

AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

A recent issue of the Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser calls attention to a speech made by Gov. Emmet O'Neal before the conference of the A. M. E. church recently in session at Montgomery, Ala.

It is, interesting to use to note how these colored people in the south get on with leading officials. Seldom or never does one read of the governor of a northern state attending any of the conferences of our people, nor do we read of any of them offering words of advice which will help to encourage colored people to better living. As a rule, northern governors are never to be found around colored people except when they are seeking their votes. The report of this incident in the far south, however, is so interesting that we are publishing it herewith just as it appears in the Advertiser:

"The fourth day's session of the A. M. E. conference, which is in session at the Madison Avenue church, was a gala day for negro Methodists of the state. The principal feature of the day being an address by Gov. Emmet O'Neal, who had been invited to speak before the conference.

"At high noon all available space in the auditorium was filled by negroes who had turned out to do honor to the chief magistrate of Alabama. A committee headed by Rev. R. L. Pope, the pastor of the church, met the governor in front of the church and escorted him to the platform. Dr. W. H. Mixon of Selma, Ala., made the address in presenting him to Rt. Rev. H. B. Parks, the presiding bishop, who introduced the governor to the conference. A Chautauqua salute was given, amid long applause. Governor O'Neal assured the conference of his sympathy for and interest in the negro ministry. He said:

"No class counts for so much in the uplift and advancement of your people as does the negro ministry. It is for the interest of the white man as well as the black man to have the negro educated in the sciences and handicrafts of our civilization. To allow the negro to remain among us ignorant and vile may prove to be a weight about our necks to drag us down. While in New York some weeks ago, I was interviewed by the New York Journal. In answer to the question, was the negro's uncontrollable thirst for strong drink responsible for the failure of prohibition in the south, I said emphatically, no. I was born and reared among negroes and for twenty-five years I practiced at the bar in Lauderdale county, yet I do not recall two negroes who were confirmed drunkards. I can never forget the loyalty of your race during the Civil war. History does not recount another instance where a servant race exhibited such loyalty to the master as has been exhibited by the American negro. I can never forget you. And so long as I occupy the governor's chair I shall do all in my power to see that even-handed justice is meted out to every citizen of this commonwealth, be he rich or poor, black or white."

"Bishop Parks replied to the governor's address.

"At the close of the reply a resolution of thanks was offered the governor."

When strong men like Governor O'Neal are willing to speak out openly in praise of the loyalty of negroes and in determined assurance of his intention to mete out even-handed justice to blacks and whites alike they are entitled to our thanks. For one, The Age intends to give proper report to all such incidents. It is the kind of thing for which we publish this newspaper.—New York Age.

A New Orleans paper takes great pains to point out the desirability of giving the negro a square deal, and refers to many disabilities under which the negro labors in the south and nation. Some injustice may be expected under the circumstances. When it comes to the courts it is better that the negro stay out of them. The sooner the negro learns how to attend to his business and to avoid clashes with any and everybody the sooner he will learn the lesson which present unfavorable conditions are designed to teach. The point is not to be concerned too much about the privileges that are denied and to be concerned about the right use of those which are retained.—Durham (N. C.) Reformer.

"Have you ever thought of it—that great Son of Palestine was a carpenter's son," said Dr. E. G. Hirsch of Chicago, in an address at Tuskegee Institute. "He did not have a classical education, but he learned the lesson of life in his father's carpenter shop; he did not go to academies, but he heard his divine father's call. Whatever message he had, he clothed it in the phraseology, not of the counting-room, and not of the drawing-room, but into the impressive, vocabulary of the farmer and the artisan. In practicing and learning to practice the religion of labor, you become Christianized, in the spirit of the great teacher, and Judaized in the spirit of the great Jewish prophets."

A number of industrious colored boys could find profitable employment after school hours and learn a valuable trade if they could be induced to put in a few hours around either or both of the local colored printing shops. There are too many colored boys wearing out valuable shoe leather on Commerce street smoking cigarettes and going to the bad generally.—San Antonio Inquirer.

Spend your money with your race. They are struggling to build you up; so help them.

There is no occasion for alarm on the part of the white people of this state because the negro population shows a slightly larger rate of increase. They still outnumber the colored people about eighteen to one, thus making the fear of "negro domination" groundless.

