

EDITOR'S REMARKS

Men of all races are not infrequently found meditating upon their past records. They refer to them with a great deal of pride as if life and progress were not continuous chain of affairs with every link bespeaking the presence of every preceding link: Man seems to forget that the presence of any phase of life's activity and achievement explains the past just as readily as a pupil's grammar school training can be reckoned from his work in high school, and high school training from his work in college. Study the present and understand the past. Know the past and predict the future.

What then, has concerned the waning plans of college bred Negroes and the preceding generations. Everything indicates that they were chiefly concerned with the appreciation and assimilation of the culture and refinement into which they were born. As a result they were the founders of schools and a few minds here and there have towered in intellectual mastery. Business was fostered; but in small plains and to individual ends. Clubs and social auxiliaries for the promotion of health and ethics sprang up. But there seem to have been but little done to create and preserve the Negro's political and pragmatic forces in the course of affairs of this common-wealth of ours.

Nobody aroused the masses to the realization that our government is a government by the consent of the governed. As a result we are puppets instead of human beings with demanding influences. If we are afforded any portion of due public accommodation it is because of sympathy and not because of the effect of some invincible force. As a race we do not vote, and as a race we can not protect our homes nor demand any other civilian rights.

Likewise, business, an indispensable factor in the making of any race has not become of such as to assure our independent forces and guarantee our preservation. No race can become a cogent factor in the state of affairs until that race has enterprises for the employment of its members. There is no guarantee against extinction of any people whose vital needs are contingent upon the sympathy and mercy of a stronger race. At present who suffers most from unemployment? Who lives in the slums? Whose family dies for the need of better care in every manner? It is the Negro. Who can tell for what science will so reduce the demand for labor that in the course of time can only be found for every ten workers out of a hundred? What will that mean? It will mean unemployment for the four million or more Negroes whose employment is greatly decreasing even at the present.

Gentlemen, we may even foster social welfare work, we may give multitudes of health lectures, we may attack immorality and bemoan our criminality and lament our high death rate--all of this is good and very good so far as the ever presence of an ideal can effect the trend of affairs--but there can be no further appreciable change of conditions until the Negro goes into business and establish enterprises for the consumption of his people. He must go into business and off-set the total future unemployment predicted by science and the present trend of affairs and thereby save the race from the smouldering distinction of dire need.