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A RACIAL HANDICAP

To ascertain which is the greatest impediment to racial or national progress is by no means an easy task, but rather one of the most difficult type. The menace, ignorance, however, plays an important part in the hindrance of progress and will be among the greatest in any classification.

Although the percentage of illiterates among Negroes has been reduced for 80 per cent to 20 per cent during the last fifty-four years, that is by no means an indication that there is no room for improvement. Illiterates, according to the definition of the statisticians, are persons who can neither read nor write. If a person can read and write a little, he or she is classified as literate. For this reason, there are many so-called literates who are more or less ignorant.

A Negro may be thoroughly educated in all branches of the present system of education and yet be ignorant as to the history of his own race, ignorant as to the progress of his race, as to the racial traits and various other factors relating to his race.

A person may be literate and educated and yet be ignorant as to his own capabilities. Thus he may go on through life minus that quality of self-reliance which is so essential to success and with nothing to inspire him to search for his talents and to try himself out.

In this manner we could continue to name and discuss numerous ways in which a person can be educated and yet ignorant, and which are detrimental to racial progress. This, however, is not our purpose, but rather to discuss the ignorance of certain groups of our own race of facts pertaining to racial progress and civilization.

There are too few Negro boys and girls who have definite and extensive knowledge of the history of the Negro race. They complete the courses prescribed in the city and high schools and in many instances the colleges, yet they are ignorant of the part which the members of their race played in the development of this country. Few of them know that the record of the Negro soldier is unstained by cowardice. They do know, however, that their fore-parents were slaves and that they were liberated by the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln. They are well and fully informed as to the lives and achievements of George Washington, Lincoln, Grant, Roosevelt, Wilson and many other eminent statesmen and soldiers. They are familiar with the literary works of Longfellow, Whittier, Tennyson, Bryant and other men of literary note of the white race, but they are, on the other hand, not fully informed of the lives and achievements of men and women of our race, like Frederick Douglass, Blanche K. Bruce, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Phillis Wheatly, John M. Langston, Sojourner Truth, Booker T. Washington, Charles Young and many others who have gained prominence in literary lines or as statesmen or soldiers.

Few Negro boys and girls, for instance, know that a Negro constructed the first clock made in America. Likewise, we could continue to name men and women who have accomplished things which are important records in the development of the Negro race and also of this country of which the average Negro boy and girl is ignorant.

The question logically arises as to why is this lack of knowledge demonstrated by the members of the Negro race. The answer is simply because the literary works and lives of Negroes are not included in the prescribed courses of our schools and colleges. For this reason we are contending that the use of Negro literature and text books should be inaugurated in every school attended by Negroes.

Negro children read the description of the Negro as is usually given in the geographies, they read the exploits of the white statesmen and soldiers, they study the literature of white authors, and only hear of the accomplishments of the members of their own race when some fervent and patriotic speaker relates them. The result is that they naturally infer that they are inferior to the white children and that the deeds of Negroes are incomparable with those of other races and are not worthy of note, hence he grows up ignorant as to the real contributions of his race to civilization.

This is unfair to the Negro boy and girl. They should receive instruction concerning the lives of Negro statesmen, soldiers, educators, etc. They should be familiar with the literary works of Negro authors and with the contributions of the Negro to the progress of this country and to civilization. By placing the literary works of Negroes in the courses this ignorance of racial achievement would be allayed, race pride would be stimulated and in addition by reading of the hardships which some of the men who have gained fame, have been forced to overcome, it would inspire the Negro boys and girls of this age to tackle obstacles, apparently insurmountable and unconquerable, with such zeal and determination that success would be assured them.—Tuskegee Student.

WILL NEGRO WOMEN IN THE SOUTH HAVE VOTES?

To the Sun and New York Herald: Now that the Nineteenth Amendment has been ratified it may be well to take a closer look at the thing. Soon we shall hear campaign speakers pointing with pride to it as a great achievement of the Republican party, but does any sane person believe that the colored women of the Southern states will be permitted to vote under the Nineteenth Amendment any more than the colored men of those states were permitted to vote under the Fourteenth Amendment?

The Nineteenth Amendment will fare no better than the Fourteenth so far as the Southern states are concerned, because the Democratic politicians of that section, knowing the timidity of the Republican party with regard to the Fourteenth Amendment, will nullify and ignore it at their pleasure.

