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## THE YEAR'S REVIEW

What the Past Year has Revealed in the Advancement of the Negro's Condition. Marvelous Strides in Many Spheres in the Uplift of the Race.

The New York Age of last week had the following review of the Negro and his progress:

In no one of the forty-five years of its free history perhaps, has the Negro race made such happy and substantial strides forward as in the year just closing. Looking calmly and honestly at the position of the citizens of color in this republic after the lapse of the last year who can doubt this? What Negro is there with soul so dead realizing his better position, as not to be inspired to harder labor and greater progress for the future? This, we believe, is the meaning of the old year and the new for the Negro.

Untoward incidents neither few nor insignificant, but emphasized as always and everywhere, have come. But closer review will reveal them matched by events both favorable and encouraging. The Berea College case gave the sanction of law to Kentucky's separation of her black and white students. But this illwind has blown a new Berea costing a half million dollars to the Negroes of Kentucky. Michigan by a decision, the exact reverse of that in the Berea case may not refuse to colored students admission to her educational institutions. The Negro soldiers at Brownville came in for much criticism and political discussion. But the Negro soldiers in the Philippines and the Negro cavalry at West Point have won warm praise. While by recent executive order four Negroes with commissioned officers' rank and pay will henceforth lead the four bands of the famous Negro regiments, fierce and bitter mob law has laid its cursed hand upon Negroes in various sections of this country during the past twelve months. That same mob law reaching higher up has struck down leading white citizens, has destroyed and stifled industry and thereby has brought about a deep and widespread movement for the extinction of mob law.

More than all that, the Negro has made achievements and has received recognition, which a generation or a decade ago were impossible are now so common as to

receive but fleeting notice. In the last few days a Negro editor has been appointed State Librarian of West Virginia. A Negro heads the naturalization bureau at Boston and a Negro was appointed Assistant District Attorney for the government at Chicago. Baltimore, forty years ago mobbing a Union regiment on its way to the front, in August illuminated a section of the city and erected a court of honor to greet the National Negro Business League.

Politically, the Negro has triumphantly passed through a crisis. The election of Taft gave a great and needed boon to the cause of equal rights. It has rendered silence and impotent the Negro's enemies in the nation. The canorous "lily white" Republican party in the South sustained and possible only through Federal patronage, has received a death blow in the ultimatum of President-elect Taft at the dinner of the North Carolina Society of New York. During the year the avowed opponents of Negro progress in several States, wishing to eliminate and circumscribe the race's rights, as Vardaman in Mississippi wishing to repeal the Fifteenth Amendment, Cowhead in Missouri wishing to "jim crow" Negroes and the Democratic party in West Virginia wishing to disfranchise Negroes, were turned down. Industrially during the year the Negro has gained in wealth, business and property everywhere. Thousands and thousands of Negroes according to our observation, own homes in this country to day who did not own them a year ago today. At least a half dozen new Negro banks are in the North at Chicago, business enterprises including realty companies, innumerable fraternal temples as in New Orleans and Jacksonville, a large increase in government employees, the extension of the "buy-land" movement in the South, all proclaim a progress and a beginning of co-operation among Negroes as general as it is gratifying.

Socially and educationally, the past year has meant the same advance. The abominable "jim crow" car conditions of the South

are being remedied, thanks to the enforcement of the equal accommodations ruling by the Interstate Commerce Commission and the manly stand of the Negroes in Georgia, Arkansas and Oklahoma. A campaign against the disease playing havoc with the Negro, consumption, has been inaugurated by the National Negro Anti Tuberculosis Congress holding its session at Tuskegee this month. Thousands of college and high school graduates during this year have taken their place in the ranks to live down by their success their neighbor's prejudice and the race problem. The demand for an education is being supplied more largely today than ever before. A wise philanthropy is increasing its generous aid of Negro education. As a fitting climax to the progress of Negro education, Judge Taft continues a member of the Jeannette Fund Committee with its fund of more than a million dollars for rural Southern Negro Education, while the next meeting of the committee will be held in the White House.

The New Year means this new opportunity, this increased opportunity for the Negro. We want every Negro to make and work to this one resolution: to be further advanced one year from today than he is today. This is the meaning of the New Year to the Negro.

### COLOR LINE DRAWN IN TRAINING HOSPITALS FOR COLORED GIRLS

The course of 1908 has developed into the Negro race through many of the Negro doctors in the United States. When we pause to think that we hold prejudice amongst ourselves and then wonder why the whites are prejudiced we come to the conclusion that the white man has more reasons to be prejudiced than Negro against a Negro. In six letters it has been brought to our notice that a woman of dark complexion is not permitted to enter a training hospital, as our doctors refuse to have them handling their instruments and wait on them. If this damnable state of affairs exists among us and be permitted to continue, truly the condition of the race is pitiable.

Names of doctors have been furnished us by several of these ladies, but we hope that a hint to the wise will be sufficient to promote a more harmonious feeling. Let ability count instead of looks, and profit be experience.—Chicago Defender.

### MOTHER OF CHAMPION.

Galveston, Texas., December 26. Mrs. Tinney Johnson, the widowed mother of Jack Johnson, who won the heavy-weight championship over Tommy Burns, says she made a fighter out of the boy, who

is one of the three sons out of nine children, but she had no idea of making a pugilist out of him.

