The Times Dispatch

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1913.

THE PROGRESS OF THE NEGRO IN VIRGINIA.

A half century ago this week, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States, arrived at Gainsville, Ga., early at night. At the station about forty negroes, laborers in Mr. Griswold's pistol shops at that place, had collected, manifesting great anxiety to see Mr. Davis. When he was told of their desire, he instantly left the car, went the rounds, took each negro by the hand and gave him a kind and encouraging word.

In a spirit of like interest and encouragement accompanied by an earnest will to co-operate with our colored population for the common good, we should receive the report of negro progress in the Old Dominion, made at the first annual convention of the Negro Organization Society held here this week. That organization, as was said last night, touches the life and interests of every white citizen in Virginia. The task of teaching the two races to co-operate has just begun. In such a movement as this to increase the efficiency of the negro, to make him sound in body, to render him stronger morally, to educate him practically, to teach him thrift and frugality, to encourage him to economic independence, to help him to contribute his part to law and order and to stand for what is highest and best in life—in this high endeavor our white citizenship is vitally, actively interested.

The Virginia negro's toilsome but fruitful journey upward was admirably outlined last night at the city Auditorium by him who, born as a slave in Virginia, has become the most honored and justly the most respected of his race. All good citizens join in the satisfaction of Dr. Booker T. Washington at these evidences of progress on the part of the negro in Virginia, as indicated by him yesterday.

Life is progressing in education. Last year the Negro Organization Society assisted in raising $10,000 for the building of schoolhouses. In a single county it collected $900 for school improvement. Negro school sanitation has been greatly increased. In education there is notable co-operation between the two races. Virginia is the first state to have a supervisor of rural colored schools.

Life is progressing in morality. Especial effort is being made to effect the proper rearing of children and their instruction in good morals. Churches are being built. Three hundred thousand negroes are church members. One hundred and fifteen thousand negro children go to Sunday school.

Life is progressing in sanitation. He is observing clean-up days and learning the value of ventilation. He is taking his home healthier and sightlier. He is safeguarding his water supply and letting air and sunshine into his dwelling.

Life is progressing in business. There are three banks operated by negroes in Virginia than anywhere else. He is increasingly serving his race in professional and mercantile notes.

Life is progressing most of all in farming. Thirty-four per cent. of the illiteracy of Virginia not yet eliminated, there are 48,000 of them in all. He is operating 26 per cent. of all the farms in the Old Dominion. In ten years the number of negroes owning farms increased 20 per cent. He owns $35,000,000 worth of farm property—a gain of 121 per cent in a decade. In a little good he has acquired the value of his farm machinery. There are more colored farmers in Virginia than anywhere else in the country. He owns 18 per cent. of all the cultivated land in Virginia. In ten years the value of his farm property increased 125 per cent. He owns 1,000,000 of the 3,000,000 acres in Virginia in farms. He owns 1,000,000 of the 3,000,000 acres in Virginia in farms. He owns 1,000,000 of the 3,000,000 acres in Virginia in farms.

Our readers will note in the letter begun feature, "What Was Going on Fifty Years Ago," a news digest reprinted from our issue of that time appearing this morning. The reason is that fifty years ago we like our contemporaries published no Sunday papers, and November 8, 1863 fell on Sunday. The column will be seen, therefore, but six times weekly.

The latest "startling sensation in New York is "The Family Cupboard." The critics testify as to its realism in declaring that there's nothing in it.

Boss Murphy is coming to Virginia to bathe in Bath county. Isn't he satisfied with the mud bath he received Tuesday in New York?

TEACHING PLAYGROUND WORKERS.

The work of the playground committee has set many good examples to the people of Richmond. The present movement has been businesslike and efficient since it started. Its methods of formulating a clear and comprehensive program, and of arousing public interest have been very successful in producing results. Its ideal of starting with a small model to educate the city to playground possibilities might well be followed by other bodies laboring for social good. The city has been educated in part, and the playground movement will grow steadily and naturally.

Now we desire to call attention to another practical step taken for playgrounds. That is the opening of a school for the instruction of playground workers. It was discovered that Richmond needs young men and women trained to supervise playgrounds. We could not import them, and there was no local supply. Therefore, we will teach them in a special school.

As a result of this decision, on Saturday, the course for teaching scientific recreation opened at the John Marshall High School. From now until March the classes will meet from twice to four times a week for theoretical instruction and practical demonstrations. The courses offered will include: story telling, psychology and pedagogy, folk dancing, child study, playground management, and first aid to the injured. Competent teachers have been secured to give their services to this impromptu school, and the prospect is excellent for a corps of trained play leaders to take charge of the extended playground work to be undertaken next summer.

Incidentally, we suggest that many mothers might find help in these courses. They are all directed at the control and direction of child life. A knowledge of games, of folk dancing, and of story telling would be of real service to many a mother struggling with the problems of wisely guiding the bubbling activities of her children. Certainly every household needs some acquaintance with first aid to the injured. Many a doctor's bill could be saved were the elemental principles of first aid applied to the victims of accidents.

A study of physiology and psychology would be of benefit in many cases, but such subjects are usually too remote from the actual experience of mothers to prove very helpful. We hope, however, that between the Board of Education and the recreation workers, we may have developed a sensible and practical training school for both teachers and mothers.

SULZER NO MARTYR.

It is doubtful whether the annals of American politics chronicle a turn more extraordinary than that which William Sulzer has performed. Andrew Johnson came back to the United States Senate after he had been President, but he did so only after an unsuccessful first attempt—and then, too, as President he was not convicted after impeachment, escaping that end by a single vote.

Three weeks ago Sulzer was adjudged guilty by a two-thirds vote of the high court of impeachment and removed as Governor of New York. He went back to the district that for two decades had sent him to Congress. He went back to the people who knew him best. He accepted an eleventh-hour nomination for the Assembly. Despite the full power of Tammany that was brought to bear against his election, he prevailed overwhelmingly at the polls.

Of the Democratic Assemblymen in New York who voted for his impeachment, many were refused renomination. Forty-six of them were renominated, and on Tuesday twenty-nine were defeated. Of all the Democratic Assemblymen who agreed to the parliamentary indictment of Sulzer, but seventeen will go back to sit beside him in the lower house of the New York Legislature.

What does it mean?

Is the result to be interpreted as a vote of approval of Sulzer's misdeeds? No. He is too weak and sorry a figure to justify a belief that popular sympathy with him returned him to public office. His unfitness was clearly revealed.

The people of his district did not indorse Sulzer's conduct in office, but they did repudiate the motive for which and the methods by which he was removed from office. They felt that the members of the high court of impeachment had sinned rather at the behest of the public than in accordance with the evidence. They perceived that Sulzer was being disciplined for the only offense against the public he sought to do, namely, that he was the guilty victim of far guiltier traitors. They felt that the impeachment machinery had been usurped by gangsters. They felt that corruption and not virtue was being punished by the downfall of Sulzer. They must work harder if they would succeed in their endeavors to elect him. They must work harder if they would succeed in their endeavors to elect him.

Sulzer is no martyr. He is the victim of his own misdeeds. He is the victim of his own misdeeds. He is the victim of his own misdeeds