The women of the Eastern, the Northern and the Western states have the ballot without this amendment; the colored women of the Southern states will not have the ballot with it.

HENRY J. BRAUN.

Brooklyn, August 31.

VOTE FOR E. P. BLAKEMORE

Attorney-at-Law, for State Representative, subject to Republican Primaries, Tuesday September 14

The subject of this article was born in Crockett County, Tennessee, in 1879, the son of a Methodist minister.

When quite young he was carried by his father to Nashville, where he attended the public schools, after which he entered what was known as the Central Tennessee College, which is now Walden University. Having finished the normal course, he began the study of law in the same school, graduating with honors in 1903.

Attorney Blakemore began the practice of law at Indianapolis, Ind. After two years he located at Okmulgee, Indian Territory, which was the capital of the Creek nation. He remained there six years, during which time the Indian Territory was admitted into the Union as the state of Oklahoma. He won much popularity in Oklahoma and was considered one of the best practitioners in the state. His friends in Kansas then persuaded him to move to Wichita. Here he held several responsible positions.

He has received much praise from the best thinking people of both the Negro and white races.

He is a race man through and through. This has been shown throughout his career; for all along we have read of his fights in cases where the principles of our race were endangered. And in many of the leading papers of America we read of his fights

for the principles of the Negro race. In many of these fights he neither expected or received pecuniary compensation, but simply fought for what he believed to be helpful to his people.

Leading men all over the Union speak of him as an able and trustworthy promoter of the principles of the Negro race. And since he has been here in Denver, those of us who read can testify that he has scored several victories for the race. Not once has he been known to betray the trust that we, as members of the Negro race, have put in him. And from each of the places where he has practiced we learn that his reputation has been one that we should be proud of.

"Let us give honor to whom honor is due."

Attorney Blakemore is vice-president of the Colored Civic Association, one of the largest associations of its kind. It is composed of some of the best citizens of Denver.

He served five years as attorney for the Wichita Railway and Light company, also of the Arkansas Inter-urban Railway Company, headquarters at Wichita, Kan., for two years, before coming to Denver.

COMPLETE REORGANIZATION PROMISED BY PLANK IN REPUBLICAN PLATFORM TO FEDERAL DEPARTMENT MACHINERY

Colored Employees to Find Conditions Improved in Their Official Work

Washington.—One of the shortest planks in the Republican platform is one of the most significant and refers to the reorganization of federal departments and bureaus. Aside from the pledge being marked with the sound business sense that has characterized the Republican idea of administration of public economies, it will reach one of the sources of racial humiliation that the present administration has visited upon its colored employees, the evil of segregation.

Reorganization with a view to consolidation, the elimination of "duplication, delays and overlapping of work," means that this humiliation will be forever dispelled. Of course, the Democrats have absolutely no conception of economy. Their party has never done anything in a constructive way. It is essentially a party of penury and as such depends upon its brief authority to destroy what others have accumulated. Segregation, the detestable practice born of prejudice, that makes a colored clerk or other employé isolated from others engaged in the same work; the provision of separate toilets and other quarters for a man or woman because he hap-

pens to be colored, is an extravagance in itself. The Democrats wasted the public money to live up to their tenets that one governmental employé should not be treated with the same consideration as others of a different color.

Segregation is not only a crime against a faithful race, but a crime against economy, and the people of this country treated to a saturnalia of waste are insisting that their money be no longer thrown away just for the simple purpose of satisfying the unwholesome race hatred of a crowd of southern officials who desire to impress upon the country the mannerisms and methods of their section.

Tuskegee Inst., Ala., Sept. 4th.—Beginning September 1st, the Agricultural Department of Tuskegee Institute will be under the directorship of Prof. E. F. Hubert. Professor Hubert was formerly director of the Agricultural Department of the State College of South Carolina. He comes to Tuskegee with a splendid record and a widely-known reputation. He is a graduate of the Collegiate Department of Morehouse College, Class of 1909, and also a graduate of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, Class of 1912. He went directly from the latter college to assume his duties as Director of the Agricultural Department at the State College of South Carolina.

