline and fall of the Negro from the high point during reconstruction days following '65 has been largely due to blind or selfish, ignorant or criminal leadership somewhere. This does not imply that the leaders in the field of industrial training were at fault for the work of making the Negro an efficient economic factor was necessary.

The spirit of the "New Negro" is found in the great unrest. It will never again be quelled or subdued by the acceptance of a few little political plums handed its prominent men, nor will pleas for equal or better accommodations satisfy its longings. It opposes these self-delegated spokesmen who, in cringing, favor-seeking mood, propagate a theory of self-acknowledged social inferiority for the gratification of the enemy. This "New Negro" is fast learning that the dog-like, lick-spittle, devotion-to-master spirit is not a virtue of freemen and is not loyalty, and has gained nothing for the Negro mass but further oppression and ill-treatment, forcing him down to stiffer serfdom.

Also, the Negro laborer in the past has been told that when he owns as much property as his white brother, or pays taxes upon as much land, then and not until then will he possess the rights

(Continued on Page Two)

SYMPOSIUM ON "NEW NEGRO—WHAT IS HE?"

(Continued from Page One)

politically that the other has. The mass of labor is absorbing new thought. The workman is beginning to see that his constant labor is necessary to the wealth of his employer, and he intends to make his labor mean more for himself. He accepts the principle of no segregation. He fights the leaders who regard the established custom as fixed and immutable, and who advise Negroes to be satisfied with equal accommodations. Only twelve Republicans thought the Jim-Crow car a menace to the race, and yet the party claims our loyalty. Some people are suggesting that we help celebrate the day on which Crispus Attucks fell and yet fifteen millions of his race pay about one-fifth of the taxation through their labor, and have no representation in national government.

Finally, Mr. Editor, just live for a short while among the Negroes who do not suffer the benighting influences of the leadership they are fast discarding, and you will discern the spirit of a new type of Negro who bids fair to take a manly part in this government in a short while.

E. B. HENDERSON.

R. D. 13, Falls Church, Va.

THE NEW NEGRO IN POLITICS.

To the Editor of The Age:

For many obvious reasons, the gathering to be held at Chicago on June 8 will prove to be the most important Convention held by the Republican Party since the days of Reconstruction. It will be a reconstruction Convention essentially, inasmuch as it will afford a sort of referendum for the determination of our future foreign policy; secondly, it will evolve some new and constructive middle ground for adjusting the differences between capital and labor; and finally, it will foreshadow the new political era which is to mark the gradual disintegration of both the great parties as political units. It is for these very reasons also, that this epochal event may hold for the colored citizens of America a significance beyond the hope

America a significance beyond the hope of our fondest dreams.

But so much has been said and written of the conduct or misconduct of the colored men who have been privileged to share in the deliberations of National Republican Conventions in the past that a timely word of warning from the Negro press of the country, to both the members of our own group as well as to the national party powers, may help to guide us safely over the pathway along which we must tread.

A New Opportunity.

Colored men should be admonished that the economic and political reaction consequent upon the world war offers a new opportunity for not only disproving the calumnious imputations of mediocrity, purchasability and absence of political conviction but for the acquirement and retention by a judicious use of the franchise, of those rights and privileges which it alone can effect. Moreover, the just recognition of our boys in Europe should heighten the hopes and readjust the point of view of those who make a practice of politics for revenue only. The party powers on the other hand should be admonished that the intelligent growth and self-respect of our population the country over is demanding emphatically a type of leadership and a measure of recognition which no one of the great political parties of today have yet been willing to approve. In other words, with

the advent of world citizenship has come the so-called "New Negro" in politics with a more uncompromising interpretation of political and civic justice. He will not be cajoled or excited by platform platitudes and rhetorical fervor. He seeks both good government and proportionate participation therein.

In the appointment of Mr. James Weldon Johnson to the new platform advisers of the National Republican Committee, Chairman Hays evinces a hopeful appreciation of the new conditions. And it is earnestly to be hoped that through the constancy of the Negro press, and the better known men with whom Mr. Johnson is to be associated, the National Party Powers will not lack in their effort to stimulate and meet the new demands for political and civic righteousness.

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"CONGRESSMEN WANTED."

To the Editor of The Age:

I read your editorial, "Congressmen Wanted," in a recent issue with much interest, and I think it should be read by every Negro voter, especially those in Harlem. If my memory serves me right I think the Republican legislature a few years ago so gerrymandered the Congressional districts in Harlem as to divide the Negro vote in order that there would not be a majority of Negro voters in the Republican Party in any district. I predict that when any Congressional district in the North is likely to have a Negro majority the legislature will see to it that it is gerrymandered.

