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Jim Crow Is Growing Up

By W. O. Saunders

OUR greatest trouble in understanding the negro in America is, not unlike our trouble in understanding American youth, that the negro is a child growing up, and nothing gets out from under you and away from you quite so fast as a child growing up. This new negro is creating a real race problem.

The negro problem that the South has had to wrestle with was never a negro problem at all; it was a political problem only. Unscrupulous white politicians used the ignorant negro in politics for the dual purpose of advancing their own cause and punishing their enemies. The negro became obnoxious in politics because unscrupulous white men made him so. And he finally became such a stench in the ballot box that the South, in desperation, eliminated him from politics by virtually disfranchising him.

Removed from politics, the negro turned to self-improvement in more satisfying and remunerative ways, and he has made astounding progress in a very few years.

One thing we must recognize in any study of the negro in America to-day is the fact that there are as many different kinds of negroes as there are different kinds of white folks. More; there is a lot of vain, selfish, arrogant, bull-headed Anglo-Saxon blood mixed up in the colored race in America.

I am convinced that one of the fastest growing things in America to-day is the negro. In sixty years of freedom negroes have acquired ownership of 218,612 farms, embracing 13,948,512 acres, with improvements valued at \$534,158,000. Negroes have established seventy-four banks with a total capital of \$6,250,000, doing an annual business of \$35,000,000. They have established insurance companies with assets of \$6,500,000, all told, with more than 100 million dollars in policies in force.

The National Life Insurance Company of Atlanta, Ga., organized and operated by negroes, has over 22 million dollars' insurance in force on the lives of colored people, with assets of more than 2 million dollars and a net reserve of more than 1½ millions.

The Blacker the Better

IN the town of Durham, N. C. (than which there is not a prouder white man's town in the Solid South), one finds a seven-story office building of the most modern fireproof construction owned by the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance, an insurance company owned and operated by negroes. Durham negroes list for taxation more than 2 million dollars in property and send 2,500 children to the city's public schools. Seven negroes in Durham have accumulated individual fortunes of from \$50,000 to \$200,000 each.

I might produce facts as interesting from Greensboro, Raleigh, or Winston-Salem, N. C.; Nashville or Memphis, Tenn.; from Atlanta or Savannah, Ga.; from Jacksonville, Fla., or Birmingham, Ala. What negroes in Durham, N. C., are doing, in a friendly environment in which they are permitted to work out their own problems, is being done by negroes all over the South to-day.

But when I spring these facts about negro problems, I always find some one ready to dismiss them with the explanation that it is the white blood in the mulatto that displays such thrift and enterprise. And the man who says that doesn't know what he is talking about. In my long association with the



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negro in the South I have found the pure black types generally more thrifty, more shrewd in barter than the lighter types are, and as ambitious to educate and advance their young.

Right here I am going to present two of the foremost negroes in America, both of whom have achieved wonderful successes and made the best use of their talents. One is a scientist, the other is a business executive. One is light, the other is black. One cannot contemplate these two distinct types and their achievements without being forced to the conclusion that it isn't a matter of race or color, but a matter of education and the fact of the ultimate improbability of any negro type. These two men are Heman E. Perry, president of the National Life Insurance Company of Atlanta, Ga., and Dr. George Washington Carver of Tuskegee Institute. Just a thumbnail sketch of the pair and I rest my case for the improbability and progress of the negro.

Heman E. Perry, an ambitious young negro, started out to organize the Standard Life Insurance Company in 1908. The State of Georgia required a bond of \$100,000 of any insurance company doing business in that State. Perry had to aim for stock subscriptions amounting to \$100,000.

A charter for the Standard Life Insurance Company was secured in 1909, and the company given until January 28, 1911, to make its deposit of \$100,000. The date of January 28, 1911, rolled around, and only \$55,000 of stock in the company had been sold. At the close of that day Heman E. Perry faced the sad task of returning to every investor each dollar that had been paid in. By February 8 every check had been sent out for the amount invested with 4 per cent interest added. Mr. Perry pocketed his own losses incurred in selling the stock. But right here was where he won; the return of that money to the thousands of small stockholders instilled into everyone a new confidence in the man who had kept every promise. Heman E. Perry started anew, and on March 22, 1913, he secured from the Insurance Commissioner of the State

The northward movement of the negro is making the race problem a personal matter for more of us than ever before. We shall have to forget about "keeping the negro in his place." He is growing out of it. Literacy among negroes has increased 70 per cent in the past 56 years. There are 50,000 negroes in business in America, more than 70,000 in the professions, and nearly three-quarters of a million engaged in manufacturing. The lazy and unambitious are being replaced by new types, educated, ambitious, and a little proud. Mr. Saunders, who has traveled for Collier's among negroes North and South, tells here what the new negro is doing, and how he is creating a new race problem which we shall have to solve.

of Georgia a certificate showing that \$100,000 in bonds had been deposited by the National Insurance Company.

