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AGENTS WANTED

Negro in Rural America

(Continued from Page One)

struggle, and through their efforts the Thirteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution was adopted, making slavery unconstitutional in the United States. Following this came the Fourteenth Amendment, giving citizenship to the Negro, and the Fifteenth Amendment, giving him suffrage. To make the provisions of this latter statute effective, Congress passed an act which declared: "All citizens of the United States who are or shall be otherwise qualified by law to vote at any election by the people of any state, territory, district, county, city, parish, township, school district, municipality or other territorial division, shall be entitled to vote at all such elections without distinction of race, color or previous condition of servitude: any constitution, law, custom, usage or regulation in any state, territory or by or under its authority to the contrary notwithstanding."

This was accepted as the law of the land for twenty years, but in 1890 the southern states started nullification of these amendments. These acts have taken the form of tax and property tests, educational tests, and the so-called "Grandfather" clause. Along with these acts has come an increased demand on the part of southern whites for complete social separation between the races, in school, church, public conveyance and hotels.

Since the Civil War, the progress made by Negroes has been phenomenal, more rapid than was ever shown by any other group in an equal length of time. It is estimated that their wealth has increased a hundred-fold, instead of decreasing in numbers, as was predicted after emancipation, the Negro population has increased until, in 1920, there were ten and one-half million Negroes, or one-tenth the entire population of the United States. Yet the rate of increase has fallen remarkably since 1860. This coincides with the rapid distribution of Negroes over other parts of the country than the South, and seems to prove that the conditions under which the Negroes live in the North are unfavorable for the natural increase of their race. Figures also show that southern cities are most unfavorable. In the rural districts of the South, however, there are three births for every two deaths. Migration from the agricultural districts of the South to the cities of the South, exposes Negroes to conditions tending to raise the death rate and reduce the birth rate. (Encyclopedia Britannica.)

GREAT NEGRO ACTOR PASSES

The death is announced of Charles L. Gilpin, the Negro actor. He will be remembered for his fine work in "The Emperor Jones," one of O'Neil's earlier successes, and for the fact that despite his color, his fellow-actors and actresses recognized him as one of the leaders of the profession. Gilpin always believed that his own success was merely an accident which, in the very nature of things, could not happen to one of his race oftener than once in a generation. Events of the past few years have proved that he was unduly pessimistic. Wherever else it may exist, there seems to be little or no prejudice against Negroes either as entertainers or artists. —Mail and Empire

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