

The Palmetto Leader

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REMITTANCES

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N. J. FREDERICK Editor
H. W. BAUMGARDNER Acting Editor

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Business and Editorial Phone 4523

COLUMBIA, S. C., SATURDAY, AUG. 30, 1930.

A CONSTRUCTIVE MEETING.

The meeting of the State A. C. E. League and Sunday School Convention of the A. M. E. Church at Charleston last week from many angles was the most constructive and ennobling that it has ever been our lot to attend. At each session experts in the various phases of young people's activities lectured, and illustrated methods whereby the young people might receive greater benefit from the attendance upon various church exercises. The Convention theme was: "Youth for Christ and the Church." The reclaiming of youth was greatly enhanced by the expert deliveries of Dr. S. S. Morris, Connectional Secretary of the A. C. E. League; Prof. W. H. Shackelford, Sunday School Specialist; Dr. J. C. Caldwell, Bible Lecturer; and Mrs. Ira T. Bryant, Sunday School Specialist in Primary Methods.

These invited experts received able assistance from many well qualified ministers and laymen of South Carolina, but their work was of paramount importance. A feature of the Convention that might stamp it as an educational triumph was the question box, conducted by Bishop Reverdy C. Ransom. From this box Bishop Ransom drew questions on almost every conceivable phase of human activity—Religion, philosophy, science, Government, art, etc.—but his responses were unimpaired before this avalanche of inquiry, and to each question gave a well reasoned answer based upon deep study, keen observation, and uncommon sense. He evinced beyond the peradventure of a doubt that he possesses the endowments of the true scholar—the ability to take spirit out of books and give it to life.

Among the subjects discussed by Bishop Ransom were: Evolution, Communism, The Higher Criticism, The Place of Amusements in the Church's program, and the New Humanism.

The young people—and old people too—should have received much inspiration from Dr. Morris' travelogue of his trip to Europe where he attended the World Christian Endeavor Meeting. He also told of having attended the Passion Play at Oberammergau.

A mark of great civility was shown when on Thursday the Convention formed a motorcade to do honor to the late Bishop M. B. Salter by holding appropriate memorial services at his grave and placing a wreath thereon. The Widow Salter was present and expressed deep appreciation for the respect shown the memory of her sainted spouse. It was a Convention that should ever linger in the memory of every attendant upon it.

BUSINESS TO THE FORE.

We have received many letters expressing appreciation of our efforts. Our editorial has been widely quoted in the Negro press, and laudatory expressions have appeared in the pages of our contemporaries concerning this paper but we appreciate none of these expressions more than we do a communication received from Alton L. Holsey, secretary of the National Negro Business League.

Mr. Holsey writes the following: "I am writing to thank you for the editorial which appeared in your publication last week (Aug. 2) on the progress of the C. M. A. Stores."

"I regret very much that my annual report had already gone to press when this editorial appeared, otherwise I would have included your publication. What I did, however, was to reprint the editorial and send it to every Negro grocer in America whose name I have."

"Your editorial was one of the most encouraging references which has appeared in any of the colored papers, and all of the publications have been very generous in the space that they have given to the progress of our work."

"We appreciate this expression because it tells us that we are rendering service. That is the purpose for which we exist. There is no greater service that can be rendered the Negro now than to each him and encourage him to have faith in his own business enterprises; to contribute his quota toward the development of his economic resources."

"We believe in the principles upon which the C. M. A. Stores are founded and are for them!"

The following recommendations are published in the Secretary's report (N. N. B. L.): "1. That the C. M. A. Stores Movement be incorporated and organized nationally for permanence and expansion; 2. That a Budget Committee be appointed to plan a campaign for raising funds to carry on the League's work; 3. That a Committee representing sections where Negro population is concentrated, be appointed to plan and direct a series of campaigns for Better Negro Business; 4. That the Branch Office in New York be continued in order that activities already begun and proven important may be fully developed; 5. That a competent staff of workers be provided in order that the increasing office details may be gradually apportioned; 6. That a joint committee, representing the National Association of Colored Women, The National Urban League, the Y. W. C. A., the Business League, and such other organizations as may be interested, be asked to work out plans for nation-wide and comprehensive study of the Negro buying power and buying habits; 7. That a systematic effort be made to present the League's program to church and fraternal leaders and such other groups which reach the masses of our people."

These recommendations are sound and if adhered to will usher in a brighter economic day for the Negro. Our slogan should be: "Business To The Fore!"

"NEGROES IN CUSTODY."

An article of great social interest is published in the September number of The American Mercury Magazine. Its title is "Negroes In Custody," and it is written by a white woman who is a Doctor of Philosophy from Radcliffe College—Eleanor Rowland Wembridge. Doctor Wembridge is referee of the Juvenile Court

of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and has had excellent opportunity for making an extensive study of the reactions of different racial groups that come under her supervision.

