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Signs of the Times

(By the Associated Negro Press)
White supremacy is being put to a severe test in America in these days and times. Negro migration from the South might be the straw that will break the camel's back. In the light of the world's historical social failures one can but wonder why the South persists in its stupid maintenance of its flimsy "color problem." That there is a social problem everywhere about us no one will attempt to deny. It affects all the elements of the Nation and it is the basic reason why we are all seriously engaged in the effort to keep alive the spirit of the democracy upon which the government was founded. Ignorance prevails all too insolently among the Negroes. But for that matter ignorance obtains all too blatantly among all the elements which go to establish the presence of the American people as a fact of American social existence. The white South is not lagging behind anybody in the race of social ignorance. One of the chief troubles is that the South has kept its eyes and ears closed to the truth. In the more general way it will not heed the signs of the times. A "New South" and a "New Negro" are equally present. The intelligent world is widening. "Nordic intelligence" is almost new to greenness. If the re-awakened intelligence of the Negro was less virginal in aspect we could well afford to stand by and enjoy a hearty laugh at the expense of our brothers-in-white. But thanks be to the fates there is more serious business at hand to do. Whatever the white man makes up his mind to do we must steady our heads and set about creating higher standards of intelligence than has marked our social progress up to this time in American history. We have immediately before us the work of adapting our tropical natures to the impressions of a temperate zone of civilization. We have neglected to take into sensible account the more important facts of temperate zone life. It does not matter that the white man is lamentably ignorant of what constitutes the basic forces of his own civilization. If there were no Negroes in America we know that the white man would still be worried with problems of social ignorance and questions of social health. It is our duty to go him one better and go seriously about the work of giving to the world a character of civilization that will be truly civilized in all social particulars. Nothing less than this will answer. Ours is a race composed of splendid elements of character and notable powers of mental ability. We must quit scratching the surface of life. I am constrained to believe that the "migration" fever has a deep social significance. The present temperate zone blood has done about all that it is capable of doing for the general social good of the human family. It needs to be freshened again by warm infusions of tropical blood. I know that it is holding up its hands in the holy horror of a strong protest against this sort of social procedure, but Nature will have its pound of flesh no matter what might be the black or the white say concerning what shall be done to preserve the human species of life. Six or seven great civilizations have tried their hands at wide social experiments. They each have failed. Therefore I conclude that the precedence they have left to us have small social value. They have historical significance yes, but no final social value. Ignorance is the prevailing social order of the day. As I have already intimated the Negro must strive to become truly intelligent no matter what the white man thinks about the question either for himself or for others. Less vanity, more hours for genuine social work. Fewer Generals, more private soldiers in the ranks. Yes, we have very little social wisdom.

BIG ENROLLMENT

Atlanta, Ga., Sept.—The Negro day and night schools have opened with the largest number of pupils in the history of Atlanta. A total slightly more than 46,000 have been enrolled.

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ASSIST JAPANESE SUFFERERS

(By the Associated Negro Press)

Nashville, Tenn., Sept.—The colored churches of the city have begun the raising of a fund to aid the Japanese earthquake sufferers. It is ex-

pected that about \$15,000 or \$26,000 will be procured. The Rev. Caldwell, Brumfield and Houghton are the committee in charge of the fund. The invitation was issued by the Rev. R. E. Clay, Secretary of the International Alliance of Colored Ministers.