

NORTH CAROLINA FIRST

IN EDUCATIONAL AWAKENING

Mr. Ray Stannard Baker Pays Splendid Tribute to the Achievements of the Old North State in the Line of Educational Progress—Of Southern States the One Most Instinctively Democratic—The Mecklenburg Declaration—North Carolina as Compared With Massachusetts—New School and New Library Every Day—A Splendid Record.

No series of articles appearing in public print is attracting more interest and comment just now than that of Mr. Ray Stannard Baker in The American Magazine on "The Negro Problem." "The New Southern Statesmanship" is the title of the installment which is to be found in the August issue of this well-known publication which in its entirety is well worth reading. Mr. Baker spent months in the South securing material for his articles—visiting Charlotte and other centres in North Carolina—and wherever he went wonderfully impressed those with whom he came in contact as a seeker after the truth and a writer of wonderful capabilities. Under the heading "The New Statesmanship," and in elaboration of the idea that the only sure foundation for democracy is universal education; Mr. Baker has the following to say of conditions obtaining in the Old North State: INSPIRATION OF DEMOCRACY IN NORTH CAROLINA.

"Not unnaturally the movement found its earliest expression in North Carolina, which has been the most instinctively democratic of Southern States. From the beginning of the country North Carolina, with its population of Scotch-Presbyterians and Quakers, has been inspired with a peculiar spirit of independence. When I was in Charlotte I went to see the monument which commemorates the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, the work of a group of stout-hearted citizens who, before the country at large was ready for it, to declare their independence of British rule. North Carolina was among the last of the Southern States to secede from the Union, and its treatment of its negroes all along has been singularly liberal. For example, in several Southern States little or no provision is made for the negro defective classes, but at Raleigh I visited a large asylum for negro deaf, dumb, and blind which is conducted according to the most improved methods. And to-day North Carolina is freer politically, the State is nearer a new and healthy party alignment, than any other Southern State except Tennessee and possibly Kentucky.

"Such a soil was fertile for new ideas and new movements. In 1885 two young men, Charles D. McIver and Edwin A. Alderman, now president of the University of Virginia, began a series of educational campaigns under the supervision of the state. They spoke in every county, raising the people to build better school houses and to send legislators to Raleigh who should be more liberal in educational appropriations. In many cases their rallies were conducted with the most enthusiastic political meetings—only one was asking to be elected to office, and the only object was public service. As Alderman has said:

"It was an effort to move the centre of gravity from the court house to the school house. "And it really moved; the State took fire and has been afire ever since. Governor Aycock made the educational movement a part of his campaign; Governor Glenn has been hardly less enthusiastic; and the development of the school system has been little short of amazing. When I was in Raleigh last spring J. Y. Joyner, State Superintendent of Education, who was also one of the pioneer campaigners, told me that a new school house was being built for every day in the year and new school libraries established at the same rate. Between 1900 and 1906 the total amount of money expended for schools in North Carolina more than doubled, and while the school population in the same years had increased only 6 per cent, the daily attendance had increased 28 per cent.

NORTH CAROLINA COMPARED WITH MASSACHUSETTS.

"To give a graphic idea of the progress in education, I can do no better than to show the increase in public expenditures since 1872:

Table with 4 columns: Year, Total School Expenditures, Colored School Expenditures, White School Expenditures. Rows for 1872, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1906.

"I have looked into the statistics and I find that North Carolina spends more per hundred dollars of taxable property for school purposes than Massachusetts, which is perhaps the leading American State in educational expenditures. In 1906 North Carolina raised \$46 an every one hundred dollars, while Massachusetts raised \$37. But this does not mean, of course, that North Carolina has reached the standard. At present, though it only shows how the people, though not rich, have been willing to tax themselves. And they have only just begun the rate of liberality of the State, as in all the South, is still excessive both among white and colored people. According to the last cen-

CHARLOTTE TO THE FRONT.

Superintendent Joyner's Report For 1906-1907 Gives Charlotte Schools Precedence Over All the Others in the State Save in School Population—A Splendid Showing For the Queen City.

Superintendent Alexander Graham has copied from State Superintendent J. Y. Joyner's statistical report for 1906-1907 some interesting figures relative to the standing of the graded schools in ten of North Carolina's progressive cities. These figures give Charlotte first place over such cities as Asheville, Durham, Raleigh, Wil-

son, North Carolina has more illiterate white people than any other State in the Union, a condition due, of course, to its large population of mountaineers. While the progress already made is notable, the leaders still have a stupendous task before them. At the present time, although taxing itself more per hundred dollars worth of property than Massachusetts, North Carolina pays only \$2.63 each year for the education of each child, whereas Massachusetts expends \$24.99—nearly ten times as much.

"I do not wish to over-emphasize the work in North Carolina, I am merely using conditions there as a convenient illustration of what is going on in greater or less degree all over the South."

