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—Prepared By—

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## Discussion On Negro Music

(By The Associated Negro Press)  
The National Association of Negro Musicians met in Chicago last week. I found special interest in the conference on Negro Music and Negro Compositions. Carl Ditt of Philadelphia presided. The possibility of creating a Negro School of Music was discussed by Nathaniel Dett and Clarence White. Mr. Dett astonished the conference when he asserted that much of the music that was passing muster as Negro Music was, in reality, a cheap imitation of the same. His presentation of the technical phases of his contention held illuminating interest for me. In a more general way, however, I suspect his assertion that Negro musicians who attempted the work of composition were, in most instances, short in their knowledge of what constituted the true elements of "Negro Music" came to the conference in the nature of a genuine surprise. We have grown so set in the manner of gushing about what we do that I was rather refreshed by his disposition to be closely critical in his argument. The refreshment that has come to us through the insistences of the Russian thought and speech idioms has filled many of us with a new stir of life. Not alone has our knowledge of the ranges of Art been widened by the acquaintance that has come to us through an intimate contact with an Art expression which has stood remote and strangely indistinct from us, but we have been given pleasure and heartened soul because it has moved us forward in our seekings for the fuller manifestations of life. Wide, level stretches of grey vista have constituted its outlook through many centuries of travail and sordid contention. Their souls came tired all the while and in the simple manner of their simple minds they sang and dreamed about their life in the wonderful stresses of a music and literature which has enriched the Art spirit of the entire modern world. The American Negro's feeling for true art has been held in leash by the restraints of English speech and American thinking, both worn thin by the friction of an imperfect conception of what are the substances of life purpose. This is why DuBois has stumbled and Burleigh has widely missed the mark. They are not true artists because they have not thought and designed in the terms of true art. Their vogue is accounted for in the imperfect acquaintance of the forward elements of the race with the motifs that constitute an original art expression. In my opinion, Mr. Dett is right when he declares that Negro composers of music have failed in their efforts to produce Negro Music because they have not conceived in the spirit of the Negro mind. The same can be said of what we are pleased to call "Our Literature."

## Someone Plays A Mean Trick

(By The Associated Negro Press)  
Atlanta, Ga., Aug.—The pistol was hid in his hat. He is a Negro who refuses to give his name to the police. Suspected of being the bandit who has been holding up people in the Druid Hill section for the past month or more, the police apprehended him and put him under arrest last Saturday night. They "frisked" him for his gun. He swore he didn't have a "gat" and was about to get away with his bluff when one of the officers raised his hat from his head and down dropped a gun big enough to sink a dreadnaught battleship with one shot. "Someone shure put dat gat in my hat when I wuz ersleep," declared his hold-upship. "I reckon someone did," replied one of the officers as they hustled the unknown off to the lockup.

## Great Evangelist In Toronto

Toronto, Ont.—Large crowds are attending the evangelistic meetings which are being conducted by the eminent and noted evangelist, Dr. Douglas S. McDuffie, in Grant A.M.E. Church, in this city.  
Dr. McDuffie, who is a very young man, has travelled world-wide, having visited the holy land some time ago. He is a national character, and an inspiration to all young people. He is known throughout the States as a walking encyclopedia of the Bible, and a human dramatizer of the Gospel.  
Last Sunday morning, choosing for his subject "The Rejected Stone" he showed a complete mastery of his theme. In the afternoon, he held two separate meetings for men and women, discoursing on "Woman Know Thyself" and proving that a woman's relationship with God is closer than any member of the human family. The subject for the men's meeting was "Be a Man Among Men," during which the speaker proved that man once entertained creative powers. The climax came in the evening, when the speaker thrilled the hearts of a crowded house, discoursing on Ezekiel in the Valley of Dry Bones. The speaker fired his audience with his wonderful handling of his subject, and Grant Church was stirred as never before within the memory of its oldest member. Many were wont to exclaim "Surely, there's a prophet in the land."

## BUSINESS IMPROVES IN PHILA.

(Continued from page 7)  
doubtless has a better knowledge of buying and selling in large quantities than any other Colored man; and other men, well-known in the real estate world, who have made a study of banking and allied subjects.  
The Citizens and Southern Banking Association shows a large increase in the number of its depositors, and has to its account a large number of big financial deals, recently closed. The president and board of directors of this establishment make an open boast of doing more to teach our people the benefit of systematic saving by aiding its patrons to do so, than any other establishment. This concern employs ten Colored men and women.  
The Service Realty Corporation doing a general line of mercantile business is one of the newest additions to the growing business activities among race men, and reports the closing of a large deal which will mean much to the solution of the housing problem or situation now so acute.  
The need of a central rug cleaning and damp wash establishment among members of the race was felt, and it remained for the Beresford Gale Corporation to take the initiative in this line. A large plant has been opened and at the close of the first month all expectations have been more than gratified.

In the last analysis, the most effective preventative against violent fluctuations in business conditions is more widespread ability for sound thinking along economic lines. One of the resolutions passed at the recent convention of the American Bankers' Association was: To give active support to the campaign to teach sound thinking along economic lines. Such a campaign deserves the hearty and earnest support not only of bankers, but of all business men, and certainly and most assuredly so, of all Negroes.

## TO A HAPPIER LAND

Jackson, Miss., Aug.—The Bolivar County convict farm is minus the presence of Joe Hood, George Burton, and Will Brown, three notorious Negro convicts who escaped from the farm on the 25th of July. Joe Hood's mother, Aunt Sally Hood, says, "I reckon dat Joe done gone Norf w'e kin git better wages dan 'e kin out on de fahm. De Lord knows I hopes 'e's happy, dat's all I kin say."

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