

The Palmetto Leader

WEEKLY

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The Leader will publish brief and rational letters on subjects of general interest when they are accompanied by the names and addresses of the authors and are not of a derogatory nature. Anonymous communications will not be noticed. Rejected manuscripts will not be returned.

REMITTANCES

Checks, Drafts and Postal or Express Money Orders should be made payable to the order of the Palmetto Leader.

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Communications intended for the current issue must be very brief and should reach the editorial desk of 'The Palmetto Leader' not later than Tuesday of each week. City news, local, personal and social news, by Wednesday night.

COLUMBIA, S. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1927

Tomorrow will be Christmas. All people who believe in Christianity, or at least say they do, will celebrate the day in various ways. Most of us have attained an unaccustomed attitude of mind for this season. Good deeds and decent thoughts predominate at this time. Most everyone strives to carry a little cheer to others, to show good will. What a different world would this be if the Yuletide spirit could go on throughout the year, and then on and on.

The Palmetto Leader wishes for all its readers and friends a truly Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

February 12th, 1928 has been designated by the Federal Council of church as the day for penitence and prayer to free America from the evils of lynching and mob law. Somehow, we have no faith in such, but anyway no harm can be done. The church has known of this terrible thing for the past 40 years, and has done nothing about it. Either it has been indifferent or impotent. We think too that it's going to take something more than prayer to make an impression on being so low in the scales of civilization as to find pleasure in such inhuman practices.

Did you participate in the \$36,000 Christmas Club of the Victory Savings Bank? If not, you have only four days to make. Don't be sorry next Christmas. Join the club now; it has already opened and many have begun to prepare for next year.

Chicago seems now to be seriously thinking of a Negro Congressman. Chandler Owens, the young, energetic writer and orator, has announced his candidacy and Hon. E. H. Wright has been put forward by thousands of his admirers. The Negro is the only group of any importance in this country that has no one of his kind in Congress and largely because he is a political orphan he catches more devil than all the others put together. No one can put up as good a fight for one as he can for himself.

A lynching was pulled off in Kentucky just across the line from Virginia by devils from both states. It seemed to have been an interstate affair. That being true, the U. S. ought to be able to take a hand. Does not the Federal Government take cognizance of interstate things?

SOUTHERN FIDELITY AND SURETY COMPANY.

The above named company has met the strict requirements of South Carolina to do business in this State and has been granted a license by the Insurance Department to carry on the business of writing surety and casualty contracts. This company was organized in Durham, N. C. by a group of successful business men, headed by that educator and eminent man of business, W. G. Pearson. From the day of its organization, the Southern Fidelity and Surety Company has been a necessity not only to the character of the men in charge, but to the fact that it provides a service to the colored people in general as a class of business. This company writes surety bonds for colored people in fiduciary capacities—the only Negro bonding company in the world. It writes, therefore, colored fraternal associations, insurance companies and other business institutions have not always found it easy to obtain bonds, and court bonds for administrators, executors, guardians and bail bonds were out of the question.

This company, however, has chased that difficulty away. There will be no reason now in South Carolina why any man entrusted with the funds of others cannot be properly bonded—and as a simple business proposition, they ought to be.

The company also writes accident, health, burglary, travel and allied lines of bonds. Although organized less than two years, yet the success of this company has been remarkable, writing over \$5,000,000 worth of business the first year and collecting in premiums more than \$30,000. In its expansion plans, the capital stock has been increased and an opportunity for South Carolinians to not only enjoy its service but participate in its success has been given, by allowing them to purchase stock to the amount of \$30,000. This is all that can be purchased as North Carolinians, who seem to always know good things, will readily take up the rest. License to sell this amount in the State has been granted by the Insurance Department after careful examination of the worth and merit of the company. Attorney R. M. Counts Andrews, of Durham, N. C., a native South Carolinian, is now in the State engaged particularly with this phase. The forward looking colored people of the State can congratulate themselves on the entrance of this company into South Carolina.

VOTERS MUST REGISTER

According to the law governing registration in this State, voters must register every 10 years. The last general registration year was 1918. That means again in 1928—next year, beginning the first Monday in January. In counties that have a population of 50,000 or more, the registration book will be opened every day through August 15th. That means that one may register any time in the counties of Charleston and Richland. In other counties of the State, the registration books will be opened only on the first Mondays in each and every month.

