

**THE FORUM**

A weekly magazine paper devoted to the interests of the whole people.

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**EDITORIAL**

Saturday, Feb 8, 1908.

It seems that Shurtleff ought to acquiesce, since, though he fought valiantly and vehemently, to defeat the plurality Primary Bill, but in vain. We are all willing to try the primary law Mr. Shurtleff to the contrary notwithstanding.

The poet Longfellow said, "The eye of age looks meek into my heart! The voice of age echoes mournfully through it! The hoary head and palsied hand of age plead irresistibly for its sympathies! I venerate old age, and I love not the man who can look without emotion upon the sunset of life, when the dusk of evening begins to gather over the watery eyes, and the shadows of twilight grow broader and deeper upon the understanding."  
—National Baptist Union.

In Boley, Oklahoma, and within a small radius are 4 000 inhabitants, all Colored except two families. They have two cotton gins, three Negro doctors, two drug stores, forty stores of all kinds, two jewelry stores, post-mistress, three hotels, many restaurants, a railroad ticket agent, telegraph operator, and are building a telephone system and ice factory. No gambling dens and the Colored people own all the land and run the business.—St. Louis Advance.

The editor of this paper believes it would be a safe and profitable investment to our people to buy in Oklahoma.

**Lincoln's Birthday.**

Wednesday, Feb. 12, marks the 99th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln. He was born Feb. 12, 1809, in a log cabin, in a backwoods county in the state of Kentucky. No one at that time could hardly imagine that there was born a great saviour, a statesman—the leader—emancipator of an enslaved people. His history is too well known for repetition. Here in Springfield he reached the apex of his glory, and here he immortalized his name—here can be found all the vanished joys of life—here stands his memorable homestead—here is his imposing tomb—a grand testimonial of a well spent life—behold the magnificence of same!

'Tis him, but living him no more! Shurtleff.

**Presidential Candidates.**

We hope the colored people will act sanely in declaring for candidates for the presidency. Many of them are too puerile in politics. They came out six months ago against Taft, and now many of them are saying get in the Taft band wagon, because Taft stands the best chance. This is not virility but puerility. Be magnanimous—if you believe Foraker is a deserving man and deserves the reciprocity of the colored people, mostly at least, stand for him until he goes up or down at the convention at Chicago—then go for the next best man. In that great galaxy of statesmen none shine more brilliantly on the horizon than Foraker and Hughes and The Forum stands out boldly and asks that Foraker or Hughes be the slogan.

**Local Option.**

It is now apparent that whisky will have one of the hardest fights it ever before met in Springfield. As time passes the people seem ever ready to support local option. We hardly believe, however, that pressure can be sufficient to make the city dry at this spring's election, but it must be admitted that before this time 1909, unless sentiment changes that local option will win. But even if it does not win the "antis" have caused a great change along many lines and saloons are conducted more orderly and closing at 12 Saturday nights until 5 a. m. Monday mornings. If the whisky men accept some proposition along this line as a compromise, there is more hope for their future than to remain obstinate and not contend for "all or nothing," else they may get the latter.

**Children in The High School**

It is almost phenomenal to see young boys and girls in the high school at the tender age of 12 and 13 years of age, and by the time they have reached 16 or 17, having mastered the curriculum, such as our high schools afford, geometry, rhetoric, English literature, chemistry, physics, etc., and we advise that they be encouraged and given assurance that work compatible to such schooling will be obtainable. But teach them to learn to be creators of work or jobs. This will cause more of them not to quit in their second and third years. If you think your child can or will make a doctor or lawyer or minister, advise and teach them the absolute necessity of finishing and taking a college or university course. The trades must also be encouraged from cooking and sewing, to electric and civil engineering.

Let us encourage the ward school children to not stop, never tell them there is no use going higher. All cannot go through high school, environments too often preventing, but whenever the possible opportunity is, let them go.

Opportunities will present themselves—true many of us have hard times and go through trying and almost unbearable ordeals, but such is the road to success and fame.

Let the slogan be—on to the high school and college.

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