Girl is Remembered For a Kind Word to Sick Man

"This for a kind word to a sick man," said the telephone girl at the hotel exchange as she set a basket of fruit upon the counter. "Peaches, apples, oranges and grapes for a kind word! How grateful! How thoughtful!" "Who sent them?" asked one of the party. "I do not know his name but he said he sent them because I spoke a kind word to him. Don't you feel sorry for this poor fellow? Just to think how short he is on kind words! Do you reckon he has a wife?" "No, I should say, not. He is alone in this cold, cruel world, and this dear sweet girl, with milk of human kindness in her soul, and the color of the morning sun in her cheeks, has aroused an angelic spirit in the zone about his heart. O, don't you know he is glad! He has found a friend at last!"

A WORTHY ASSOCIATION.

A Representative of the National Negro Business League in the City—Prof. Charles H. Moore Carrying Out Works Planned by Booker T. Washington—Some Interesting Facts.

Prof. Charles H. Moore, representing the National Negro Business League, the founder and president of which is Booker T. Washington, of Tuskegee, is in the city for the purpose of organizing a local branch of the national organization among the colored men in this community. A meeting was held last night in the colored library building to consider the advisability of effecting a local Negro Business League.

Professor Moore, during the past two months, has been traveling in the States of Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, visiting leagues already organized and establishing new ones. In answer to the question of the reporter as to the object and scope of this league, Professor Moore said: "Doctor Washington, always interested in the development of his people along the lines that make for their solid and higher civilization, conceived the idea of inviting a few successful business men of his race to meet in Boston in the month of August, eight years ago, to form plans for organizing the National Negro Business League, having for its main object the bringing together of the men and women engaged in different kinds of business in order that they might become acquainted with each other and also get information and inspiration from one another by exchanging ideas and experiences."

"Furthermore to form plans for a permanent organization, which should hold meetings in the different parts of the country and encourage the formation of local leagues, which should cooperate with the national organization. "Both of these objects have been successful; for out of a few members to start with, over 1,500 business men and women have enrolled their names among the membership of this national body and about 500 local leagues have been organized, affiliating with the national league.

"In 1906 the league met in Atlanta, Georgia, at an invitation from the local negro league, the chamber of commerce of Atlanta as well as the Governor of the State of Georgia, extended invitations. Last year it met in Kansas, Kansas, and this year, August 15th, 20th, 21st, will meet in Baltimore.

"As an evidence of the importance and value of this National Negro Business League, I simply refer to the fact that the city council of Baltimore has recently passed two resolutions of importance to the organization, one providing for the electrical illumination by the city of Druid Hill avenue during the sessions of the league, and the other for the use of the largest steamship belonging to the city's harbor Board during convention week.

"The far-reaching influence of the National Negro Business League assures an attendance at Baltimore, besides the fact that no former session of the organization featured rates so well secured from almost every section of the country."

Professor Moore is a native of this State, and has been engaged in the educational work for his people for many years. His home is in Durham, where he was formerly connected with the Colored A. & M. College, which was located there mainly through his efforts in successfully securing the financial backing of the white business men, when the school was established by the Legislature in 1901, with the understanding that any town in the State might have it that offered the most satisfactory proposition to its board of trustees. Wilmington, Raleigh, Winston and Greensboro hotly contended for it, but the latter's proposition being more substantial and satisfactory it finally won out.

Prominent Negroes Coming.

The Grand Lodge, K. of P., colored, will meet here this week. The court house has been secured and the meetings will take place in the criminal court room. This order includes some of the leading negroes of the State. Mayor Franklin and Messrs. J. P. McCall and T. L. Kirkpatrick will address the visitors.

It Was Pat Powell.

An Observer man received the following wireless message from the steamship Huron, via Atlantic City, Sunday: "Pat Farwell and family aboard. Good fellow. Having fine time. Benjie."

Search himself as he did the newspaper man could not understand the message. "Who is Pat Farwell?" "Who is Benjie?" he asked himself time after time. The telegraph company was asked to have the message repeated. This came back: "Pat Powell, etc." "Pat Powell and his family sailed from Charleston last Wednesday. His son Benjie sent the message. All is well that ends well. Sells the doctor. Sold by Miller-Van Ness Co."

"Health Coffee" is really the closest coffee imitation ever yet produced. This clever Coffee Substitute was recently produced by Dr. Shoop, of Racine, Wis. Not a grain of real coffee is in it either. Dr. Shoop's Health Coffee is made from pure roasted grains, with malt, nuts, etc. Really it would fool an expert—who might think it for coffee. No 30 or 30 minutes' tedious boiling. "Made in a minute." Sells the doctor. Sold by Miller-Van Ness Co.

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Table with 4 columns: City, White School Population, Colored School Population, Total School Population. Rows for Charlotte, Greensboro, Durham, Raleigh, Goldsboro, Asheville, Winston, Newberry, High Point.