



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

VOL. 4, No. 31.

LONDON, DECEMBER 4th, 1931.

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## NEGRO SPIRITUALS

When the famous Jubilee Singers made their tours in the seventies their tunes caught on as successfully as the hymns of Moody and Sankey. They were sung and whistled everywhere; then, like Moody and Sankey, their vogue petered out and for a long time there was scanty attention paid to the music of the colored race. In the last decade, however, there has been a remarkable revival of interest in this field and from the midst of the most classic programs of song recitals there appear the titles of Negro melodies. Part of this is probably due to the fact that a trans-Atlantic genius hit upon a title that had no suggestion of hymnology about it. He called the hymns "Negro Spirituals" (a title that the Negro certainly had never applied to them) and it caught on at once. It contained that suggestion of "uplift" so dear to the American mind, and also that suggestion of spirituality which flatters the complaisance of the average Englishman.

That the Negro Spirituals have a distinct individual interest is quite true but there is just a danger that written admiration for them may go to too great extremes. There is sometimes the suggestion that they contain deeper things than the ordinary man can understand. This is absurd. The very beauty of the Negro hymn lies in its utter simplicity, its childlike character. The picture of the Negro slave as a high-souled member of a noble race singing the songs of Zion in a strange land may be poetic and appealing but it is simply not true. The Negro is not a complex figure and to understand him is to find the key to his music. His music and his self are both open books. The Spirituals, to give them their best known name, are examples of imitative art, they are not of the nature of folk song, they rely for their chief effect on vocal harmony and they are naive and spontaneous and therefore, highly interesting.

Let no one disclaim the Spirituals but let no one on the other hand make absurd claims for them. They are human documents of great value for him who wishes to study the Negro characteristics. They voice the soul of a people who came through great tribulation and are still struggling towards the promised land.

## Loses Keen Race For Bench Restore Ancient African City

CLEVELAND, Nov. — Although he polled a total vote of 40,030 votes, Attorney Alexander H. Martin of this city lost his fight to a white opponent for a two year term as municipal court judge by 800 votes. The opinion of political observers here is that Martin would have been elected but for the disqualification of over a thousand Negro voters for alleged errors in the registration list. In wards where Negro voters were numerous hundreds were turned away from voting booths by election officials who claimed they were not properly registered.

Exactly what contest will be made of the election on these grounds was in doubt last week. Attorney Martin could not be reached. However, City Councilman Leroy N. Bundy was introduced a resolution asking that a committee be appointed to investigate the alleged discrepancies in the election books. This motion was supported by Councilman Lawrence O. Payne and Herman Finkle, white Republican.

While defeated himself, Attorney Martin had the satisfaction in the last election of seeing his wife re-elected for a second time on the city school board.

## Colored Farmers Are Hard Hit

RALEIGH, N.C. — A possible reduction of the tenant farm population in the Eastern part of this State of between 10 to 25 per cent because of depressing agricultural conditions threatens to leave a number of Negro farmers in this area homeless and a still larger number without land to till during the next season. Reports received here from county farm agents at the request of Dean I. O. Schaub of North Carolina State College indicate that farming conditions are especially bad in this section of the State and that landowners will not be able to carry many tenant farmers through the next season.

One of the most pressing needs of many of these families, is for clothing and medicine. The lack of money has made these necessities impossible to secure; and relief agencies will be put to great strain to furnish the necessary aid.

NEW YORK, Nov. — Cyrene, the Athens of Libya, black kingdom of ancient days and the ancestral home of Imen, the Cyrenian who carried the cross of Christ, will rear its head once more after 1400 years of sleep under the dust of centuries. Now a part of the African colony of Italy, this once famous city, with a population of over 100,000 is being excavated and restored by Professor Luigi Pernier, noted archeologist of Royal University at Florence, Italy.

In discussing the history of the ancient center of African culture recently, Professor Pernier said that the excavation of the city promised a greater contribution to the knowledge of the pre-Christian era than any excavation in recent times.

At one time this city, which numbered among its honored inhabitants philosophers, artists, men of letters, leaders in war and business of all races and all climes, was the center of all trade between Greece, Egypt and Carthage. In addition its medical school was world famous and the city held a proud place in the intellectual life of the world.

