

# RACE RELATION IN VIRGINIA

Hampton, Va., Dec. 6.—What do the colored educational and community service leaders of Virginia think about the value of co-operation, the improvement of their schools, the development of their life, the possibility of improving rural life, and the importance of racial good will? What do the colored people want the white citizens to do for them during this critical period of National and World-wide unrest?

The recent message to the colored people of Virginia—and also to the white people—from the Negro Organization Society and Negro Teachers' Association of Virginia, delivered in Lynchburg, before a mixed audience of 2,000 representative citizens by John M. Gandy, president of the Petersburg Normal School and executive secretary of the Negro Organization Society, gave a clear-cut answer to many questions which white and colored people are facing. The message, in part follows:

## Spirit of Co-operation.

"The merit of the Negro to advance against great difficulties and in the face of new problems has not yet been conclusively proven to the world. The race is now in its greatest crisis. Never before in its history has it been confronted with so many new and intricate problems and with such grave difficulties as it is today. The mental, moral, and religious resourcefulness of the race is challenged.

"There has been a regrettable waste in money and effort, due to the lack of successful co-operation. The period of individualism is over. The world advances today under the spell of group action. We learn to co-operate by co-operating. The race must learn to overcome the inertia of the difference in problems that require the action of all its people. It should move forward in a solid phalanx in attacking questions, principles, problems, and difficulties that stand in the way of racial progress. Unless we learn to mass our power and strength we are doomed to an utter failure in these days of combination.

"We must make it clear, however, that we should mass our strength for the advancement of the kingdom of righteousness and not for abetting and aiding the kingdom of darkness.

## School Attendance.

"According to the report of the Virginia Educational Survey Commission, less than two-thirds of the colored children of school age are enrolled in school. Measured by the ratio of enrollment to the total colored population, or to the total colored school population, the enrollment now is approximately what it was in 1890. Of the total colored school population at present, the average daily attendance is 63 per cent. On every day that the schools are open more than one-half of every three of the colored children enrolled in school is absent. The colored children thus lose more than one-third of the schooling provided.

## Poorly-Trained Teachers.

"At present there are about three thousand colored teachers in the State. It is estimated by the Vir-

ginia Survey Commission that four thousand are needed to provide adequate teaching advantages to the present colored population. There is thus a shortage of at least a thousand teachers. The report says:

"Colored teachers as a body have inadequate education and training. In non-city schools more than one-third have received only an education of two grades of high-school work or less; one-half have never received an education of more than 2 grades of high school work; and more than three-fourths have never received an education above that equivalent to a four-year high school course. Only one-fifth have ever received an education in training equivalent to one or more years of college or normal school.

## Inadequate School Terms.

"The majority of the rural schools are still housed in one-room buildings with little arrangements for ventilation, lighting, seating, and sanitation. Children are crowded into these shacks far beyond their capacity, thus endangering the pupils' health and making effective school work impossible. In some of the cities the buildings are old, inadequately furnished, poorly heated and lighted, and are veritable culture media of disease germs.

"Referring to the length of the term of non-city schools, the Virginia Survey Commission says: 'In 1917-18 non-city schools for colored children were open on the average six months. In fifty-five counties the average length of the term for colored schools was six months or less; less in ten counties the county-wide averages were five months and in one county 3.2 months. So in nearly one-third of the 230 non-city schools (colored) individually examined, the school term was five months or less.'

"The explanation for the small percentage of the colored school population enrolled in school, the poor attendance, the elimination and retardation, can be found, for the most part, in poor housing conditions, poor teaching advantages, and in the short length of the term.

## Educational Campaigns.

"We wish to make the following suggestions: (1) that a season be set aside every year during the school season, preferably in the early part of the school year, in which a Virginia educational campaign be waged through the public press, the pulpit, and mass meetings for the enlightenment of the public on the fundamental need of the education of the colored people; (2) that the Negro Teachers' Association of Virginia and the Negro Organization Society memorialize the State Legislature in the interest of increased facilities for the training of colored teachers of increased pay for teachers, and of increased length of terms for the rural districts; (3) that the action of all its people be set aside to help in the early part of the school year, in which a Virginia educational campaign be waged through the public press, the pulpit, and mass meetings for the enlightenment of the public on the fundamental need of the education of the colored people; (4) that, in all we do, we work in full harmony with, and with the full knowledge of, the heads of our public school system, helping them to realize their ambition for the colored children of our Commonwealth.

