

# **PRESBYTERIANS IN UPLIFT WORK FOR AFRO-MERICANS**

## **The Experiment of Establishing Colored Persons on Individual Farms Thoroughly Explained**

### **TO GIVE RACE A MORAL START**

St. Louis.—The experiment of the Presbyterian church's freedmen's board in establishing colored persons on individual farms in Georgia was described as part of the board's work by Miss Roberta Barr of Pittsburgh at the recent annual meeting of the Missouri Synodical society in the West Presbyterian church, this city. Miss Barr, who is assistant secretary of the board, said the first aim of the board is to give the Negro race a good moral foundation. They must therefore first be trained in the Bible and Christian living.

"The board is criticised sometimes," she said, "because it does not make industrial education the first feature. It believes thoroughly in industrial education and equips schools for the work as fully as possible." She described the farm of 1,000 acres at Keyesville, Ga., near Augusta, from which the board is parceling off to the Negroes farms of twenty or thirty acres each, giving to each a mule and a plow and building a small cottage. The tenant is allowed to pay for this equipment and the land by rental fees, so that in time the property becomes his own.

"The colored people of the United States now own farms," said Miss Barr, "of such extent as would include all the New England states." By this statement she referred to Negro ownership generally, not alone to that fostered by the Presbyterian board. This board operates 131 schools, all of them being taught entirely by Negroes except six. The board emphasizes the need of an educated Negro ministry and supports in part 280 Negro ministers. There are 15,000 children in the board's schools, and in each one the Bible is a daily textbook.

Mrs. M. J. Gildersleeve of New York city, secretary of the woman's board of home missions, at a study class during the meeting pointed out the wide culture which may accrue from mission study. "It is a university education," she said.

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At another time she pointed out the common tie between all the varied peoples of the United States—Alaskans, mountaineers, Negroes, Mexicans and Indians—speaking also of the Cubans and Porto Ricans, to whom the board ministers. She said the building of railroads and the development of resources are greatly increasing the missionary's opportunity.

Mrs. S. L. McAfee of Parkville said that among the 200 or more delegates two interesting personages were the Misses Clingan, who started a mission in a remote region in the Ozarks, and have continued it with much hardship, although now better established than at first. Their station is Gladstone, Mo.

The statistics of the home mission work of the society, presented by Mrs. G. H. Van Dyke of Clinton, Mo., stated all the ten presbyterial societies of the synod were represented. In this aggregation there are 3,000 members, whose work is subdivided into work for women, young women and children. The contributions for the year have been \$13,212.

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