Through the centuries the city passed through the hands of Greeks, Romans and Moslems. Now after 1500 years it is to be restored and promised to be as interesting a place as now historic Athens or Rome.

## Assure Negroes Jobs

WASHINGTON, Nov. — Mr. E. F. Carter, vice-president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, which employs thousands of Negro workers in many of its branches, in a letter to Mr. Davis, gave definite understanding that his company would keep as many of its employees as possible and that there would be no discrimination on the ground of race.

Mr. Carter's statement followed the statement of Mr. George Sloan, president of the Cotton-Textile Institute last week, who gave similar assurance that Negro labor would receive impartial treatment from his company. Dr. Davis expressed confidence this week that the employers of the largest of Negro labor would all adopt this fair minded policy during the present economic crisis.

## CONFESSION FREES YOUTH

"Positively Identified" as Robber by Oil Station Attendant, But Real Bandit is Trapped.

OMAHA, Nebr., Nov. — Virgil Sherman, 19 years old, never committed a crime, still he was on the brink of being sent to prison for a long term. Only the confession of Lloyd Irving, 17-year old white boy saved him.

Sherman was positively identified by the white attendant of a filling station here as the youth who held up the place of business several weeks ago. He was put through severe grillings by police and though he steadfastly pleaded innocent, the crime was virtually placed on him. He was awaiting a court hearing which undoubtedly would have sent him to the penitentiary for a long term.

It so happened that Irving was captured as he and Cyrus Watson held up the night clerk at the Elks club. He was taken to the police station, where, after questioning by police he confessed the robbery for which the colored boy was held.

District Judge Wright sentenced Irving to ten years in prison while Sherman was allowed to go free after spending several unpleasant weeks in jail.

## MARYLAND IMPROVES NEGRO HOSPITAL FACILITIES VASTLY

Baltimore, Md. — The first Nurses' home, white or colored to be erected at the cost of the State is now ready for occupancy at the Sronsville State hospital for Negroes in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Dr. George H. Preston, State Commissioner of Mental Hygiene said here last Thursday. At the same time Doctor Preston reported that the State appropriation of \$250,000 for Maryland's first hospital for feeble minded Negro children will be available in August of 1932.

WILBERFORCE, O., Nov. — Wilberforce's championship-bound team departed Wednesday for Charleston, W. Va. for its all important engagement with the powerful W. Va. State Yellow Jackets. A band and body of rooters followed the Green and Yellow warriors to the scene of the battle that will give them outstanding claims to be the national colored football title if they are victorious.

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London, Ont.

### LET US USE OUR FRANCHISE!

We the Negro race should not fail to cast our vote in the civic election on Monday, December 7th. In fact every man and woman who has a vote should use it and not lack interest, because of the offices filled by acclamation. No phase of civilization serves better as a barometer of the intelligence of a people than the manner in which the citizens use their franchise. If our law-making bodies are composed of weak and incompetent men, it is our fault, not theirs. If the affairs of our city are mismanaged, civilly, it is the fault of the electors and not the fault of those who govern.

First of all we should give careful consideration of the issues involved and if possible to do so choose those principles, which are for the best interests of the city and for all the people, regardless of creed or color.

We should then cast our votes for the men who stand for these principles. But by all means vote. Instead of making any particular party the basis on which we choose our candidates, we should choose them for the principles they advocate. Another consideration which should guide us as a race is of course, group consideration. This ought not to have to be considered and all other things being equal, we would not advocate group consideration in casting our vote. But facts are facts and our government, provincial or civic have given us very little consideration in the line of positions aside from teamster and an odd street sweeper. Very few of the civic plums are distributed among our group. Even such positions as porters, janitors, messengers, caretakers or supervisors of the public play grounds are rarely if ever open to us. Still our city has many to offer. It would seem no more than right therefore if we as a group on matter what word you are in can find among the candidates such men as will coincide with our views, most certainly we should by all means, work for, and cast our vote for that candidate.

