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## AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

"The farm is the place for the people of my race," said H. P. Ewing, in referring to the Kaw Valley Truck Farm company. "We aim to come to Kansas City and hire our help. Men who are loafing around the street corners now will be given an opportunity to earn good wages and also will be taught practical farming in all its branches.

"We are now employing nine men at the farm and will have employment for 60 when harvest time comes. As fast as our capital will permit we will lease other lands, carrying out the same system in vogue at our present location, which we call Farm No. 1. Judge Sims of Kansas City, Kan., has promised that he will parole to us some of the negroes sentenced for minor offenses, so that we may make better men of them."

Among some of the ideas Ewing has put to practical use in his plan for intensive farming is in the raising of spinach. This he drills in and cultivates thoroughly, resulting in a plant that commands a ready market. Between the spinach rows he plants tomato vines. In 20 days the spinach is harvested and the tomato plants are in shape to furnish another good crop from the same piece of ground.

In one plot of 20 acres on the association farm he has watermelons, tomatoes and turnips. Between the watermelon rows are two rows of turnips, and between the turnip rows a row of tomatoes are planted. The watermelon vines curling around the tomato plants steady them during hard winds, resulting in a sturdier plant, while the tomato plants furnish shade for the watermelons, each benefiting the other and at the same time making the ground produce twice what it otherwise would.

While a board of directors controls the Kaw Valley Truck Farm company, the farm work is under the direct management of Ewing. The officers are: Rev. J. R. Richardson, president; Rev. Bowen, vice-president; Rev. D. B. Jackson, treasurer; H. P. Ewing, secretary and manager; Rev. George McNeal, assistant treasurer; Nick Chiles, auditor; J. F. Bradley, attorney.—Kansas City Star.

No wonder the colored men, with the habits and traditions inherited from slave ancestors, tends to idle self-indulgence, where work is to be had for the asking, and food to be obtained by the occasional use of net, rod, or gun. A colored family can be brought up in rude abundance if the head of the household earns in cash even as little as \$150 or \$200 a year, and this he can do by working two days a week. On most of the tidal streams a boy of ten can supply the family with fish much of the year by tending a set net morning and evening. There are basket-making communities where all adults who choose can earn from \$1 to \$2 a day the year round. There are canneries where men and women are employed for most of the year in canning oysters, vegetables and fruit for nearly ten months out of twelve.—Exchange.

Attempts recently were made to grow tobacco commercially in the south of England. In Ireland the department of agriculture for several years has offered substantial bounties in connection with this industry. However, neither in Ireland nor in England has the attempt gone further than the experimental stage.

The christening of the steamship Liberia, the "Back to Africa" vessel controlled exclusively by negroes, took place at Galveston, Tex. The Liberia was waiting to take a large number of negroes to Africa under the leadership of A. C. Sam. Speech making and the breaking of a bottle over the bows by an Oklahoma negro girl formed the christening ceremony.

New York will have the highest jail building so far erected if present plans are carried out. It will be built in Thirtieth street, near Sixth avenue, will be 14 stories tall and will cost about forty-five thousand dollars. It is planned chiefly for the care of women prisoners.

In the Malay peninsula an English naturalist has discovered a species of ant that makes its nest in the fleshy stems of ferns that grow on the limbs of trees high in the air.

Probably the highest death rate of any city in the world belongs to Cochabamba, Bolivia, where there was a mortality of 75 in each 1,000 last year.

The Bank of the Philippine Islands received about April 1 from the syndicate mine in Masbate a consignment of 500 ounces of gold, valued at \$10,000. This makes the second shipment from the same mine in two weeks.

The smallest tax bill in New York is on property in 5 Centerville. The assessment is \$1 and the tax amounts to one cent a year. The city already has spent four cents for postage stamps in an effort to collect the one cent.

Creek-Seminole Agricultural college, founded by President J. C. Leftwich, under the Christian churches, is the most potent factor in developing the town, and Christian education and agricultural training among the Indian and negro youths of the town, community and state. Mr. Leftwich founded this college seven years ago, without a dollar to begin with, but with the encouragement of J. H. O. Smith, formerly minister of First Christian church of Oklahoma City, Okla.; he ventured to build a large institution. It was believed, among the people of the town, community and state, that to build a school of such character out in the forest, and in a new country, was simply folly and out of the question. Pluck and tenacity dominated the spirit of the young man to try, if but to fail. To the astonishment of all, Mr. Leftwich succeeded, in seven years, in building up a plant valued at \$25,000, 300 students, and faculty of eight instructors. Eighty of the students are full-blooded Indians. Mr. Leftwich was succeeding nicely up until the 18th of May, 1912, when his main building burned, at a loss of \$10,000; five students were burned to death. This was a great blow to the president and to the college. Mr. Leftwich is still determined to build a great institution, and asks the aid of his brethren in the effort to do so. This is the finest field in America for the brotherhood to help build and foster a college for Indians and negroes.

President Leftwich has been traveling in the North for 12 months, appealing to the Christian churches to help him in his hour of struggle and trials. He is attempting to raise \$8,000. The college proper will be located on 40 acres of land, as an agricultural experiment station. This institution is located in the heart of the red and black belt of Oklahoma, only 20 miles from Craz (Indian) Snake's "Stamp" and camp grounds. This institution now calls on the churches and interested friends to raise \$2,000 at once.—Exchange.

How long will the negro be upon this step of life's ladder, depending upon the whites for assistance? The monotony is unpleasant to the ear in this progressive age. If they have been like the grasshopper, instead of the ant, consider the punishment as the reward.

If they had learned self-reliance in the nineteenth century the negro problem would have been solved today. If negro men would form stock companies to purchase lands, erect buildings and establish stores they would not be dependent upon the white union for work. Apparently they have not the necessary confidence.—Exchange.

Bohemia has a forest area equal to 29 per cent of its total area, and the quantity of wood cut annually averages 6,474,105 cubic yards, of which 4,316,070 cubic yards are suitable for building and manufacturing, and the remainder for fuel. Bohemia exports annually about one million three hundred and seven thousand cubic yards of forest products to Germany.

As a result of promising surface indication of petroleum near Villamarfin, a small town 27 miles from Jerez, the Spanish government has appropriated 700,000 pesetas (approximately \$125,000) for exploring the region thoroughly, and has sent a force of engineers into the field.

Julius Rosenwald of Chicago has sent his check for \$25,000 toward the erection of a building for negro men by the Young Men's Christian association of Kansas City. This is the fifth city to receive a like sum for Young Men's Christian association buildings for negroes. Besides Kansas City they are Washington, Philadelphia, Indianapolis and Chicago.

A popular drink among the peasants of Russia is called quass. It is made by pouring warm water over rye or barley meal. It is fermented liquor and is very sour, but has been used for years by these poverty stricken people.

Sandy Archer, a former slave, believed to be one hundred and twelve years old, died in Hayden station, Conn., at the home of Mrs. M. E. Garrett. He had lived there for more than sixty years.

At the close of 1911 the asylums in Ireland held 24,655 insane, or 5.63 to each 1,000 population. In 1880 it was 2.50 in each 1,000.

Philo Thomas of La Prairie, Wis., is wearing a pair of the old style knee-high variety of shoes which he says he bought in Janesville in the spring of 1872, 42 years ago. He has had them rebottomed four times.

One of the senior directors of the Hamburg-American line said recently that although the Vaterland is 950 feet long, another ten years was likely to elapse before a thousand-foot liner would be built.

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