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THE NATIONAL NEGRO WEEKLY

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE DARKER RACES

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H. COURSEY WINS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Another victory for the Colored race. Last Saturday afternoon at the London Athletic Meet at Queens park under the auspices of the London Manufacturers' Athletic Association, Harry Coursey, the colored star, covered himself and his race with glory by winning 6 first and 2 second prizes. Coursey finished with a record of 39 points, which is more than any individual athlete has made in the history of the Association. With Captain Cornelius, coach of Canada's Olympic team, watching the performance, Coursey displayed the best running of his career.

He literally ran away from his competitors and was the recipient of much applause from the crowd. In the 120 yard hurdles for men he beat Chapman in a spectacular finish. His win over Gorman, the Canadian champion was no less spectacular. Coursey was without doubt the individual star of the day and he repeatedly covered himself with laurels. It is said that his performance alone was worth the price of the admission fee and it is safe to say that Coursey is destined for many more laurels. Captain Cornelius remarked that Coursey had improved 100 per cent. since his try out for the Olympic in the early summer although at that time he made a most creditable record. His record at that time entitled him to compete further in the Olympic tryouts but he preferred to remain home and improve his form and style. It appears that he has succeeded

Branch of Association Formed At Chatham

Chatham.—A branch of the Canadian National Association for the Advancement of Colored People may be formed in this city if the plans of J. W. Montgomery of Toronto, President, bear fruit. Montgomery was a recent visitor to Chatham and discussed plans with the ministers of the colored churches here.

CHRISTIAN WORK FOR THE NEGRO RACE

(By S. E. G. Allen)

It is stated that the first Y.M.C.A. for the colored race was organized in Washington, D.C. in 1853. Anthony Bowen was the first president. He was a free Negro. But the association was not of long duration, and it was not until 1876, when the international convention met in Toronto, that the work of colored men and boys was seriously considered. It was then an interest was aroused, and finally funds contributed to appoint a man to investigate conditions among colored men. General George D. Johnston led in the work, laying the foundation in the far south by organizing Bible Classes and holding Gospel Meetings for colored men in many cities. This pioneer work was well done, but it was soon realized that it was necessary to appoint a colored man for the position; and Mr. William A. Hunton, the first salaried secretary colored man of the association was appointed.

In 1907, a model building was presented to the colored people of Columbus, Ga., by Mr. George Foster Peabody and his brother at a cost of about \$30,000, a condition of the gift being that the association should organize as a branch of the white association.

The next city to erect a modern building was Washington, towards which Mr. John D. Rockefeller made a gift of \$25,000 on condition that a like amount be raised by colored men. The were so impressed in favor of the idea that soon \$100,000 was subscribed, of which the colored race contributed \$27,000.

In January, 1911, Mr. Julius Rosenwald, the Hebrew President of the Sears-Roebuck Company of Chicago, made an offer of \$25,000 to every city of the United States that would raise \$75,000 for erecting a building for a Colored Young Men's Christian Association, to cost not less than \$100,000. Up to the present time 13 cities or more have met the conditions and the buildings have cost from \$100,000 to \$300,000 each.

The property now owned by Y.M.C.A.s of the Colored race, is now valued at about \$3,200,000. One of the new buildings in Chicago cost \$195,000.

The work among colored women and girls has been even more remarkable and rapid. In the past ten years

SENSATION OF
M.A.A. MEET, LONDON



HARR COURSEY, sensation of the Manufacturers' A.A. Meet. He won the Individual Championship, piling up a total of 39 points. His firsts were in the 100, 220, and 440 yard running events and in the standing broad jump. He added more points by coming in second in the 120 yard hurdles final and in the running broad jump. It was one of the best performances given by any athlete since the M.A.A.'s inception.

90,000 girls and women have been reached. The student work for colored women, is organized in 68 institutions.

The Christian Associations have done a great deal in this work of which a beautiful illustration can be given. Some years ago when the association of a Southern city was about to launch a campaign for a new building a meeting of the board of directors was called to arrange for the campaign. There was no hitch in the proceedings until one of the members suggested that the work for colored people should receive some consideration. A discussion followed, and for a time it seemed as if the proposition would not be approved. Finally the Chairman, a lawyer and a graduate of Harvard, said: "Gentlemen, we are going to include in our appeal \$25,000 for the colored men's branch, because Jesus Christ wants it done." The effect was instantaneous. The audience rose to the occasion and the result was that the white men in the city gave nearly \$60,000 toward the building for colored men. I would like to be able to give a more definite and extended account of this work in Canada, up to date, but at present statistics are not available.

HARRY WILLS TRIMS FIRPO

Last Thursday evening at Boyle's Thirty Acres, New Jersey, Harry Wills administered to Luis Angel Firpo, the most severe whipping he has ever received during his boxing career. From the sound of the first gong to the last one the fight was a one sided affair—all Wills. The big colored man proved himself to be Firpo's superior in strength, boxing ability, ring craftsmanship and resourcefulness. At no stage of the game was he in danger of being knocked out while on the other hand he floored Firpo in the second round, sending him to the mat for the count of three.

Firpo's most dangerous weapon, his terrible right that sent Dempsey over the ropes into friendly arms of newspaper reporters, thereby saving him from a defeat, was able only to draw from Wills pleasant smiles.

Although the big Argentin refused to shake hands with the colored man at the beginning of the fight he was found to be most affectionate toward the end, hugging Wills with so much zeal the colored man found it impossible to administer his knockout punch. It would be difficult to make any comparison between these two fighters from any angle.

Firpo, meek but manly, admits his defeat and expresses a desire to start all over again, working up to a bout with Wills again and then to Dempsey as he still believes he can master them.

It is reported that Tex Richard and other sporting celebrities claim that Wills' showing against Firpo does not entitle him to a light with Dempsey, compare the showing Firpo made against Dempsey and the showing he made against Wills and you will easily see that such a decision is most certainly unfounded.

We, as a race, are proud, very proud of Wills because he not only is a fighter of rare ability, perhaps the best in the world, but because he is a gentleman and because he has not placed a stigma upon the race by mixing up with women of other races. Tex Rickard and the sporting world should feel proud of Wills and should be willing to give him a man's chance, not only because of his prowess as a fighter, but because he is one of the few fighters who has not helped to bring ill repute upon the sport.