## Farming Demands Attention.

"For racial development in the States the right attitude must be assumed towards the farm. We must prove equal to the problems on the farm. Old worn-out methods must be discarded and new methods applied to the cultivation of the land. Intelligence and thought must begin to function in every aspect of farm life. The race on the farm should more readily receive the instructions of the farm demonstration agents and seek information on improved methods of

farming from whatever source it can be had. More emphasis should be placed upon what is consumed at home, upon diversified crops, and upon land improvement. There should be an ever increasing interest in land buying and farm extension. The education of the children of farmers should be so directed as to maintain and deepen their interest in farm life.

## Better Health for All.

"We implore the people to begin to inform themselves on the question of health, to free themselves of insanitary surroundings; to let as much fresh air into their homes and public meeting-places as possible; to take account of their food as to what it is and how it is prepared; to get enough sleep; and so to demean themselves as to make the continuance and spread of the social diseases impossible.

## What Negroes Want.

"What do the colored people in Virginia want? We want to make it clear in the outset that we do not want, as is generally thought by white people, social equality. We are perfectly pleased and satisfied with our own society; with colored boys marrying colored girls; with the companionship of our own race in our homes; with the building up of our own social institutions, such as churches, schools, and the like. We are just as sensitive in the presence of inappropriate social situations as are white people and are just as averse to forcing ourselves upon people who do not desire our presence.

"First: We want equal accommodations in public carriers. We now pay first-class fares and are forced to accept third class accommodations. On the railroad and street cars the quarters assigned to us are inadequate for the numbers and are poorly kept. No provision is made, on the steam cars, for sleeping-car and dining-car accommodations. At only a few of the railroad stations are provisions made for feeding the colored traveling public. The toilets at most of the stations are badly and poorly kept and on some of the trains there is only one toilet for both men and women.

"Second: The colored people want justice in the proper distribution of advantages in their living quarters in both the city and country. Wherever we live in large numbers generally the streets are not paved; the section is not adequately lighted and policed; sewerage is not provided; and there is a negligence and indifference in the general improvements.

"Third: We want equality of wages in the economic life of the State. We feel keenly the injustice of discrimination in pay for the same work done. If a colored bricklayer does the same work just as satisfactorily as a white man, he, in all justice, deserves the same pay. This holds true in domestic service in the trades on the farm in the profession of teaching, and everywhere else. There is a glaring discrimination between the pay for white and colored teachers holding the same grade of certificate. In all justice this should be corrected.

"Fourth: We want the same provisions made for the education of our children as are made for the white children; that justice be done in the distribution of the public-school funds; that equal high school law be made as binding upon colored children as upon white children; and that the State provide opportunities of college training for colored youth.

## NEGRO "Y" WORKERS CITED FOR BRAVERY.

New York, Dec. 6.—The record of the colored men and women who were sent overseas by the Young Men's Christian Association, who served as secretaries during the world war is dotted with brilliant bits of patriotic, Christian achievements, courage, and self-abnegation. Like the colored soldiers, they went forth to do battle against the enemy until the last armed foe laid down his weapon of warfare.

The total number sent was eighty-four, sixty-one men and twenty-three women. Of this number, two died on active service overseas and two died in this country. Frederick D. Ballou, of Richmond, Ky., and the Rev. R. A. Pritchett of Philadelphia, who served with the forces in Africa were drowned at Dar-es-Salaam, in East Africa. The two men who died in the home service were the Rev. H. E. Levi, of Talladega, Ala., who died at Camp Wheeler and Hiram H. Wheeler, of Urbana, Ill., who died while on furlough. The Y. M. C. A. and the colored race have many times recorded their pride and satisfaction for the loyalty and efficient work done by the colored secretaries.