Every Congressional district in the North is entitled to two delegates to the National Republican Convention. Two of the Congressional districts in Harlem should have at least one delegate each. This electing an alternate at-large or an alternate for a district means nothing. It is simply throwing a bone to the Negro. The Negro wants the substance, not the shadow. There may have been others but I cannot recall but one Negro who was elected as a delegate to a National Republican Convention from the North and that was Atwood of Michigan some years ago. If we cannot find a Negro of "Congressional calibre and character" we certainly ought to be able to find two Negroes of "calibre and character" to represent the Harlem districts. It is said that the Negro population of Harlem is near 100,000. Not to be able to produce two Negroes of ability to represent such a large population is a reflection on their intelligence and their boasted advancement. The average delegate to a National Convention is a nonentity, a few leaders transact all of the business. The "Old Guard" ran the Conventions of 1912 and 1916 and will run the Convention of 1920.

The New Negro.

I was also very much interested in your editorial, in the same issue, "New Negro—What Is He?" You referred to Langston and Dr. Crummell. Gen. R. B. Elliott, the most brilliant figure of the Reconstruction period and the greatest all-around man of ability the race has produced, graduated from Eton College, England, and afterwards studied law. Mr. Cardozo who was Secretary of State, then State Treasurer, and afterwards Principal of the High School, Washington, D. C., graduated from Glasgow (Scotland) University. The scholarly Straker, a West Indian, was also a college graduate, and there were others, among them being Greener, now living in Chicago, a graduate of Harvard, I believe the first Negro from that seat of learning. I challenge any person to name six college graduates of the present day to compare favorably with the six noted above. The men I have named were real leaders, men with a following, representative men. They did not think because they were college men that they should hold themselves aloof from their fellow man.

I think the college graduate of the present day is troubled with an inflated ego, or he does not possess those qualities that go to make for leadership. If he has those qualities he shows lack of ambition. There is only one way to attain leadership and that is through politics, as evidenced by the white man. Take the case of Dr. Washington. Before President Roosevelt invited him to that dinner and made him the spokesman for the race, he was a very much abused man. He went from city to city and there was no politician to meet him and carry his valise, and few even knew where he stopped. In fact the politicians were not in the least interested in him. But what a change came over the politicians after he entered the political game. Everywhere he went he was acclaimed a great political leader. Those who were so intense in their bitterness toward him when they found out that there was no political advancement for them without his endorsement, became his most sycophantic followers.

Where is the man to compare with that greatest of all Negroes, Frederick Douglass?

About three years ago Mr. Work of Tuskegee Institute requested me to furnish him some data pertaining to the reconstruction period in South Carolina. I quote from that article:

"When I compare the present political leaders in South Carolina with those of the reconstruction period I must confess that we have retrograded politically. Not only in South Carolina, but where would you find in any State at the present time political leaders who can measure up to the calibre of Elliott, Rainey, Cardozo, Straker, Swails, DeLarge, Bosemon, Wright, Ransier, Lee, McKinlay, Cain, Whipper and Wilder?

"When the race can again produce political leaders of the type named then we may look forward with some degree of hope for a solution of the Negro problem."

First Negro Congressman.

I think you are in error in your inference that Jefferson Long was the first Negro member of the U. S. House of Representatives. Georgia was not represented in Congress after the war until the 42nd Congress. Mr. Rainey was seated in the 41st Congress, 3rd Session, to fill the vacancy caused by the non-reception of B. F. Whittemore, and served longer than any other Negro. The Congressional Directories will bear me out in this contention. Mr. Rainey was the only Negro Congressman who presided over the House of Representatives. Mr. Blaine, then Speaker, extended him that courtesy. Mr. Rainey had another honor bestowed upon him, that of being the nominee of the Republican caucus for clerk of the House of Representatives. I will add that the House was democratic. It was an empty honor, but it showed the high regard in which he was held by his colleagues.

There is as much difference between the Negro leaders of the reconstruction period and the present day Negro leaders as there is between the white Republican leaders of the reconstruction period and the white Republican leaders of the present day.

In those days there was no Frank Hitchcock with a lot of Southern delegates rounded up to be delivered to the candidate with whom he could best dicker.

No cause can be advanced by the suppression of truth. Col. Roosevelt wrecked the Republican Party in 1912 for a principle, and at the time of his death he was the acknowledged leader of that party.

Any Negro can denounce the democratic party. The democratic party cares nothing for the Negro nor has the Negro any use for the democratic party. It requires courage for a Negro since 1876. The politicians are too cowardly to do it. "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib." We can rely only upon such newspapers as THE NEW YORK AGE to speak out boldly.

H. A. WALLACE.

245 W. 139th street, N. Y. City.