Dr. Wembridge maintains in her article—that of the Negroes and the whites who have come under her supervision, being at odds with the law, the Negroes are a decidedly superior lot to the whites. She was unprepared to find that the poor Negro easily carries himself with personal dignity; that he is not servile; that his good manners are not the result of training as a waiter, pull-man porter, domestic, etc.

Dr. Wembridge states that the Negro is better able to face reality than the white, and that this quality springs from the same source as poise. She knows of no other race of people who can sing "Nobody knows the trouble I've seen, Glory Hallelujah," as if giving praise for their troubles. She observes less perversion among Negroes than among whites. "They get less mixed-up as to what sex they belong to. If a colored woman has on a man's coat it is for economic and not for neurotic reasons." In her court the sex escapades of the colored, though many and varied, all fall into normal types. People of suitable ages consort with each other along lines which Nature has laid down.

Dr. Wembridge, in short, believes that in most cases the Negroes who face her need not be brought there if the proper interest be shown by their own people. "Why were such people helped elsewhere by friends and neighbors, and they and I would not have met. Where were the conscientious citizens of their neighborhood when the fight was going on? . . . Where are their own churches, their lodges and their clubs? . . . Our court is the last resort of the white race, and of its weakest or its most stubborn members. Of the colored, it is apparently the first, and of many citizens who should not have had to come."

These observations of Dr. Wembridge are well worth pondering. Although we may not agree with her in all her conclusions drawn from her observations, we are compelled to concede that there are too few points of contact between the Negro's social service organizations and those for whose benefit they exist. Many lives might be salvaged for good if the proper interest be manifested in them. Dr. Wembridge's article should be read by every minister, lawyer, doctor, school teacher and citizen of the Negro race.

BETWEEN THE LINES

BY GORDON B. HANCOCK

Miles And Miles Of Promise.

Saluda, Virginia is a rural village fifty miles east of Richmond and is situated near the great Rappahannock River. For a real comfortable vacation it is doubtful if Saluda can be excelled, and in this goodly land we are taking a vacation the memories of which shall be lasting. Plenty of salt water swimming and fishing, with tennis and croquet. It is fine to get up at three in the morning, and get out on the river and pull in the famous Virginia stats, crabs and trout. Last Saturday morning the writer took twenty nice ones and a few mornings before we caught eighteen well assorted. This is a wonderful section and there is something encouraging about the order of Negro life. It is doubtful if there is to be found anywhere in the world Negroes so substantially situated. Good schools, fine churches with intelligent pastors and well defined social life that affords every necessary comfort and diversion. We say without fear of successful contradiction that if Negroes anywhere are really and truly living, it is the Negroes occupying this strip ten miles wide reaching from Fredericksburg to within five miles of Norfolk. It is possible to negotiate the length of this strip on Negro lands. All of the Negroes own their homes and have beautified and improved them after a most remarkable fashion. Unlike Negro landowners in many places where dilapidation and a forlorn appearance is almost invariably the mark of the Negro home, the Negro farmers in this section have so improved their farms that there is no way to tell when which is white and which is colored. If Harlem represents Negro city life at its best and Durham the business life, then this section represents the highest development of the rural life and transcends all other phases of Negro life in promise for the future. There is no future for Negroes in the city, it is a future misadventure in the life of the Negroes of this section. Just miles and miles of promise!

A Business Point Of Order.

Banking has been too invariably the objective in Negro business. Wherever Negroes have been prosperous, the Negro entrepreneur has set his heart on banking. This has been a great mistake. Banking is never safe unless it is supported by a robust business life. Such life has not been largely developed among Negroes. There must be an abundance of short time paper if a bank is to keep liquid a safe margin of its assets. These short time papers are impossible without plenty of business and this business among Negroes has not yet been sufficiently developed. Even such business as is developed could all be turned over to Negro banks, they could live and prosper, but the bulk of it goes into white channels. It is going to be a fine thing for the Negro entrepreneur to know that banking is a form of business life that must follow rather than precede great business development. Besides a lack in business, Negro bankers have not had save in a few instances a substantial training for their places. The growth of business education is making and will make Negro banking safer and safer. The Negro banker is a business wizard, and if given a half chance is quite as safe as a financier as a white man. Let us support what banks we have, but let us be slow to establish others. The organization of large business enterprises should take precedence of banking. So obsessed have been some of our Negroes with the idea of being bankers, that we know of an instance where the president of the Negro bank was janitor in the white bank. It was assumed that a man who worked around a bank would know banking. The Negro janitor was made president. The bank failed. Aside from holding our jobs, which are basic and primary to every phase of Negro life, our attention should be directed towards establishing new Negro enterprises and supporting those already established. What Mr. Holsey is doing with the C. M. A. stores must be done in other lines. If some of our "high-powered" Negro critics and white man abusers would concentrate their attention on this self same matter of promoting larger Negro business life, we could actually get somewhere. The failure of the Binga Bank was a failure in the Negro's business volume and organization and this failure is due largely to our lack of misis on this economic. We have long stressed the things of the spirit and things of the mind; it is high time that we stress things of economics. We Negroes know business and do business. Negro banking will take care of itself. Mr. Spalding in a letter to me of recent date makes a most pertinent suggestion, says he, "Negroes must learn how to go out of business as well as go into business." Too invariably a Negro must fall himself out of business.

