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MONEY IN OIL

THE WILGERA GAS AND OIL CO. OWNED BY NEGROES.

Well-Known Colored Men Purchase a Valuable Tract of Land and Organize a Company to Develop the Personal of the Oil Fields and Formations.

Nothing is more gratifying to The Colored American in its unceasing warfare against the enemies of the race and especially against those of them who deny that we have business acumen, or that we are capable of originating and maintaining unimpaired large business enterprises, to point out what the race has done, or is doing for itself in all fields of higher endeavor. So that it is with peculiar satisfaction that we call attention to the Wilgera Oil and Gas Company, of Columbus, Ohio, an organization incorporated under the laws of West Virginia, and which, as its name imports, designs to develop mineral oil and gas lands in that state as well as in Ohio. Its capital stock has been fixed at \$50,000, and every precaution taught by experience has been taken to protect the interests of the present and all prospective stockholders.

It has lately placed this stock on the market, and to win the prompt confidence of the public to which it appeals, it has a number of excellent recommendations not always present when similar organizations appeal for public support. Its present holdings situated in the greatest oil belt of Ohio, are valued largely in excess of its capital stock. Its stock is non-essessable, thus protecting absolutely the owner of the few shares of stock, who in many cases is at the mercy of the large holder, by the well known game of freeze-out. The small stockholder cannot be frozen out. There are no exorbitant salaries paid to officers of the company, and no luxurious officers to absorb the money of the stock-holders.

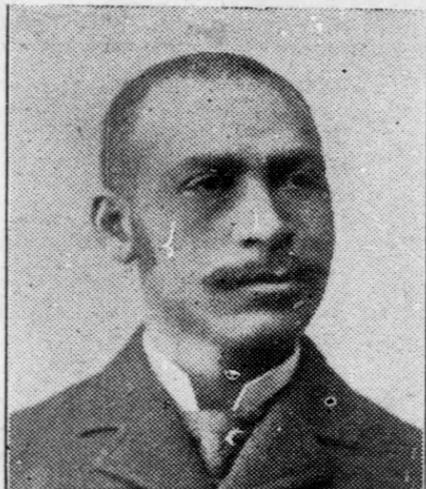
The company is not a purely pen and ink sketch, but with ever increasing facilities, is now at work industriously to bring forth from the bowels of the mother earth her hidden treasures, which have become the necessities of the present age, and to retain the increment or earnings in the pockets of the stock-holders. So greatly has the company been encouraged that it is negotiating for hundreds of additional oil lands in both States. But the most unique features of this gigantic and brilliant enterprise is that it is an organization by Negroes, for the benefit of Negroes, that it was conceived in the brain of a Negro, that it is officered, managed, and controlled by Negroes, and that no white man now owns or will be permitted to own a single share of its stock. It is and is to be absolutely a race effort. So pertinacious is the management on this point that gratuitous offers of White Trust Compan-



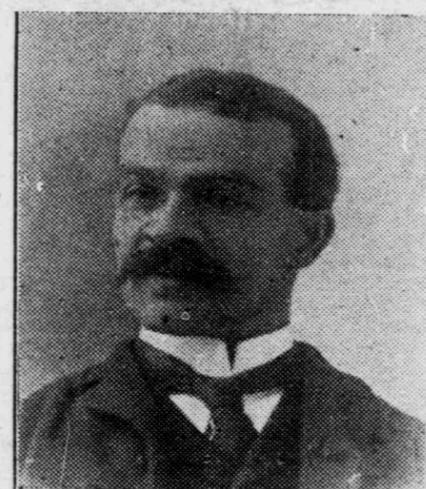
PROF. J. McHenry Jones, Director, Institute, West Virginia.



MR. GEORGE A. MYERS, Director, Cleveland, Ohio.



MR. GEORGE A. WEAVER, President, Columbus, Ohio.



MR. WILBER B. JONES, Treasurer, Columbus, Ohio.

ies to advance unlimited capital in aid of the development of the properties taking mortgages thereon as collateral securities have in each instance been promptly declined. The officers have supreme faith that the race will sustain them without assistance from white men who always know a good thing when they see it. This confidence in the race appears fully justified. The proposition seems to have been at once popular in all parts of the country, but especially in the far South. Influential men like General Robert Smalls, of South Carolina, and Hon. H. A. Rucker, of Georgia, have taken large blocks of stock, and their example has been followed by a surprisingly large number of our people in many states. Much of the success of this effort is of course, due to the personality of the officers. They are George A. Weaver, President; Wilbur B. Jones, Treasurer; Ralph W. Tyler, Secretary, who with Prof. J. McHenry Jones, and Hon. Geo. A. Myers constitute the Board of Managers. These gentlemen are all conservative safe men of means, who are highly respected in their communities, and

both wise in counsel and methodical in business. The three of them best known outside of their States are: Mr. Geo. A. Myers, is a Baltimorean by birth, and is a son of the late Isaac Myers, one of the early leaders of the race in Maryland, who held many positions of trust and honor in Baltimore, and who was the first Afro-American to be appointed U. S. Post Office Inspector. When quite a young man Mr. Myers went West and located in Cleveland, Ohio, where he began work as a journeyman barber. To-day he is the owner and proprietor of The Hollenden House Barber Shop, one of the finest in Ohio and in the West. He employs a large force of men to operate his palatial tonsorial parlor. He is a conservative business man, has saved his earnings, and his investments have always been safe. He has a healthy bank account besides owning considerable real estate in the city of Cleveland. He became prominent in politics through his close connection with Senator M. A. Hanna, who is a personal friend of

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THE AFRICAN TRIP

BISHOP TURNER TELLS OF THE PLAN TO COLONIZE.

The Colored National Emigration and Commercial Association Has Organized and Elected its Officers for Business—Money in Abundance and the Great Bishop is Enthusiastic.

Editor Colored American:

Sir:—From the letters I have been receiving, there must be quite a concern about the twenty-five thousand dollars I am credited with receiving, to assist in sending all the Negroes of the country to Africa, and I beg through the columns of your paper to make a correction, and set this garbled statement in its true colors.

A number of gentlemen met in Nashville, Tenn., and formed a convention which lasted from October 7th to 9th, 1901, and organized the Colored National Emigration and Commercial Association, and elected Dr. W. H. Heard, President; L. P. Lemon, Secretary; L. Howard Jones, of Findly, Ohio, Vice-President, and several other necessary officers, including myself as Chancellor and Treasurer. A larger Convention was held in Chattanooga, Tenn., on the 28th to 30th, of May, 1902, when most of the officers were re-elected, and the convention assumed more aggressive measures.

The chief object of the convention was to raise a hundred thousand dollars to purchase a ship to ply between the United States and Africa for emigration and commercial purposes, and the price of the stock to purchase the ship was put at the ridiculous price of five dollars per share, so that the poorest member of our race could purchase one share, and those who are able could buy fifty or a hundred, or five hundred shares.

Of course money has been coming in ever since the organization, and, especially since our convention in Chattanooga. Five dollars almost daily, and once and a while twenty dollars, forty dollars, and a hundred dollars at a time. So that we have several hundred dollars paid in on ship stock, but only members of the association can vote on how we shall expend the money which is paid in to the Treasury.

Ship stock, of course is sacred to the object for which it is paid in, to purchase a ship for commercial and emigrational purposes, and can be used for nothing else. The Association is chartered by the laws of the land, and its provisions in every respect are legal. Much more might be written, but time will forbid it.

Now the Republic of Liberia, Africa, has simply given our Association, through Legislative enactment, \$25,000, to aid us in making up the amount of money that we are endeavoring to

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