If, for instance, a candidate promises to assist us in securing employment in the city in proportion to our numbers, this should, of course, have great weight with us in casting our vote, provided we have reasons to believe in the integrity of the candidate. For are we not seeking to advance the cause of our whole race, rather than trying to reap individual gain.

### STRATFORD NOTES.

Madam Harrison has returned home after two weeks visiting her daughter, Mrs. Alexander, in Salem Ohio.

The pastor had charge of the services in the B.M.E. Church on Sunday the 22nd.

There will be a recital in the City Hall on Tuesday, Dec. the 8th at 8 o'clock under the auspices of the B. M.E. Church by Mr. Arthur A. C. Holder, West Indian tenor singer. Tickets 25 cents.

We are sorry to report Mrs. J. D. Hall is layed up with rheumatism. We hope she will soon be able to be around again.

Mrs. Wesley and son-in-law spent a few days in Brantford with relatives and friends last week.

### WOODSTOCK NOTES.

Recital by Mr. Arthur O. C. Holder West Indian tenor, popular radio and concert artist, Tuesday, Dec. 1st at the B.M.E. Church. Benefit of the city relief fund.

Mr. Fred Smith sang a baritone solo Sunday afternoon at the B.M.E. Church.

Miss Hilda Smith with her beautiful soprano voice sang "Looking This Way" at the Dundas St. United Church on Sunday November 22.

Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Lucas and Rev. Mr. Johnson of Brantford visited friends and relatives for a few hours.

Miss Leta Smith of London visited parents for a few hours.

Mrs. Horace Marshall was entertained on Thursday evening at a dainty tea at Mrs. Samuel Smith's.

Miss Mildred and Mr. Fred Smith spent a few hours with sister and friends in London.

We are very sorry to hear of Mrs. Strutter's illness.

Mrs. Blair and Mrs. Strutters have returned home from a month's visit with relatives at Windsor and Detroit.

Mrs. Sarah Evans entertained Mr. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith at a dainty tea on Sunday evening.

The B.M.E. Church holds its service each Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. We are glad to know it is improving nicely by the help of the Lord. Mr. Crawford will take charge of the service the first Sunday in December. All are cordially invited. Come one and all.

Mr. Albert Greenlaw is singing at Chalmers Church for a week.

Mr. Wallace James has returned home after being employed at Montreal and Quebec.

Mr. James motored to London with Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith and family.

Let us not forget to use our franchise on Monday in the civic election. Let us seek to vote for the best interests of the race.

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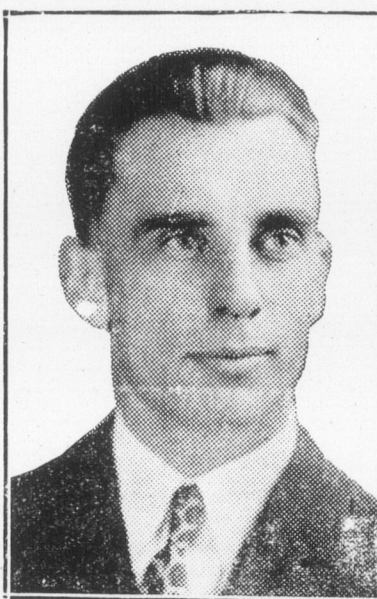
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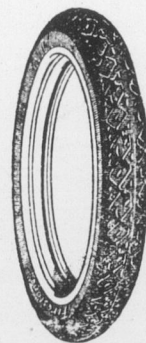
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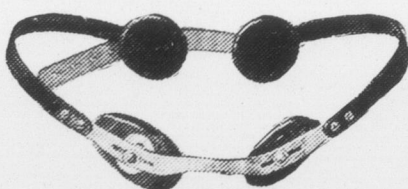
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N. F. Newton

For Alderman

FOR 1932

WARD 4

#### LONDON NOTES

The Canadian League for the Ad-  
vancement of Colored People held its  
fifth Anniversary Service on Nov. 1  
when an excellen service was arrang-  
ed by Mrs. Aldene Hill. The mem-  
bers of the League formed a proces-  
sional singing "The Day Thou Gav-  
est." Scripture sentences recited by  
the pastor, followed by hymn 321.  
After the Apostle's Creed, prayer was  
given by Mrs. S. R. Drake, Presid-  
ent of the Local Branch. The choir  
rendered very effectively "O Worship  
the King."