"Jack was a slim-built youngster till he was about 15 or 16 years of age; he is now 31," she said, "and he was a regular baby and always getting into trouble at school and with playmates, and always got the worst of it. His sister had to fight all his battles, and she was always growing tired of this. One day when he was about 14 years of age a small boy whipped him and he came home crying. I gave him another spanking and told him he would have to learn to fight his own battles, and every time he got licked I would give him another licking when he came home. He was never whipped after that, and he licked every boy, big or little, that tackled him."

Johnson bought a home for his mother in Galveston and own property over the state, and is investing his earnings.

### RACE NEWS

GATHERED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

It is stated that the Negro people have 30,000 teachers, 16,000 preachers, 1,700 physicians, 1,000 lawyers, 400 journalists and literary men.

The state of Tennessee has granted a charter to the Pythian Bank and Trust Company, of Shelby County. The capital stock is \$25,000 and the headquarters will be in Memphis.

Miss Eva Ross of Washington, D. C., has opened a drug store in that city; is thoroughly complete and up to date in every appointment. Miss Ross was formerly a Kindergarten teacher, but gave up the work to enter this business.

The Nickel Savings Bank, located at Richmond, Virginia, made a statement of its financial condition at the close of business, November 27, 1908, to the State Corporation Commission, showing its total resources to be \$29,954 55. R. F. Tanol is the president.

Elbert Williams, chief musician of the regimental band of the 25th Infantry, United States Army, is the composer of the well known Y. M. C. A. hymn entitled "Let Not Your Heart be Troubled." Mr. Williams was formerly head of the noted military band at Tuskegee Institute.

W. H. Huff, of Athens, Ga., has placed on the market a "talking" piece of music entitled "Cheer Up Booker Washington," and it is being played and sung in many

homes in Southland. We cannot get too much of melodies and sentiments that help us to cheer up the men who are leading in the work of racial uplift.

Sarah-Cole, who died recently at 1518 Turner street, northeast, Washington, D. C., at the age of 101 years, was a sister of Joseph Boston, one of the first Presidents of the Republic of Liberia. She was born and lived the first half century of her life in Anne Arundel county, Md., and moved to Washington in 1861, living in the District ever since.

Architect W. Sidney Pittman has been paid \$2,000 as his fee for drawing the plans for the \$95,000 public school building at Garfield. The structure is to contain twelve rooms and is to be one of the finest in the District of Columbia. The award is another feather in the cap of Mr. Pittman, who won out in a solid field of Caucasian draftsmen.

Edwin C. Eckel, of Washington, D. C., speaking on "The Iron Industry of the South" before the Conservation Commission, on December 8, said that "In spite of the racial defects inherent in his undeveloped character, the Negro makes the best laboring material the South can get in mines and furnaces." It is the belabored Southern praise of the Negro: With all his faults I love him still.

Muskogee, Okla., Dec. 10.—Three wealthy Negroes were arrested here to-day for violation of the Jim Crow street law. Their arrest was followed by a mass meeting of colored citizens, who declared they will carry the case to the Supreme Court of the United States, if necessary, to prove the law as applied to street cars is unconstitutional. The traction company here ordered the arrests.

Harvey Groves, of Manitou Colorado, is known "as one of the largest and most successful live stock dealers in that section," while his brother, Spencer Groves, is called "one of the best freight and emergency firemen on the Midland Railroad." We would remind these gentlemen of their cousin across the line in Kansas, the Black White Potato King, another of the Groves of prosperity.

The story of J. H. Blodgett, a prominent member of the National Negro Business League from Jacksonville, who in a dozen years has risen from a steamboat stowaway to a real estate magnate, owning 155 houses in his home city, and a daily rental of \$45.00, transacting his business by way of a \$2,500 motor car, reads like a ro-

mance. And still they say the days of romance and gold mines are past.

When the Odd Fellows' Lodge of Millsap, Texas, recently picked the entire crop of a brother named Condill, owing to illness of his wife and her inability to help him, it was said that the back-breaking business had been transferred from the lodge room to the cotton field. It is far more interesting to us to note how the fraternal societies are changing methods for the better in giving the distressed brother a boost.

Hearing with enthusiasm of the rapid progress of the Negroes of Washington in acquiring a \$100,000 home, the enterprising colored men of Cleveland are determined to have a structure worthy of the importance and uplifting influence of the budding organization in their town. As Commissioner McFarland well said: "The efforts of the colored men in Washington do not stop with the capital; they serve as a stimulus toward similar achievements in every section of the land"—and they certainly do. Let the good work go on!

Somebody said that we are a pitiful helpless race here in America, where we belong, unused it seems, to arts of peace, and only made breastworks in the war. Without guns, without ammunition laughing, grining, enjoying ourselves (the only race that plays that game), living over a volcano. Thoughtless of the future, but only of a dead future. Working like slaves, spending with those who would kill us, and condemning each other when we should strive to build up. But we must not lose heart. Someday the Negro will stand erect on all the sober problems of civilization; it will be when he can speak.

### NEGRO BOXERS MORE SKILLFUL THAN WHITES

Speaking of the superiority of Negro boxers the Rocky Mountain News says in part:

The fact of Jack Johnson defeating Tommy Burns for the heavyweight championship and being the first black man to ever win that honor or even have a chance to compete for it, has directed great attention for the present to the colored pugilists. Every student of boxing must have noticed that the leading Negro fighters are more skillful as boxers than the leading fighters of the white race, and it may need considerable investigation to explain just why this is the case.

Nor it would be interesting to discover just why the colored boxers should lead at the point which requires brainwork and study, as well as constant thought and practice. One man who has seen all the leading boxers and fighters of the present and past generation is satisfied in his mind that the reason for the black man's superiority in boxing can be found in the singleness of purpose.