

Frazier sees new "sense of personal worth" in Negro

BRUNSWICK, Maine — Industrialization and urbanization are bringing a new Negro into existence in the South — a Negro who has "new sense of personal worth" and "a new conception of himself and of his rights as an American citizen," Dr. E. Franklin Frazier, professor of sociology at Howard university and author of the controversial book, "Black Bourgeoisie", told a Bowdoin college audience last week.

"The status of the Negro in the South has undergone important changes during the past 20 years," Dr. Frazier said. "The extent and nature of these changes have been determined by the impact of industrialization and urbanization in the different areas of the South.

"Nearly two-thirds of the Negro farmers in the South are tenants and the majority of the tenants are still sharecroppers who represent one of the lowest income groups in the United States. However, as the result of urbanization a new Negro middle class about one-half as large relatively as the Negro middle class in the North has emerged in the South.

NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH WHITES

"The movement to cities has emancipated Negroes from their former semi-feudal status and from the traditional social controls which have maintained their subordination. In the mobility and anonymity of the urban environment Negroes are developing a different relationship with whites.

"As the result of their greater freedom," Professor Frazier concluded, "Negroes are developing a new sense of personal worth in their struggle for full citizenship in the urban industrial society which is coming into existence in the South.



DR. E. FRANKLIN FRAZIER

Author of disputed "Black Bourgeoisie" . . . sees something new and notable about the Negro.

"The results of the struggle of the Negro to achieve a new status in the South congenial with the new type of social organization which is coming into existence are seen in changes in traveling. At the present time Negroes may secure Pullman accommodations with little difficulty and they may eat in diners without sitting behind a curtain.

"As the result of their improved economic position in the city and the breaking down of their mental and social isolation, Negroes in Southern cities are acquiring new ideas concerning their rights, and they are able to struggle in an organized manner for their rights as citizens," Dr. Frazier concluded.