

THE CHILDREN OF THE SUN



NORTH BADIN has a history, brief and fascinating; but its growth has been so rapid that its history is seldom emphasized, except when our "oldest inhabitants" are making comparisons between the past and the present. On the ruins of the "old camp" which has but a hut or two to mark the last vestige of the "old days" of freeloading and the "big stick", a busy little city has been reared, of two thousand people, from twenty States and three foreign countries. One easily notes that NORTH BADIN was built, and that it did not "grow up" as most cities do. For no city—certainly no southern city—grows up without its slums and alleys, its poorer quarters, unpainted houses, bad unlighted streets, irregular business section, dives, retreats, and unimproved conditions; and in these sections most Negro workers live. But here, in NORTH BADIN, are well-laid-off streets, with paving and concrete sidewalks begun, trees set out and regularly nursed, painted cottages with electric lights, running water and sewer, gardens and chicken-yards, lighted streets, high pressure fire plugs and hose houses in every section of the town.

Yet, as commendable as are the efforts of the Tallassee Power Company in making a fine city for Negro workers, with all its economic and community advantages, the most interesting thing about the town has not been mentioned. The most interesting thing in all of BADIN is its simple-hearted, good-natured Negro citizens.

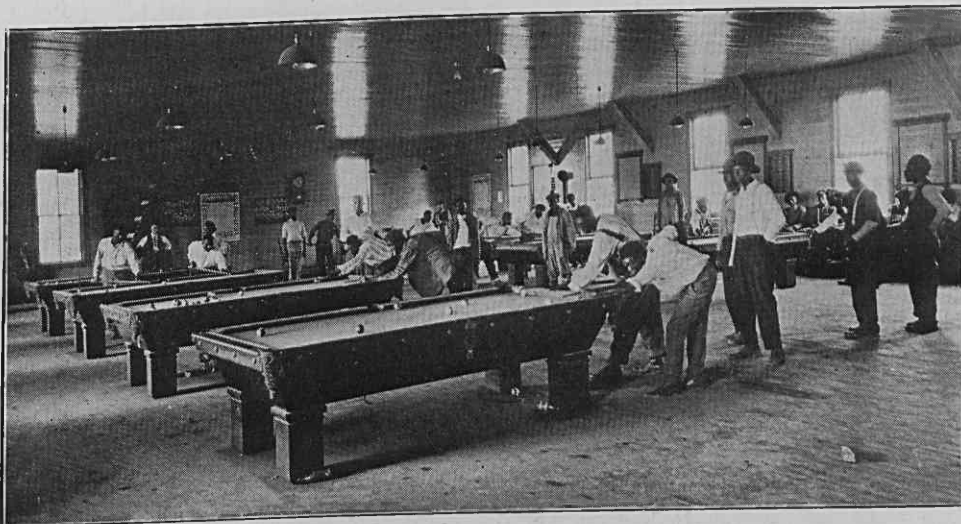
'Way down in the plant, at the whistle's blow, comes a great yell of delight; and dusty men rush for their shower baths, singing, laughing, jesting, rejoicing in youth and strength. Behind them come the silent, thoughtful older men, the sages and philosophers, yielding the race to the swift. They tuck their work clothes into their lockers, and go about their several ways until another whistle catches their returning shout. To them, a man who will not work has no backbone, and they call him a "pie-back." There is no telling what their talents are when they are "punching pots," they are so much alike; but their lives, like so many strings, lead to myriad endeavors.

The happy disposition of the Children of the Sun is fully manifest in the daily life of NORTH BADIN. The thumping

of guitars and banjos, the eternal singing of the "weary blues," and the strains of unsung melodies which their creative musical genius inspires, the band and orchestra members chording and dischording—all these are a part of the life of the town; the external and more or less superficial life that one who does not know will readily accept as the most interesting. But far beneath these evidences of care-free and happy-go-lucky existence is the great struggle of a people for self-mastery. They are overcoming a deep skepticism of the kindly encouragement of their employers, due to their never before having been treated so well. They are rallying to the higher call to a clean manhood and an honorable womanhood by those of their fellows possessed of education and training and moral earnestness. They are experiencing a new notion of the dignity of labor and of the duties of citizenship. An honest striving is accomplishing, in a remarkably short time, the results that their employers knew would follow from exciting the best that is in them.

About the town there are the professional and business men and men of affairs—several in the employ of the Company—who are the natural leaders of the community. They are leading the procession, and teaching by precept and example the way of progress and enlightenment. Whatever has remained of doubt as to the Negro's ability to develop if given kindly encouragement and left unhindered, has been more than overwhelmed by the most interesting experiment in the United States in the making of good Americans.

The Tallassee Power Company is not a philanthropic institution, nor is it trying to solve the "race problem;" it is engaged in the business of making aluminum. It simply believes that if the proper incentive is held out to workers, good results will follow. It knows that it is **good business** to develop healthy, intelligent, and satisfied workers; and that if Negro workers are encouraged they will become satisfied and reliable. In other words, it realizes that the **human element** is the greatest consideration in the dealing of capital with labor. The Tallassee Power Company is right.



INTERIOR BADIN COLORED POOL ROOM