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PEARL HIGH SCHOOL

Annual Commencement At Ryman Auditorium.

PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION AND PROF. SMITH MAKE ADDRESSES.

IMMENSE THROG OF PEOPLE WITNESS EXCELLENT PROGRAM—MR. MANSON AND MISS HODGKINS ACQUIT THEMSELVES WITH HONOR—RENDITION OF TWENTY-THIRD PSALM BY HIGH SCHOOL A PLEASING FEATURE—SOLOISTS CAPTIVATE AUDIENCE—BANQUET TENDERED GRADUATES BY ALUMNI AT ODD FELLOWS AUDITORIUM.

Before an audience which taxed the seating capacity of the Ryman Auditorium to the utmost, the members of the class of 1908, Pearl High School, received their diplomas last (Thursday) night. Not only was every seat taken but in some portions of the gallery and on the main floor the aisles were so crowded as to be uncomfortable. The graduating exercises of the Pearl High School is the one event in this city that brings the colored people together—the one event in which every creed and sect is interested and the members of the race attest this deep interest by annually attending these exercises. A conservative estimate of those present places the number at 5,000.

Seated upon the platform at the right of the class were the teachers of the High School and a number of men prominent in the affairs of the city. To the left where some of the members of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of the city schools. A portion of the building extending to the left of the speaker's stand directly behind that reserved for the Board of Education, was reserved for whites, quite a number of whom were present.

Promptly at 8 o'clock Miss Carrie Mildred Bryant, who presided at the piano, began a spirited march and the class of '08, led by Miss Anna L. Mayberry, filed in from the eastern entrance. As the class, each female member of which was tastefully arrayed in white, carrying cut flowers, draped with the class colors and each male dressed becomingly in solid black, wound its way around the auditorium, vociferous applause came from the vast concourse of people. The class marched around the northern aisle to the center, and thence to the stage. Reaching the stage, each member crossed right and left to the place assigned respectively to them.

The first number on the programme was the musical rendition of the Twenty-third Psalm. This number showed an exquisite blending of voices seldom heard in a chorus of school children and speaks volumes for the ability of the students and those who had in charge the training of the voices.

The next number, "Over the Hill at Break of Day," a semi-chorus, so pleased the audience that an encore was given.

Mr. Louis O. Manson, the salutatorian of the class, came next on the programme. He had chosen as his theme "American Genius," and right well did he handle his subject. Before entering into the body of his speech, he welcomed the Board of Education, the Superintendent of the city schools, the parents, citizens and teachers to the exercises of the evening.

It was distinctly noticeable that the speeches of Mr. Manson and Miss Hodgkins, who spoke later, were devoid of the fulsome flattery that has marred some of the exercises held in this city in the past. The same was true of the address delivered by Prof. Smith.

Following the speech of Mr. Manson, which was well applauded, the Girls' Glee Club of Pearl High School sang "Star of Peace." This number, which contained a solo obligato, the solo part being taken by Miss Madeline B. Carter, was one of the best received numbers on the programme. Miss Carter has a very pleasing soprano voice, and though not fully developed, has a very wide range. The Glee Club responded to the applause with another song, which was also meritoriously sung.

Miss Hattie Hodgkins, the valedictorian of the class, followed the Glee Club. Her subject being "No Excellency Without Great Labor." Miss Hodgkins' speech showed careful preparation and was well received. Her enunciation though made it difficult for those not near the stage to understand everything she said. She expressed the thanks of the class as the first speaker had extended the welcome.

A vocal solo, "Carmena," sung by Miss Emma L. Cheairs, was the next number on the programme. Miss Cheairs, who has been heard in one or two previous commencement exercises of the High School, and is a general favorite, possesses a voice of rare sweetness, especially adapted to coloratura work. The piece selected was peculiarly fitting to her style of voice, and brought out all of its beauties. Miss Cheairs responded to the applause with another solo.

Prof. Frank G. Smith then, as is his custom on this occasion every year, delivered his address to the graduating class. Before addressing the class, however, Prof. Smith spoke in part as follows to the Board of Education:

"The occasion which brought us together here to-night is the twenty-first annual commencement of the Pearl High School. The vast concourse of colored citizens, the multitude of eager anxious people who have listened so carefully to these exercises, is not without meaning. It shows the deep interest the colored people take in the welfare and success of the Pearl High School. I venture the assertion that no other high school in the South is as popular with the colored people as the Pearl High School. Mr. Superintendent and members of the Board of Education, I wish to thank you for the admirable public spirit and liberal policy which you have manifested toward us and express the hope that we will always merit your confidence and your kind consideration."