COLORED PEOPLE WANT RECOGNITION OF DEAD WITH OTHER HEROES

Washington.—Destroying military associations that had obtained in Massachusetts for fifty years, when Secretary Baker refused to permit company L (colored organization) to rejoin its old regiment, was generally remarked throughout the country, but this disposition to discriminate against the colored soldier is nothing new with the Democratic administration. Studied humiliation, either inspired or condoned by the war department, was the rule in France, and the discouragement of combatant troops of colored soldiers was generally followed.

It is being remembered in Washington that when the administration was having its brushes with Mexico, official cognizance of white valor and black valor varied in remarkable degree. Huerta had refused to salute the flag and the United States marines landed in Vera Cruz. Several white boys met their death, and when their bodies were returned to this country, the President very properly journeyed to Brooklyn to do honor to their memory. His words over those brave boys were classic and fraught with tears.

Later, when the brave black boys of the Tenth cavalry, after performing deeds of heroism striving to save the lives of their white commanders, fell in defense of the same flag, it is said that the Democratic administration treated the incident in a different manner.

The colored boys were brought to Washington for interment with the honors of war at Arlington. Friends had assembled to follow them to their graves. It is being told upon good authority that Joseph Tumulty requested the people who had the arrangements in hand to have the funeral procession go out the deserted streets so that the dirge would not disturb the slumbers of the occupant of the White House.

SENATOR STARKWEATHER

A Candidate for Lieutenant Governor Republican Primary Election September 14, 1920.

James C. Starkweather, candidate for lieutenant-governor at primary election Tuesday, Sept. 14, and designated by the Republican state assembly last August. Born at Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Feb. 16, 1859, and graduating from Brown university in 1880, he studied at the Boston Law school and was afterwards admitted to practice law by the supreme court of Rhode Island, Jan. 26, 1883. In August of the same year he removed to Denver, Colo., where he has since resided, actively engaged in the legal profession, enjoying a lucrative practice and having a large clientele. United in marriage to Miss Alice I. Kent at Austin, Ill., July 15, 1890, to which union was born a son, John K. Starkweather, June 16, 1891, Denver, Colo.

Republican in politics and pertaining to the progressive ideas of the late ex-President Theodore Roosevelt, he made quite an impression on the

electors of Colorado, who, in spite of a Democratic landslide in this state in 1916, elected him to the state senate by a large majority. Serving this body for four years, during which time he exercised a keen interest in the enactment of laws promoting the welfare of the city and county of Denver, also the state of Colorado. He obtained the passage of a bill conferring upon Denver jurisdiction over its mountain parks, and played a very important part in the passage of the Moffat tunnel bill and legislation for the improvement of our public schools. He is a strong advocate of state-wide primary elections, having successfully defended the cause against the former system of nomination for public office. His stand on prohibition is well known, as he had charge of the bill in the senate ratifying the national prohibition amendment. Measures relating specially to the welfare and protection of women and children had his hearty support, also the care of the aged and the blind. He has always been outspoken in championing the cause of the constitutional right of the Negro, and has no more than one occasion denounced unfair dispensing of the law and segregation towards the colored people of this state, as well as of the nation. Agrees and argues that the amendments to the constitution guaranteeing the citizens' civil rights should apply to all citizens irrespective of color or class.

He is a member of the Union lodge No. 7 of the Masonic fraternity, and has been the president of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in this state. The nomination of James C. Starkweather as lieutenant governor of Colorado at the primaries next Tuesday, Sept. 14, will be hailed with delight by the majority of voters, and The Colorado Statesman, with its knowledge and experience of Mr. Starkweather for several years, can certify as to the principles of the political platform of this gentleman and trusts the electors of Colorado will show their interest and approval of a worthy citizen.

WHITES RAPE COLORED GIRLS IN TEXAS.

Marshall, Texas.—Two young girls were held up on the public streets at night by two police officers illegally arrested and outraged in the town lockup and then set at liberty before sun-up. There has been no talk of lynching because these girls are colored and the men white.

The two young colored girls, both under sixteen years, were on their way home with escorts, when they were accosted by Patrolman M. McCay, and Constable J. Melton, both white, on the technical charge of "disturbing the peace."

The charge was only a ruse to get the party to the lock-up, where the boys were kept in the basement, and the two girls taken upstairs where they were shamelessly raped. Parts of their clothing were torn off in the struggle to defend themselves.

Later, the two girls were carried downstairs, to their escorts, and the party told to "shut their mouths, and beat it." They were threatened with death if they "squeaked."

They were later advised to leave town until the affair had subsided.