The negroes, however, cannot view the increase of their number with as little concern, for the reason that it has come about very largely through migration from other states of a type of undesirables, of men brought here to labor in the industrial centers, who too frequently mistake license for liberty. Coming as they mostly do from Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky where wages are lower, school terms are shorter and the attitude of the whites toward them is more hostile than in this state, they are endangering the civil and political privileges not only of themselves, but of the entire race in West Virginia.

This state of affairs has come about through the development of coal mining and the consequent demand for labor. In but few instances have the law-abiding, property-owning negroes of other states responded. Those who have heeded the call are, for the most part, the unattached, ignorant, happy-go-lucky element who are the best patrons of the saloonkeeper and form the reserve force from which the population of the penitentiary is recruited.

This being the situation those negroes in the state who have any regard for their civil and political status must "view with alarm" this influx and hope that it will either be diverted or that those who come hereafter may be of a higher type; otherwise, the movement for Jim Crow cars and disfranchisement will grow apace.—Charleston (S. C.) Advocate.

The People's Investment and Savings bank of Birmingham, Ala., Dr. W. L. Lauderdale, president, closed its doors, says the Birmingham American.

In explanation of the trouble, Dr. Lauderdale has issued the following statement:

"By a special call of the board of directors of the People's Investment and Savings bank by President W. L. Lauderdale, after a brief discussion pertaining to the affairs of the bank and its best interest, since its robbery which disturbed the confidence of its depositors, the board did not deem it wise, nor for the best interest of all parties concerned, to continue its present operations, and in view of this fact a resolution was passed calling on Hon. A. E. Walker, superintendent of banks of Alabama, to take the affairs of the bank in hand and liquidate its indebtedness to secure the best interest of the depositors of the bank.

"The president and board further feel that in their judgment the bank has sufficient assets to pay its depositors in full."

Thomas L. Masson, editor of Life, recently delivered a lecture on "Newspapers" before the students of the Glen Ridge (N. J.) high school.

The speaker explained that there are three vocabularies in common use. These he classified as the social vocabulary, literary vocabulary and the vocabulary of names or persons. The first, he said, is used in every-day "chit chat," and the second in the schools, but the third, he declared, to be of the most importance. Well-read people, he declared, have an acquaintance almost personal with many personages they have never met.

Three sources are open, Mr. Masson declared, from which this same vocabulary may be obtained. These are the daily newspaper, the weekly newspaper and the monthly reviews. The first, he asserted, are so hurriedly edited as to be often incorrect; the second, having more time, are usually more accurate, while the third class contains the substance of the news in the best forms.—South Life Magazine.

Among the many race enterprises of Memphis we note the following: Thirty-five groceries and meat markets, 6 undertaker shops, 3 cemeteries, 6 blacksmith and horseshoeing shops, 10 shoemakers, 4 harness and saddle makers, 2 old folks' homes, 2 infirmaries, 1 hospital, 2 newspapers and 2 church organs, 50 boarding houses and 12 restaurants, 4 drug stores, 2 banks, 60 barber shops, 40 pressing clubs, 7 printing plants, 1 shoe store, 1 gents' furnishing store, 1 photo studio, a park theater, 4 jewelry shops, 12 coal and wood companies, 1 supply house and 1 swimming pool. Memphis has also to her credit 12 lawyers, 30 physicians, 4 editors, 60 preachers, 110 school teachers, 80 carpenters and woodworkers, 120 brickmasons, 80 hodcarriers and mail carriers, 60 dressmakers and hairdressers; colored population, 52,000; real estate owned by them, \$3,000,000. This is not in any sense a bad showing.—Memphis News.

No lady, colored or white, wants to force her way through a crowd of jostling men and boys such as is wont to congregate before negro places of amusement or worship.—Charleston (W. Va.) Advocate.

A South Carolina negro, Lewis H. Wagner, having raised the amounts of money orders to bring about his imprisonment, wants to be sent to the federal prison in Atlanta, Ga., in order to perfect an invention, so he says, requiring the use of tools to be found in that place of incarceration. If this is true, it is indeed stranger than fiction.

Jack Johnson was fined \$100 in Newcastle, England, November 3 for speeding. His disregard for certain laws hasn't been rectified as yet.