Rev. E. Alph Richardson, prefacing  
his address stated that this organiz-  
ation came about through the earn-  
est and unselfish efforts of the late  
Jas. F. Jenkins. A period of silence  
was observed in respect for our de-  
parted secretary.

Mr. Richardson selected "Inasmuch  
as ye have etc." Matt. 23: 40 and in  
a very able way dealt with his text  
from a positive and negative angle.

Mrs. Wm. Berry sang, "I sing Be-  
cause I'm Happy," in a very pleasing  
manner. MMr. Wilber Myers, Exec-  
utive Secretary touched on the work  
of the League. He stressed the op-  
portunity for extensive social service  
and solicited renewed co-operation.  
Misses Dorothy Moxley and Bernice  
Fountaine were heard in a vocal  
duet. Miss Gladys Stafford gave a  
reading. In closing Mrs. Drake  
thanked the branch Secretary Mrs.  
G. Wilson for the efficient way in  
which her work has been done, also  
the members for their co-operation.  
Welcome was extended to visiting  
members from Woodstock and Lucan.

Missionary Day was kept before  
our people. Mr. Richardson gave a  
helpful address in the morning on  
"The development of missions." At  
7 p.m. Mr. Leah assisted by his son  
Reg. Leah gave an illustrated talk  
on the work of the United Church  
among the Pacific coast Indians. An  
expression of appreciation was made  
by Mr. A. MacKay, Senior Member  
of Beth Emanuel.

Mrs. Rev. R. A. Ball is a welcome  
visitor in our city. She was accom-  
panied here by Mrs. Sadie Robinson  
of Windsor. Mrs. Ball is the guest  
of Mrs. M. Drake.

Mrs. Bertha Moxley is reported  
slightly improved at this writing.

Mr. John Lucas visited his parents  
Rev. and Mrs. S. A. Lucas of Brant-  
ford.

Commencement exercises were  
held at the Technical School on Fri-

day last when 59 awards were pres-  
ented to students taking highest  
marks in 1st, 2nd and 3rd year clas-  
ses. Also special one year's courses  
for 1930-1931 school term. Miss  
Florence Drake took highest mark  
in the general course for the 1st  
year and won the Edwards award  
valued at \$10.00.

The Sir Isaac Pittman silver medal  
awarded for efficiency in shorthand  
theory was also won by Miss Florence  
Drake. Congratulations Florence.

Mrs. W. Cromwell is able to be  
about again.

Mrs. Bertha Moxley who is confined  
in Victoria Hospital is improving nic-  
ely.

Miss Mildred Smith and brother  
Fred were the guest of their sister  
for a few hours.

The hotel bell boys and the Misses  
Butler attended a dance in Chatham  
Thursday evening.

A dainty surprise birthday party  
was given on Miss Maggie Moxley  
by her sisters in the home of Mrs.  
G. Coursey. Miss Maggie received  
quite a few lovely presents. The  
lunch was very daintily served and  
the evening was spent in games and  
dancing until the wee hours of the  
morning. Every one expressed his  
and herself as having a very pleasant  
evening.

The Canadian League for the Ad-  
vancement of Colored People held a  
hard time supper in the home of  
Mrs. W. Cromwell, William St. In  
reality the costumes worn by the com-  
mittee and some of the guests were  
quite in keeping with the event. Miss  
Thelma Moxley received 1st prize as  
the hardest dressed, Miss Bernice,  
2nd prize as the unniest and Mrs.  
Cook, well! Everyone enjoyed the  
lunch which was daintily served if  
it was a hard-times social.

A paper wedding will be in keeping  
with Mr. and Mrs. Urban Duncan cel-  
ebrating their 2nd anniversary. We  
wish them many many happy returns  
of the day.

YOUNG COLORED GROUP  
ORGANIZES A SOCIAL CLUB.

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and girls met at the home of Mrs.  
Jenkins recently and formed a club  
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**Municipal Elections 1931**

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PATION OF YOUR SUPPORT IN THE COMING  
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**Yours very sincerely,**

**Robt. J. Carswell**



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