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The Dawn of Tomorrow

THE NATIONAL NEGRO WEEKLY
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A SCHOOL'S VISION FOR THE NEGRO

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The Piney Woods Country Life School (a school for Negro boys and girls) has grown from a "mustard seed" start to a group of eight well-arranged brick buildings and a number of neat frame cottages for teachers, with 400 students—300 of them boarders, 30 teachers, 8 academic, located on a tract of 1500 acres of pine-clad hills. And thereby hangs an epitale; It is a story of courage, endurance, faith and heroism on the part of a colored man from Iowa, Lawrence Jones, who 22 years ago—driven by the vision of the need of his own people and the full realization of the motto "Noblesse oblige"—left his comfortable situation and cast his lot with those needy ones of his race "way down in the Black Belt," near Braxton, about 20 miles south of Jackson, the State's capital.

There are two trends in Mississippi in regard to Negro education; one that the Negro should know only how to labor—that book learning is hurtful; the other is more humanitarian, that the Negro should be educated, fitted for life—made a good citizen. The Piney Woods School and its founders have won the respect and appreciation of both groups, and have shown to all that the Negro, capable, contented, owning his own home, is an asset to the community, a creator of wealth and of good will. In the last few years more than 6000 acres, of land have been sold for homes in the vicinity of the school, many of the humble cottages have been white-washed, painted, and glass windows put in—a great luxury for many.

In this school there are three main courses of training with various branches: agriculture, mechanical arts and trades, and domestic science, with an academic course equivalent to a high school course. The purpose of the courses is to "carry the gospel of better farming, better living, better schools and churches to those who live back from the main traveled roads." The fireside, the kitchen and the farms make up the triangular foundation upon which the instruction is based.

Leader in Humanitarian Work.

This school leads in all humanitarian work for the Negroes in Mississippi. Until a short time ago nothing was done for the blind of the Negro race in the state. Recently in connection with the Piney Woods School

IN MEMORIAM



To the general public as well as the Negro Race the news of the passing of Editor James F. Jenkins meant that a kindly, efficient public servant had laid his burden down. To his co-workers and friends, his death meant the loss of a just and sympathizing friend from whose keen intelligence no sham could be hidden, but upon whose helpful assistance reliance could unfailingly be placed. To those whose privilege it was to work with him, his parting meant the going of an unselfish spirit, and the loss of a personal friend. To have known him is to have loved him. None will ever forget him, and that memory will be a constant incentive, never to rest satisfied, with our work till our best has been given.

a teach of Braille has been employed by the State, and one now sees around the campus one child, less blind than the others, serving them as a pilot to their places of instruction. The Julius Rosenwald public school serves the local elementary students and through the Smith-Hughes fund, vocational agricultural work is carried on at the Piney Woods School.

A boy wrote to Professor Jones that his father had intended to send a cow to pay for the boy's schooling, but he had lost the cow, and could offer only molasses. The boy said he would have to be a work boy because he had no money. The boy who was coming with him was bringing a helper. This is the kind of boy who makes good at Piney Woods.

LAWYER AND FRIEND

—By Leo M. Dorsey—

I have been questioned often in my visits to various American cities, concerning the attitude of white Canadians of the upper realm toward the Negro who has achieved professional success; the question reverts to the old idiosyncratic social equality issue, which of course, to my mind is an individual right to select one's own companions and accept invitations according to one's better judgment. I usually refer my inquirers to eminent Canadian professional men of this astonishing race who are worthy of a seat among their representative white contemporaries. Of course our Canadian professional men are few in number, but mighty in intellect. Notable among these is B. J. Spencer Pitt, LL.G., Toronto Barrister, organizer and counsel general of the B.M.E. Conference. A highly esteemed by both jurist and layman, a broad-minded thinker who has accomplished much in Toronto for the benefit of the race, an understanding between the groups, and has made his name almost a country-wide "slogan" by his winning of difficult cases, while opposed by the foremost lawyers of other groups. I believe in holding up the achievements of the worthy and letting the "holier than thou" type of man measure himself. Invariably he is found wanting and the knowledge of his own incompetence and narrow-mindedness defeats his ingratiating arguments. There are those who should get in touch with this capable and unassuming man named Pitt and help him put Toronto on the map as one of the most progressive centres for Negroes; also let us forget whether we are Americans, Canadians or West Indians, forget denominational strife in our churches, compromise and advance.

OF THEM I CALL "MY PLEA TO MY PEOPLE."

Negroes bitterly afflicted
With a weakness for complaining,
Realize you're unrestricted
And your race is truly gaining.

Pull together, plow and harrow,
Cultivate your sons and daughters,
Not along a channel narrow,
But on many peaceful waters.

Slay the superstitious vulture,
Let race progress interest you,
Rise and in the name of culture
Use the gifts with which God blest you.

PHYLLIS WHEATLEY ROSE AS POETESS

Handicap of Slavery was Surmounted
By Courageous Girl.

One of the most interesting poets of Colonial days was Phyllis Wheatley. This truly remarkable colored woman was born in Africa about 1775 brought to Boston and sold as a shivering, ragged slave girl to a kind and cultivated woman by the name of Mrs. John Wheatley. Mrs. Wheatley gave the girl the best possible education of that day, and she was taught even Latin and astronomy.

Went to London

Phyllis was an excellent pupil and when very young began to write good verse. In 1773 she accompanied the Wheatleys to England. In London she was received with honor, and while there published her first book of poems. This she dedicated to the Countess of Huntingdon, who was kind and helpful to her. Shortly after her return from England Mrs. Wheatley died, followed shortly by other members of the family who had been kind to Phyllis. From this time on her life became one of great trial and she produced no more work of importance. She married a colored man who was worthless in every way; her three children died in infancy and Phyllis herself died in poverty in 1784. Had she lived longer and under happier conditions Phyllis Wheatley would no doubt have produced many worthy books, for she showed great promise in her youth.

Homes and Hotel Burn

Greenville, S.C.—Two hundred and twenty-five persons are homeless as a result of a fire which destroyed 48 homes in a colored suburb. The property loss is estimated at \$200,000. Firemen were able to do but little with the blaze until it had burned for a distance of half a mile and approached the city limits where water was available.

You have souls refined and able
Broad and worthy, keen of vision
Do not stand afar and label
Them with undeserved derision.

Stop imagining abuses
And forget the pangs of sorrow
Bury deep the old excuses,
Plan for those who rise tomorrow.

—LEO M. DORSEY