Then, to insure the production of business, Perry went into the field and wrote and placed \$250,000 worth of insurance himself, for which he refused to take a commission.

The National Insurance Company of Atlanta has been the inspiration for other negro enterprises with which it is affiliated. One of these is the Citizens' Trust Company, which opened its doors on August 16, 1921. How well it is succeeding is reflected in its deposits of \$469,730.88 on March 1, 1923.

In 1917 Perry and his associates founded the Service Company with an authorized capital of \$100,000, operating at that time a laundry in Atlanta. In 1918 a second laundry was opened in Augusta. From those beginnings the Service Company has gone into other lines of business and become a \$5,500,000 institution. It is the largest corporation in the world to-day operated by negroes. The company was recently awarded a contract for a public-school building by the city of Atlanta at a figure of \$212,000.

Carver Is a Black Genius

NOW for Carver. He is the negro scientist in charge of the research laboratories at Tuskegee Institute. You will find him in "Who's Who in America." He is a member of the British Royal Society of Arts, a distinction enjoyed by not many Americans.

Working in his laboratory at Tuskegee, this colored man has developed 165 by-products of the peanut and 115 by-products of the sweet potato. Some of his sweet-potato products include synthetic rubber, black paint, and white flour. From the clays of the Georgia hills this black man has developed colors that have been the despair of scientists for centuries. Milk, buttermilk, butter, salad oils, cheese, face cosmetics, inks, and dyes from peanuts; flour, paint, sirups, a coffee substitute, and ginger from sweet potatoes, and everlasting colors from the clays of the

hillsides—these are but a few of the wonderful discoveries of the genius whose works have been recognized on two continents and who in almost daily conference with scientists and investors seeking to make practical application of his discoveries.

And this George Washington Carver was born of pure negro stock on a Missouri plantation about the time of the Civil War. The boy Carver spent of his days roaming the woods, interesting himself in every insect, vegetable and insect life.

At the age of ten he was attending a little one-room schoolhouse. At age of twelve he got an opportunity to go to Fort Scott, Kan., with his family and there he worked and went to school until he had secured a high school education. After more work he got into a small college, Iowa. Later he went to the Iowa College, at Ames, where he pursued agricultural work and took the degree of master and bachelor of arts. Taking his degrees he was elected a member of the faculty and in charge of the greenhouse, botanical laboratory, and the laboratory in systematic botany. During the years in which he was acquiring education he paid his way as he went, usually as a laundryman.

About thirty years ago Dr. R. T. Washington recognized in this man he needed at Tuskegee. Tuskegee Dr. Carver went, and you will find him to-day. With a love for all mankind and a self-faith in the Creator of all things, a black man, in whom there is no trace of a white man's blood, continues to make discoveries and perfect processes that may yet revolutionize the agricultural industry of the South that embraced human slavery and then trapped itself into slavery to a crop system of agriculture.

A New Kind of Race Pride

PERRY and Carver! Two distinct different types of the same race, working along distinctly different lines, but both imbued with racial pride and race consciousness, and both working for the economic emancipation of their kind. At the same time they are working up a real race problem by new race consciousness and race pride, they are inspiring in their own laudable, lazy, unambitious kind. Jim Crow could be assigned a place and was content to stay in any old place, but Carver's sons are making places for themselves. There is your real race problem in these United States to-day.

The negro's biggest stake is in the South. Here he has worked out problems and established his great religious and educational institutions. And it is here that he, in large numbers, has rooted himself in the ownership of buildings and lands. The uneducated, unskilled lower working class, tired of the struggle and helpless in their ignorance, will continue to seek economic and social betterment in the North, East, and the West. But the leaders and those better equipped negroes who have achieved economic independence in the South are not going to trade the certain gains for uncertain prospects in other parts of the country. Selfish and unselfish individuals here and there, having no pride of race, may aspire to mistaken social equality and seek to push themselves over the color line. I have heard of such; I have yet to meet one of that kind.

For I



Uncle Henry. "One school-teacher down the road turns out to be another's another to play a saxophone or a guitar. Or maybe some say there isn't at all, but I doubt it. Dates are generally can't hear of, even if I don't think I'm in a perfectly fit. However, you Tuesday, since W. continuation from the but to this day he Albert coat an' ere him to the window made the birth a fast an' speculates possible rival in realizes the necessity for somebody else an' a campaign y the brush for cancellable to take av of 'em hurtin' his so, he runs a risk party is nothin' it ties. Look at the Ford had!

Bedlam

"HAVIN' been appreciate B one can't r of ruin an' suffer kind him as he Only Heaven, I will know the railed lives that for.

"Either the to be made to for life, or el should put him public peace.

"You'd thin have enough s Bryan fool 'e people in more may distrust point where I his wife about up children, the passions make a great Or, better s glasses an' u

"I've seen where every an' contented left in the a Bedlam w of acceptance the back f they must 'em if they they're the friends. I luncheon h left, an' as per soft a bird's wing 'Why,