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## DISENFRANCHISING NEGRO MUST BE ABANDONED

Augusta, Ga., Feb. 9—The Notion that Negroes are inherently inferior and the practice of disfranchising them on the basis of color are wholly fallacious and indefensible, and must speedily be abandoned, the General Missionary Council of the ME Church South was told here yesterday by Dr. Will W. Alexander, director of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation.

The occasion was the joint meeting of the Council and the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Paine College, local institution for Negroes supported jointly by the M.E. Church, South and the C.M.E. Church. Elaborating his convictions, Dr. Alexander said:

"The whole tradition of America is against the exclusion of American citizens from participation in the government. Their movement for Negro suffrage in the South is definite and will continue with increasing persistence. It may come with the consent and encouragement of intelligent white leaders, or it may come through the selfish efforts of unscrupulous demagogues; but come it will. This is one of the profound changes for which our people must prepare.

"We must also abandon two false philosophies that have misled us," Dr. Alexander continued. "These are (1) the idea that slavery was a divine institution; and (2) the notion that Negroes are an inferior people. Time has discredited the first of these fallacies. The second is being discredited rapidly by the astonishing progress made by American Negroes since emancipation. This progress has not been the achievement of an inferior people. In every phase of American life Negroes have demonstrated their ability and their worth. Sooner or later we shall realize that our attitude toward them is the surest test of our

## HEROIC DEED OF INTER-RACIAL GOODWILL

Youth Risks Life to Save Drowning Couple—Striking Contrast to Tragic Scenes of Past.

Helena, Ark., — This community, which in 1919 was torn by destructive race conflict due to misunderstanding and fear was the scene a few days ago of an heroic act of interracial good will that deserves to be widely heralded and recorded in humanity's "book of golden deeds." In striking contrast to the tragic story of other days, in which the two races were pitted against each other in mortal combat, in this case a white school boy freely gambled his life on the effort to save the lives of two Negroes and won! The story, as reported in the Arkansas Gazette, is as follows:

"Burke Hale, 17, proved himself a hero Wednesday when he rescued a Negro couple from the chilly waters of Long Lake. Burke, with several other students, was en route to Helena in a bus when V. S. Strawder and his wife, the latter a school teacher, in a closed car, plunged into the lake. Young Hale pulled off his coat and trousers, swam to the car, broke out a window and dragged the couple out. The car was almost submerged.

own worthiness and of the sincerity of our Christian profession."

Featuring the elaborate three-day program carried out by the Council there were addresses by Dr. Channing H. Tobias, Prof. W. A. Bell, and Bishop R. A. Carter, as well as by many bishops and missionary leaders of the other church. The occasion is regarded as a remarkable demonstration of mutual understanding and co-operation between the two groups.

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