of years, since some wandering star disobeyed the red light traffic signals of the heaven, came too near our sun and in the wreck knocked off a piece of our earth, and life appeared after a long period of time, death has been the end of all life. It is the end now. Every mother's son who walks the earth today will soon sleep the sleep of death.

This little season when schools all over the country will be opening. Thousands of boys and girls, young men and young women will once more begin making the intellectual attack. Are they earnest, sincere? Do they study because they realize that ignorance is a damnable curse? Are they interested in making a worth while contribution to the salvaging and rehabilitation of the race? On the other hand do they desire simply "to get by"? Are they interested chiefly in getting a certificate? Do they wish to seek the lines of least resistance? Do they have the audacity to request teachers to have no examinations and tests? Are they willing to pay the price of scholarship?

Are we more interested in foot ball and basket ball than we are in scholarship? Do schools exist for the purpose of affording athletics? Is that the main drive? In certain sections it seems to be.

AN OUTSTANDING BUSINESS MAN

Andrews, S. C., August 8.—In this little town 14 miles west of Georgetown one finds a group of prosperous business men. Foremost among them is Mr. Fred Green who is one of the outstanding contractors of our group.

When riding on the Seaboard Air Line you might stop to consider that the cross-ties on which the steel rails are fastened could be the ties sold the company by Mr. Green. The chief part of his work is contracts to the Atlantic Coast Line Corporation for the delivery of these ties already cut. It was the writer's privilege to make a visitation to the woods and see 40 or 50 men sawing down trees and cutting them into ties. The ties are then hauled miles to specially constructed railroads. These camps are full of activities and at the end of the day the men return to their camps where good meals have been prepared and beds comfortably made.

Behind these many activities is the genius of Fred Green, who has been in this business some 14-15 years. He is fair, honest and sympathetic with the welfare of his men uppermost in mind. This man is a skillful organizer with a comprehensive knowledge of his business.

Not only is he an outstanding contractor but he is also a leader in the community. He is often called "the father of Andrews." He is a trustee of the school and church and was a delegate to the 1928 General Conference of the A. M. E. Church. Mr. Green is the owner of a deal of valuable property, among his real estate are the following: a 245 acre farm, a modern building containing three stores and a ball, and a beautiful home.

Mr. Green is the father of three fine children and an exceptional wife who has been responsible for some of his success. In an interview with the writer, Mr. Green was found to be very unassuming and does not care for publicity, after a deal of persuasion he consented to give this news to the reporter.

MULLINS NEWS.

On last Sunday a large crowd greeted the pastor, who had just returned from Charleston in attendance of the State League and Sunday School Convention. To say we had a great feast would be expressing it in mild terms. We had quite a large number of visitors present. Among the number was Rev. Hodge of Florence; Prof. and Mrs. Gordon and a host of others who I do not have space to mention. Visitors are always welcome to our church.

The review Sunday morning by Mr. Raymond Ransom was a real treat to the whole school. Mr. Ransom is fast forging his way to the front. He is a student of Allen University, and a local preacher in our church.

Mr. Shepherd Thompson is another one of Ebenezer's stars among the young people. He is a recent graduate of the high school department of Allen, and a local preacher in our church, also. The people love and give them due respect because they keep their garments white. The pastor and members only wish they had more of their type. The young people of our city delight in attending church services.

I am sure the Reporter selected in Charleston will give due account of the meeting, but I just want to say this much: It was a great meeting. Bishop R. C. Ransom is a mighty power among men and South Carolina is bound to follow his lead. We have a mighty fine group of Presiding Elders who will do credit to any state and we are proud of them.

Dr. J. E. Beard is making good as usual among his people. He is indeed a great man. Rev. J. W. Witherspoon the honored pastor of Mt. Zion is hoeing his own row, and his people gladly follow his lead.

The writer, his wife and children stopped in the A. M. E. Manse of Mt. Zion, and truly the pastor and his queenly wife made it pleasant for us. They are doing well, as all of the other pastors of Charleston are doing.

We desire that all of the people in this section see the writer and pay up and renew your subscription to the paper. You will never read a better one than The Leader. The Editor and the entire staff believes in a fair deal.

When in our city visit our churches. All of the pastors are real busy now trying to bring up the rear.

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Next session begins September 17. Registration Monday, September 15.

For catalogue and other information, write

PRESIDENT J. J. STARKS,

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