Those cited for bravery were Edward Terrell Banks, of Dayton, Ohio, Hugh Oliver Cook, of Kansas City, Mo., and M. W. Bullock, former Dartmouth football star. Mr. Banks won his citation for bravery while serving the 368th Infantry of the 88th Division. This Division received word that scout had been wounded and was lying helpless between the lines. Banks immediately set out to rescue the wounded man but in the attempt was caught by a terrific barrage and could not get back. With a determination to save his man, Secretary Banks stayed with him through the night and brought him back the next morning the firing was less severe and carried him to safety. For this he was recommended for a citation by Captain Smith, commanding Company K, of the 368th Infantry. For gallant conduct in the Champagne offensive of September 26th to October 6th, Hugh Oliver Cook, of Kansas City, attached to the 371st Infantry was thus recommended by Col. P. L. Miles, commanding the regiment, "for heroic conduct in volunteering to aid in administering to the wounded on September 26th, near Hill 138. He worked tirelessly until he himself was gassed."

M. W. Bullock, was cited by Col. Hayward of the old 15th, New York Regiment for gallant service with that regiment throughout its service.

## UP FROM SLAVERY PLACED IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

It is gratifying to us to announce that the recent public school edition of "Up From Slavery" published by Houghton, Mifflin and Company of Boston is being placed very rapidly in the elementary schools of the South as a text book and for classical reading.

## GATHER YOUR JUNK, SELL IT, INVEST IT.

The Savings Division of the Treasury Department Urges Upon Everyone in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District to Observe Salvage-Clean Up Conservation Week, November 23rd to 29th, Inclusive.

The word "junk" as applied to a stable, merchantable community, is by no means a household word in the South, and there are millions of people in this section who have given little or no attention to the serious thought of the opportunity that is theirs of collecting and selling junk, deriving from its sale a financial return amply sufficient to merit their real attention. What attention has been given this, has been in a very large measure spasmodic, and even accidental. And, even today, with no less than Fifty Million Dollars worth of junk rotting to waste in this District alone, many of our people are unmindful of the real obligation that is theirs to gather up this vast amount of waste material; see that it is sold; and the money invested—the Treasury Department hopes—in War Savings and Thrift Stamps.

November 23rd to 29th inclusive has been designated by the Governors of the four states of the Eleventh Reserve District and by the Mayor's by official proclamation as Salvage Clean-Up Conservation week. During this week, millions of dollars worth of copper, brass, babbit, tin, foil, old auto tires, scrap rubber of every kind, mixed rags of all kinds, old rope and string, bones, bottles, in fact, hundreds of articles that by the average individual has been considered worthless, possessing real, tangible cash value, deserve to be given consideration. This is a practical period of time, and it is time for the American people to get off the "high horse" of spending and sober up. The American public has been and is on a spending debauch, absolutely drunk with spending, giving no thought at all to saving, but throwing money away with a reckless hand, seemingly with no thought of the future and its needs.

The Treasury Department has issued a Junk booklet for free and general distribution, and will be glad to send this to anyone wishing it. It contains a list of the Junk Dealers of the Eleventh Reserve District, besides, other valuable information relative to Junk. The Treasury Department, however, neither buys nor sells junk, it merely sponsors this very practical movement, a movement quite in line with its general plan of Saving and of Conservation.

The Waste Material Dealers Association of Texas is co-operating fully with the Treasury Department in this Conservation measure; while the Fire Marshals Association of Texas, at its recent meeting in Dallas, by resolution, unanimously approved the government's plan, as outlined in the present campaign. The Government is depending upon the teachers to lead their pupils in this work; is depending upon the civic organizations in each town to give it active support; upon the postmasters and bankers to assist by their sympathy and cooperation; in fact, is looking to the general support from every organization and individual that believes in Conservation, in Saving and in Cleaning up a town. This is of sufficient importance to deserve the attention of the youngest child in a community and of the most representative business man in that same community.

At a time like this when one half of the world is hungry, one half of the world is ill clad, it is certainly unbecoming in any of us to waste or to refuse to assist the Government in any measure of Conservation. Everyone urged to give this Campaign a support that will insure its success. Don't think you are too big to do this. Don't think you have too much money, and that you need not pay any attention to this call. It deserves your support, and the Treasury Department certainly expects everyone to give it a liberal and a hearty encouragement. Gather up your junk; in your closets, your barns, your sheds, your old trunks, your garages. Gather it up from the old hiding places. Sell it. Invest the money so secured in WAR SAVINGS AND THRIFT STAMPS, and some may even be able to invest in a \$100.00 REGISTERED TREASURY SAVINGS CERTIFICATE.