Negroes ought register; it is a duty as well as good sense. If one can read and write any part of the Constitution of the State or pay taxes on \$300 or more of property—any kind of property, since it amounts to \$300 worth—he is entitled to registration. If one cannot read and write, he is entitled to registration on the presentation of his tax receipt showing payment on property of \$300 or more.

The importance of being registered cannot be overestimated. Bonds are often issued for school purposes as well as other things. If you are registered and in favor of the bond issue, you can vote

for it; if opposed to it, you can vote against it. It is your property that must pay for the bonds and you have a right to say something about it. Juries are also selected from people who are registered. If your name is not on the list, there certainly is no chance of being selected as a juror. Negroes should have the privilege of voting for various officers who make laws concerning life and property; who lay the taxes and collect the same as well as spend it. But there isn't a ghost of a show unless one first registers.

The time has come for Negroes to wake up along this line. Ministers, teachers, physicians, in fact every intelligent Negro, should impress the importance of registration. And they themselves should register. It is getting time to stop living so much in heaven and live a little on earth. This is supposed to be a country governed by the people, and the Negro being a part of the people should prepare to exercise the most important thing in the whole scheme—the ballot. "Register" should be the word from now on.

lion and a quarter dollars from Mr. Duke. Professor Hawkins was the guest of Dr. H. Y. Tookes, and occupied his pupils at the morning service. Bishop Gaines was present. Professor Hawkins is indeed a great character. It is a pleasure to be numbered among his friends. He is looking over the grounds in preparation for the forthcoming General Conference.

Pointed Points

By George A. Singleton

Running the Gauntlet

Marius Garvey, whom Uncle Sam has despised, is broke. The sympathy of the race press seems to be with him. It is curious how your "Uncle" does things. Lots of people who are worse than Garvey ever dared to be are permitted to remain in America and receive protection from the law. Ex-Governor Lowden of Illinois appears to be the choice of the Republicans for their standard bearer for the presidential nomination. You will bear in mind that the G. O. P. is that of which the illustrious Commodore was a member. Mr. Lowden, it is thought, is in no better position than Garvey. He is a member of the Executive Council of the United States, and his record is not so bright as that of the Commodore. The Commodore, it is said, has a record of 100 years in the United States, and his record is not so bright as that of the Commodore. The Commodore, it is said, has a record of 100 years in the United States, and his record is not so bright as that of the Commodore.

Christmas is the time of the year when we are reminded of the fact that we are all brothers. It is a time when we should be thinking of the needs of the poor and the suffering. It is a time when we should be trying to do good to the best of our ability. It is a time when we should be trying to make the world a better place in which to live. It is a time when we should be trying to do good to the best of our ability. It is a time when we should be trying to make the world a better place in which to live.

A. M. E. Deacons Attention!

The annual conference of the A. M. E. Church will meet in Columbia, S. C., on Monday, January 1st, 1928. The conference will be held at the Hotel Hamilton. It is hoped that a large number of brethren will attend. The conference will be held at the Hotel Hamilton. It is hoped that a large number of brethren will attend. The conference will be held at the Hotel Hamilton. It is hoped that a large number of brethren will attend.

Our Greater Lawyer

By request of Bishop Gaines your columnist was at the station last Sunday morning to meet Professor John R. Hawkins, Financial Secretary of the A. M. E. Church, who was instrumental in getting a mil-

lion and a quarter dollars from Mr. Duke. Professor Hawkins was the guest of Dr. H. Y. Tookes, and occupied his pupils at the morning service. Bishop Gaines was present. Professor Hawkins is indeed a great character. It is a pleasure to be numbered among his friends. He is looking over the grounds in preparation for the forthcoming General Conference.

MOUNTAIN CITY ECHOES

Christmas, the time of peace on earth and good will towards men, is just over the hill; in fact the atmosphere has already begun to have that feeling that comes with Christmas time. We are thinking how different is the condition with the people of our section this year compared with the past few years. Everybody has his day, so every section has its day. The Richmond section of the State is doing well. Crops have been good; ordinary farmers making from 4 to 10 tons of cotton to the horsepower, plenty of corn, potatoes, pears, from 20 to 30 bushels per acre in the peach and tree crop and view the stacks of wheat piled high, standing side by side like soldiers, keeping the cows and calves smiling as they peep from the farm windows. As for the sweet potatoes, past years made so many and they got them out banking them in water service, and marketed some. Then again, debts that were two years old and some older have been wiped off the sheet. The other day I was in my book, I mean the bank I do little business with, and the president smilingly threw a rose at the colored farmers, which made me feel in my pocket. He said as a rule, the colored farmers were more prompt in meeting their obligations than the other fellow. Tips to top it off, after clearing everything up, in the way of debts, quite a few will have some money left some, if they would, I'd make a pretty good payment on a small farm. We wonder if they will, or if they will cut the foot as usual.

