

## THE NEGRO IN DIXIE.

## Northern Paper Discusses Progress of Race in Last 60 Years.

It is now close to 60 years since the negro of the South became a free man, says a Northern newspaper. What has the negro done through the years following his release from bondage to prove his worthiness to become not only a free man but a citizen of the American republic?

Certainly the flight of more than half a century has brought about a considerable change in the character of the negro as well as in his conditions of living. The old time negro of the South, with his courtesy and his devotion to his white people, has almost entirely disappeared. Only here and there does one now come upon one of the old time maumas about whom still lingers the charm, the atmosphere, of the "quality" negroes of the old plantations.

Two generations of negroes—of the "new" negro—have appeared upon the scene and grown to maturity since the close of the Civil war. So, too, they have arrived to meet far different conditions to those surrounding their ancestors in slavery days. While thousands of the "new" negroes have realized their opportunities and eagerly seized upon them, other thousands have not, showing an apathy, a shiftlessness altogether unaccountable save that it must come from an inherent strain running back to the old days of childlike dependence. Yet the facts show that the race has made great progress mentally, economically and spiritually in the years since freedom was given them. Events have demonstrated clearly that the uplift, the salvation, of the negro, has lain in his recognition of educational, industrial and religious advantages and his readiness to lay hold upon them and make best use of them.

A thirst for knowledge, an insatiable ambition to grasp the best within his reach, has been plainly manifested in the attitude of the negro of the last two generations. Not only has he tried to obtain an education for himself, but he has seized upon every opportunity to have his children educated. Negro children do not have to be driven to school—they go eagerly.

Statistics show that the illiteracy of the negro race has decreased at least 75 per cent since their freedom was proclaimed. The "new" negro has shown, too, that he can be both industrious and thrifty. Fully 300,000 negroes of the South today own the farms they cultivate. The "new" negro, too, has made creditable, some of them remarkable, advance in industrial progress.

Yet despite these gains, there are throughout the South thousands of idle, shiftless negroes, devoid of ambition, living amidst the most degraded surroundings and born to criminal tendencies, as the cess pool breeds flies. It is this class of negroes, insolent, insubordinate, enemies of law and order, with vicious instincts, unbridled, who have been the cause of most of those horrible occurrences that have shocked a nation and placed so dark a blot upon the fair name of the South.

A most distressing feature of the negro question in the South is the appalling conditions of poverty and the utter absence of cleanliness and sanitation in the midst of which so many of them live. The figures of the latest procurable census report give the death rate of the negroes of the South as 31 in every thousand, while for the whites it is 17 in each thousand, but little more than half as much.

Profiteers, like the poor, we have with us always.

Many a romance has been spoiled by a kiss flavored with talcum powder.

## Meeting of Town Council.

At a special meeting Tuesday night of the town council of Fort Mill an appropriation of \$50 was made to reimburse Thos. R. Garrison for the loss of a cow, which died several weeks ago as a result, it was claimed, of eating grass which council had had treated with a liquid "weed killer." It was stated after the meeting that council denied any legal responsibility for the death of the cowworthatanydefinite noin of the cow or that any definite proof had been produced that the animal had been poisoned by eating the grass, the reason given for making the appropriation being that the body was not disposed to work a hardship on any citizen where there may have been even a semblance of responsibility.

George Fish was elected public works commissioner to succeed W. B. Ardrey, who resigned a few days ago. It is expected that the commission will meet this week and reorganize by electing a chairman to succeed Mr. Ardrey.

Council decided to continue for the present the service of a night policeman and J. O. Hammond was elected to fill the place. His salary was fixed at \$60 per month.

## Tirzah Picnic Minus Politics.

With the Filbert picnic a thing of the past, the next big York county event is the agricultural picnic that will be held at Tirzah Tuesday, August 15. J. Skottowe Wannamaker of St. Matthews, president of the American Cotton association, will be the principal speaker. Short talks will likely be made by one or two other well known exponents of agricultural thought.

The Tirzah picnic is unique in this section of the State by reason of the fact that it is strictly an agricultural affair, politics being taboo there.

## From Stable Boy to Peer.

From stable boy in America to peer in England is the remarkable story of Lord Ashfield, baron of Southwell. He began life as plain Albert Henry Stanley, and as a boy started to work in the stables of the street railways in Detroit, Mich., when horsedrawn cars were in vogue. Promotions came rapidly and eventually he became superintendent of the lines. Several years later he went to London as director of underground railways. In 1913 he renounced his American citizenship to become a British citizen. In 1914 he was knighted by King George and in 1920 was elevated to the peerage.

## Eskimos Liquor Crazy.

The northeastern Siberian coast from Anadyr north to the Arctic is in a state of chaos as a result of the manufacture by the Eskimos of raw alcohol, which they drink as fast as it can be made, according to a special dispatch from the Siberian correspondent to the Nome Nugget.

"The whole region is a vast distillery," says the correspondent, who adds that 75 children have died recently from lack of food and medical attention and that the older natives are drinking, fighting and killing each other in their orgies.

## Hitting the Bulls-eye.

Another thing that civilization needs is to become more civil.

Marriage often proves that two can live just as miserably as one. The man who has a single track mind has to work mighty hard to keep it fired up.

The main trouble with radio concerts is that the concert usually is lacking.

Something is always wrong. Just as automobiles begin to drop in price gasoline goes up.

It doesn't make any difference, of course, but what do you suppose has become of Fatty Arbuckle?

## SEASONABLE GOODS

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It stands to reason that poets are born and not made. No man would deliberately make a poet of himself.

Some men are gentlemen, and others act the part during election year.

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