

DR. LOCKE SPEAKS ON 'NEW NEGRO'

"Negro problems are no longer Negro problems, but rather Social problems to be treated as any other Social problems."

Thus spoke Dr. Alaine LeRoy Locke, Howard University professor and author of "The New Negro," one of the most discussed race books of the year, to members of The Hungry Club, an organization of white business men, at their weekly luncheon in the Fort Pitt Hotel Monday noon.

Lauding his achievements and ranking him with the greatest American scholars, Dr. M. A. Tyson of the University of Pittsburgh, introduced the speaker to the club members who crowded the banquet room.

Speaks Forcefully

Dr. Locke began his address by saying "The Negro was a lump in the American pot which white men, in the beginning of Negro citizenship, thought would never melt, but now they seek an answer to the question: 'What Can The Negro Contribute to American Civilization?'"

The speaker was insistent in his demand that the white race consider the Negro as a constructive force, rather than a negative liability. He said in part:

"The Negro is contributing his part to American culture and literature, which, at the present time, is not over-rich in it.

"Group leadership," he continued, "is becoming a Negro policy, acting as a galvanizer of the many racial forces; and the problem of the New Leadership is to transform this crude but very genuine capital into American civilization which can be used very nicely."

While Dr. Locke did not apologize for the past of the Negro, he did say that "The last three generations have faced the difficult task of lifting inherent weight off their shoulders, before impending obstacles could be overcome. Much of their energy has been usurped by that task."

Doesn't Ask For Sympathy

"I am not asking you for sympathy for the Negro," Dr. Locke added. "I am only trying to interpret him to you that you might better understand and appreciate his efforts and contributions."

and then, in an eloquent outburst he added, "Prose is too dull. Our artists and poets best explain the force that is going to transform things in the next few years."

He proceeded to quote the rich poetry of Langston Hughes, adding, "Here is a young man, 23 years old, almost too young to understand the thought he so vividly portrays. And yet, some keen insight reveals to him the fact that this is the dawn of a new day for his kind."

Scores Old Ideals

Further along in his address, Dr. Locke scored that style of patriotism which holds the Democratic American idea to be fully accomplished. "It is silly, sentimental and contrary to the thought of The New Negro," he ended.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Locke stated, "The Negro past was historical discipline to prepare the race for the responsibilities of the future; and that we can interpret ourselves through our experiences, is the best evidence that we are masters of them."

A number of race men attended the luncheon. Among them were S. R. Moresell, Executive Secretary of the colored branch of the Y. M. C. A., John Clark, executive secretary of the local branch of the Urban League and a number of University of Pittsburgh students.