So Christmas will find many farmers ready to receive it and to enjoy it. This feeling of enjoying Christmas, how the Gures have changed. Some ten years ago on Christmas Eve, a mob as big as I could get out of my yard, drunk a man and some other women, cursing, shooting, cutting and frolicking in a heathen manner. God people rather preferred singing in the first day in the Christmas holidays. The policemen were busy all day long; the Blacks, Maripacil the street from morning till night; in the house sometime would hold the victims. In fact, to many it was not Christmas unless they could lay in from five to ten dollars they said "God, lol Christmas!" And as long as the booze flowed a high old time was had. In the rural parts it was out of the question to try and have a Christmas tree exercise or anything without being disturbed at sometime by a drunken mob, which respected neither God, man, nor the devil.

Today a drunken man in public is as rare as freezing weather in August. As to men and women riding up and down the highway cursing and using vulgar language, well, it has stopped completely. On Christmas morning the streets are as calm as on Sunday; save for the noise of fire-crackers. The day before Christmas, however, known as Christmas eve, the streets and stores are jammed and packed, all kinds, whites, colored, rich, poor, old, young, ugly, pretty, and never a cross word.

Truly with the departure of winter a spirit of good will toward men is here. O, I know that all of the stuff has not disappeared, but think God it's going, though slow. I know children entering in their "teens" that have never seen a drunk man, and as they're come and go, things will get drier and drier, and Christmas will be sweeter and sweeter. So here I am wishing all my friends and everybody else a happy Christmas.

"Cap Jim."

THE NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM OF ACCREDITING NEGRO SCHOOLS

I feel that the public should be enlightened regarding a supposed controversy between Mr. W. A. Robinson, State Supervisor of Negro High Schools in North Carolina and myself. Some time ago there was released from my office an article on the North Carolina System of accrediting Negro schools. In this article I maintained first, that the North Carolina system was unscientific, therefore unreliable, because the State did not send out representatives or investigators but relied upon questions asked and reports of students. Secondly, that the practice pursued was based upon a report issued last spring which gave many institutions a D. or E. classification (1923) signifying that the D. or E. rating represented the standing of these institutions in 1923. I thought it was unfair to publish the rating of an institution, this rating based upon the type of work that was done in 1923. I further stated that the issuing of a list designated as accredited Negro schools implies rather emphatically that those not included in the list are not accredited.

Professor Robinson replied to these assertions by explaining that North Carolina did not propose to accredit Negro institutions generally but only those schools that send teachers to that State to teach. (A protection for the State). That schools far away, as in Texas would hardly be considered due to the distance and unlikely possibility of any teachers coming from such a distance to that State also explained, which explanation was accepted, that North Carolina State College was thus far only a three year college and will not be accredited until this year. It was further explained that the Atlanta schools should be rated separately even if students did interchange between them and receive their advanced classes. The cases of Spellman-Morehouse; Harris-Horn-Virginia Union; Cheney Teacher Training School and Winston-Salem Teachers' College were also discussed.

I think it is only fair that Mr. Robinson assert that North Carolina does not propose to issue a list of accredited Negro school. I would be glad if this information were spread abroad. The world would know of it because the public has been misled. Many educators are under the impression that the State in question is somewhat of an accrediting agency for Negro schools in general. Professors of Columbia University, New York City frequently refer their classes to the North Carolina report for facts concerning the standing of Negro institutions. The Crisis for November carries this item: "Since 1928 the State Department of Education of North Carolina has been rating Negro colleges. In 1927 it reports as follows: A and I Normal; Atlanta University; Fisk University; Hampton Institute; Howard University; Johnson-C. Smith University; Lincoln University; Pennsylvania; Morehouse College; Prairie View State Normal College; Shaw University; Tallapoosa College; Virginia N. and I. State College; Virginia Union University; West Virginia College; Wilberforce University; Wiley College and Winston-Salem Teachers' College."

A list issued last spring by North Carolina called the Negro schools and their rating, classified almost every Negro institution of any consequence in the United States. My point is, that, while I agree that North Carolina does not attempt to accredit Negro schools, I do maintain that the publicity given to certain reports and statements has caused the people in general to believe that this State accurately and scientifically accredits Negro institutions in this country.

