

The Dawn of Tomorrow

THE NATIONAL NEGRO WEEKLY
DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE DARKER RACES

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NEGROES ASSIST TO PUT OVER BIG PHILADELPHIA SESQUICENTENNIAL

Activities Include Building, Contracting, Decorating, Designing, Suprintending and Staging of Pageants, Choral Work, Superintending of Exhibits, and the Bringing of Various Negro Conventions to the Sesquicentennial.

Philadelphia, [Pa., June 2nd—Cannons roared, airplanes soared and swooped in aerial salutations. Bugles and drums blown and thundered. Five thousand trained voices arose in Gounod's immortal "Unfold Ye Portals." The Mayor of Philadelphia in his capacity of President of the Sesquicentennial Exposition Association, welcomed the official representatives of forty-two nations. The Secretary of Commerce spoke for the President of the Federal government. Fifty thousand persons in a classically beautiful stadium stood with bared heads while a bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church and a Roman Catholic Prelate invoked divine blessings.

One of the outstanding events of the Negro participation in the Sesquicentennial International Exposition will be the presentation of a mammoth pageant, "Loyalty's Gift" on July 12th in the great auditorium. The pageant has a number of striking episodes and is intended to appeal to the human sympathetic understanding of the white group for the Negro. It is a highly dramatic picture of the development of the race, even suggesting by one episode the early Egyptian days and linking the history of the black people with that period.

The Negro spirituals, which are being recognized as the only truly American folk songs, will form an integral part in the spectacle which is to be presented under the direction of Mrs. Dora Cole Norman, widely known colored drama director.

"I am trying to have these people use their native creative sense in the pageant, to harmonize, to express the music and the rhythm that is peculiarly their own," said Mrs. Norman in explaining the idea of the pageant which she has written.

Every detail of the production is the work of colored people, with the exception of the "Star Spangled Ban-

ner" which brings in the proper patriotic note as a climax. All the scenery is being painted by colored artists working from suggestions made by the director.

Mrs. Norman, herself is attracting the favorable attention of all who have met her or observed her work. Her own accomplishments are outstanding. She played the leading colored woman's role in Eugene O'Neill's play, "All God's Chillen Got Wings," when it was produced by the Provincetown Players in New York last winter. The part was that of "Hattie," the sister to the leading Negro character in the play. One of her greatest accomplishments was as organizer and director of the Players' Guild in New York, a dramatic club planned to stimulate the creative arts among her race.

Beautifully decorated Booths.

Designed by the race, built by the race, decorated by the race with a beautiful color scheme, are the many booths which will house the exhibits rapidly arriving daily. Mrs. Dora Cole Norman of Staten Island, New York, is here to conduct the rehearsals of the pageant, while Miss Laura Wheeler of Cheyney, Pennsylvania, will superintend the arranging of the various exhibits.

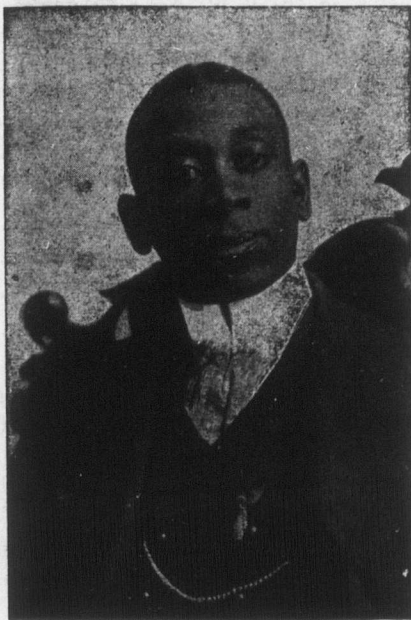
Negroes In All Choral Features.

Besides having their own folk songs and choruses the race will appear with other groups in all the festival choruses. Franklin W. Hexter, chairman of the committee on music has been assured the hearty co-operation of Sesqui officials to this end.

Conventions Coming.

The Afro-American League of America, which convenes here, August 16th to 18th, inclusive, is to be one of the greatest meetings of the race. Questions of interest will be discussed by prominent men and women of the country. It is planned to entertain the Association of Negro Musicians from July 27th—29th inclusive and the national Medical Association from August 23rd to August

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MR. "JIM" WILSON, of Brantford.

Mr. Wilson is one of the most successful market gardeners of Brant County. The "Wilson Celery" has won many first prizes. Years ago he was an actor of outstanding ability, having travelled with Black Patti, Coles and Johnson, Williams and Walker, Primrose and West and Buffalo Bill. Mr. Wilson has in his possession clippings from some of the leading newspapers of North America referring to his act. In referring to Coles and Johnson's "Trip to Coon Town," in April 6th, 1898 the New York Sun said: "There were only about 12 persons in the company and yet each is an artist. For instance, Jom Wilson does an equilibrist specialty which is quite as good as anything done by Clinquevalli." It will be remembered that Clinquevalli was considered at that time to be the world's greatest equilibrist.

\$500 Newspaper Prize To Negro Immigrant

New York, May, 19—Second place in the New York News "Hall of Fame" game carrying an award of \$500 was won by Cyril A. Wilson, 71 Irvin Place. Thousands of contestants from all parts of the country took part in the competition. Wilson is a native of the Barbados. He came to the United States after winning a scholarship in his country. Since arriving here he has studied Mechanical Dentistry at Bodee dental school. He stated that he will enter the Columbia New York University School of Dentistry.

SEES RISE OF RACE TO HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT

New York, May—In a sermon, entitled "The New Negro," the Rev. John Herman Randall of the Community Church, Thirty-Fourth and Park Avenue, stated that the colored American of today had achieved a spiritual freedom which was releasing him from a bondage of inferiority and elevating him to a plane of equality and friendliness with all.

"This great change has occurred within the last ten years," Dr. Randall said. "While early signs were manifested at the turn of this century, the driving force behind the emergence of the Negro to a man of self-respect took form at the outbreak of the World War, when the acute shortage of labor in the Northern Industrial cities encouraged the migration of colored farm labor in the South to the North.

"The Negro has become a city man. With the opportunity of enjoying group relationships and the advantages of an urban environment, the Negro has developed from a condition of imitating the whites to the status of an individual thinker."

Art Has Offered Negro Broadest Opportunity

New York, May—The annual report of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, made public recently said that the greatest issue confronting Negroes today was that of residential segregation through agreement of property owners in some parts of the country to refuse to rent or sell to Negroes. On the other hand, the report told of increasing recognition of Negroes as creative artists.

"One of the most significant changes that has taken place regarding the Negro in this country," it said, "is the recent change of attitude, we might say national change of attitude, toward Negro culture and art. Today the most important periodicals in the country are open to Negro writers. The greatest publishing houses bring out the works of Negro authors, Negro singers and musicians fill the finest concert halls in the country. Colored singers are soloists with the most famous orchestras."