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## FIRST NEGRO ARMY OFFICER TO COMMAND REGIMENT AND POST.

Manila, R. I., Dec. 6.—The Ninth Cavalry, U. S. A., is in command of Lt. Col. Benjamin O. Davis, the highest ranking Negro officer in active service, and Col. Davis is also the commandant at Camp Stutenberg, the most important military post in the Philippine Islands.

At the close of the war, the Ninth Cavalry was commanded by a major of the regiment, temporarily raised to the rank of Colonel, but orders from the War Department returned to his regular rank, and this left Lt. Col. Davis as the highest ranking officer of the regiment. Troops stationed at Camp Stutenberg comprise, in addition to the Ninth Cavalry, several battalions of Philippine scouts, all officered by the white men. Although the former commanding officer of the Ninth is now serving as a major under the colored lieutenant colonel, there is no friction or dissatisfaction reported.

## RULES ANNOUNCED FOR \$100. Name Contest.

San Francisco, Dec. 6.—Rules for the award of one thousand dollars to the person first suggesting the best name word denoting U. S. America and Britannia have just been announced by the World Trade Club of San Francisco. The contest is open to all human kind. Words to be considered must be received before 1 May, 1920. One thousand dollars has been deposited with the Wells Fargo-Nevada National Bank of San Francisco, and the amount will be paid in the currency of the nation from which the best word is suggested, to the person first suggesting the best name.

It is interesting to note that names have come from all quarters of the globe, particularly from U. S. America, Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, British Isles, Canada, the Philippines, Eurasia, Africa, China, Japan, Oceania. Names are pouring in from all parts of the world, including France and the Scandinavian countries. "Unitania" is the best word received thus far. The question now is, will someone devise a better name than Unitania before 1 May, 1920, and thus earn World Trade Club's award of \$1000.00?

## TURKISH SULTAN CUTS SIZE OF HIS HAREM.

Constantinople, Dec. 6.—The high cost of living is hampering the Turkish households—especially with regard to wives. The Sultan has reduced the size of his harem, Pachas who formerly were rich also are retrenching in this respect, and, notwithstanding the Koran's authorization of four wives to a man, the proportion of unmarried women is said to be increasing, as the men are finding more than one wife too expensive to maintain.

Turkey's loss in population is not beginning to be made up by polygamy. It is estimated there are three women for every two men. In the interior maidens are so numerous that women meaning natives have offered them to gifts to American and other officers engaged in relief work. One angle of the situation is the creation of a race of bachelor maids who are taking part in politics. Many of them are followers of nationalism. The women are anxious for peace, hoping it may make marriage less difficult.

## "WE ARE ALL ALIKE."

In the midst of the base, unjust, un-American talk about race segregation, which Southern whites have started in Chicago, the statements of a member of an oppressed race, sounds like a voice of fairness in the wilderness of race prejudice. A great hullabaloo was raised over the sale by Rabbi Hirsch of his former residence at 4612 Grand Boulevard, to a colored man. It was considered a matter of sufficient importance to warrant the sending of a reporter of the Chicago Tribune to interview the seller. Rabbi Emil G. Hirsch, the famous Jewish leader, was asked by the reporter: "What are your views on race segregation?" Rabbi Hirsch replied: "From my point of view we are all alike. Colored people are just as good as whites. I would rather have a good black neighbor than a poor white one."

## "HOBOS" KEEPS RECORD OF THEFTS FOR YEAR.

Redwood City, Cal., Dec. 6.—"Borrowing" the necessities of life as did Huckleberry Finn in his cruise down the Mississippi, with the intention of making good his pilfering when he was able, Bert Brock, giving his occupation as a "hobo" when arrested, pulled forth a diary containing a list of articles that he had stolen and from whom.

Some of the entries were: Six chickens from the roost of Loren Coburn. Two pumpkins from the Moore ranch. A milking from three goats belonging to C. H. Wildermann.

One corn-fed turkey from the backyard of C. B. Thompson. The entries covered a period of seven days, and Brock told the police that he had kept an account for over a year and had hidden them in a San Jose hotel because the records were so bulky.

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