This fact to my mind adds to the unfairness of the whole situation. My reason for asserting unfairness in the beginning was that the supposed reports were not up-to-date as shown by the one sent out last year including the 1923 standing of many institutions. To this I now add that it is unfair because the State does not attempt to accredit Negro schools, but the country thinks it does, and moreover has a perfect right to think so. I frequent releases and reports sent out from that State. It was incidentally that any name was mentioned by me previously but the report referred to above which classified all Negro Colleges did add, if I mistake not, that the statistics were compiled by Mr. W. A. Robinson, State Supervisor of Negro High Schools. In order that I may curtail

this article I will waive the question concerning Winston-Salem Teachers' College and Cheney's Teacher Training School of Cheney, Pennsylvania. I will accept the explanation concerning schools far away, e. g., in Texas, since it is explained that North Carolina does not attempt to rate Negro schools, but only those schools that send teachers to that State to teach. This statement really satisfies all parties if it were only known. I know however of a few adjacent schools that have never received the questionnaire referred to, so that they could be rated, yet have been classified. Overlooking this fact however I venture to step a step further to rate even a few schools may be necessary that the method employed to be justly questioned. It was explained that a questionnaire is sent to schools whence the teacher has come.

There are two possible ways of gathering information concerning schools. The personal investigation with careful inspection of equipment or the mailed questionnaire. In a questionnaire, the method employed by North Carolina, the motive is the desire for approval or conversely the fear of disapproval. The motive induces in the subject therefore the tendency to lay bare only that information which it suspects of being approbatory. That is therefore an inhibiting of the very information the questionnaire is designed to reveal. Granting that presidents and professors are fair and honest, the fact remains that the questionnaire due to the motive it induces—a temptation to tamper with the information ought—should never be singularly employed to rate even any group of schools. It may be well to note here that the government survey of schools last spring would not rely upon the questionnaire method, but agents visited each school it intended rating. It may also be remarked that Mr. Robinson, State Supervisor of Negro High Schools for the State of North Carolina does not rely upon the questionnaire method to rate the high schools of that State. He visits these schools and check-up on instruction, equipment, etc. He does this not because he doubts the veracity of the principals of the State, but because it is the most reliable and scientific method of ascertaining data.

There is one more item and then I am through. I hold that the issuing of a list which purports to be accredited schools implies that those not included in the list are not accredited and the publicity given to such lists and reports misleads the public. In the main I agree with my friend but insist that since North Carolina does not attempt to rate Negro schools, he rating issued hereafter be qualified so that the public may know of their limitations.

H. D. GREGG.

QUEEN ESTHER CHAPTER NO. 1.

O. L. S. ELECTS OFFICERS

Queen Esther Chapter No. 1, O. L. S. held its regular monthly meeting on Monday evening at 5:00 o'clock. Although the weather was somewhat cold the attendance was splendid. The Chapter had the honor and pleasure of having the Grand Matron, Mrs. E. M. Watson, present who assisted the Royal Matron in conducting the affairs of the Chapter for the evening.

The most important order of business for the afternoon was the election of officers. After all other business was finished, all places were declared vacant and the Grand Matron, with her usual dignity presided at the election. The following officers were elected: Mrs. E. B. Lewis, Royal Matron; Rev. Jas. Johnson, Royal Patron; Mrs. Minnie Capers, Associate Matron; Mrs. Laura Bane, secretary; Mrs. Pauline Reese, treasurer; Mrs. Lucile Jackson, conductress; Mrs. Marguerite Smith, assistant conductress; Mrs. Vivian Walton, Ada; Mrs. Willie Roseboro, Ruth; Miss Delphine Bradley, Esther; Mrs. M. Simons, Martha; Mrs. Elise Randolph, Electa; Mrs. Georgia Latimer, Marshall; West; Mrs. Carrie Brunson, Marshall, Electa.

The officers of Sentinels and Wardens are yet to be appointed by the Royal Matron. The Chapter was extended an invitation by the Brother Lodges to have a joint installation exercise with them on Tuesday night, December 27th at the Temple. This invitation was heartily accepted and all officers were notified to be present at that time. The Royal Matron also asked that all members of the Chapter be present on this occasion. The exercises are expected to be short but beautiful and impressive. Refreshments are to be served.