Prof. Smith addressed himself to the class which he requested to rise, delivered a vigorous speech in which he admonished the class of '08 to seek to lead high, useful lives, always endeavoring to make their class motto their life's motto.

With the class still standing, Dr. R. B. Lees, President of the Board of Education, read an address, after which he presented on behalf of the Board of Education, the following with diplomas:

Walter H. Davis, William A. McKissack, Louis O. Manson, Herman A. Matthews, Reuben L. Richardson, Ira Charles Watson, Eleanor A. Battle, Lillian B. Campbell, Nannie E. Campbell, Sadie L. Watson, Emma T. Cheairs, Tabitha L. Claybrooks, Sallie I. Duvall, Minnie L. Fite, Mackie L. Hardison, Cella M. Hendley, Hattie E. Hodgkins, Tennie L. Hughes, Ruthy L. Jones and Anna L. Mayberry.

The various graduates were the recipients of many tokens of the occasion, some of which were very handsome and valuable. The officers of the class were as follows: Louis O. Manson, President; Sadie L. Watson, Secretary, and Ruthy L. Jones, Treasurer.

HIGH SCHOOL BANQUET.

Following the graduating exercises of the Pearl High School at the Ryman Auditorium, the members of the Alumni Association tendered a banquet to the class of 1908, at the Odd Fellow's Auditorium. Here was assembled each member of the class and a host of the Alumni Association with their company.

The arrangements for the banquet were under the direct supervision of Profs. George E. Washington, H. A. Cameron and Mr. Geo. L. Grady. These being rendered every assistance by other members of the Association.

The spacious auditorium was cleared of all excess chairs and preceding the serving of the honorees and the other guests, the floor was given over to the dancers. The banquet was served upon the stage at the rear of the auditorium and the table, handsomely decorated with cut flowers and the class colors surrounded by the sweet girl graduates and their gallant-appearing classmates, presented a very beautiful sight. The menu, while not elaborate, showed an excellent taste in its selection and preparation. Dancing continued until a late hour, the floor being under the direction of Mr. Hughlett Box.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

A woman named Sarah Murphy, who lives on Pearl street between Tenth and Eleventh avenues, North, attempted suicide Wednesday night by taking a quantity of laudanum. She was sent to the City Hospital for medical attention. It is thought she will recover.

Miss Mattie Winfrey, who finished in the normal department of Walden University, left the city Sunday for her home at Little Rock, Ark. Miss Winfrey is an aunt of Chas. Winfrey Kelly, of 653 Bass street.

FINANCIAL PANIC

Caught Most Business Men and Concerns Unawares.

SOME BUSINESS HOUSES WHICH HAVE SURVIVED THE AWFUL CRISES.

GLOBE REPORTER INTERVIEWS DR. R. H. BOYD, WHO MAKES MOST ENCOURAGING STATEMENTS—BUSINESS OF ONE-CENT SAVINGS BANK SHOWS DECIDED INCREASE—PUBLISHING HOUSE OF A. M. E. SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION IN FLOURISHING CONDITION—NEGRO RECOGNIZED AS A POTENT FACTOR IN BUILDING UP GREATER NASHVILLE.

The financial panic left in most business circles and in nearly every large business concern some trace of its heavy foot-prints or some trace of its havoc wrought. This city suffered as most of the large manufacturing centers. Some large firms closed their doors, suspended operation and left out of work a long list of employees. Some have resumed their operations; others have not.

The panic came upon most of the business men and concerns without warning. Others had talked of it, counselled about it, and prepared for its coming. A representative of The Globe, in taking a review of the situation as it affected Nashville, finds that some of the Negro business concerns had prepared for such emergencies—not by accumulating a large bank account, as some would suppose, but by the economical and wise management of their business during prosperous and undisturbed seasons. Some of them had contemplated and actually planned large and extensive improvements. This is particularly true of the Baptist Publishing Board, which owns that mammoth printing, book-binding and publishing concern located in this city, under the management of Dr. R. H. Boyd, and operated under the auspices of the Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention. It has a long list of employees, and all of the work, with but few exceptions, is that of skilled labor. In a conversation with Dr. Boyd, the Globe reporter learned that in this past quarter, which closed the 31st day of May, they have had an unprecedented record. Dr. Boyd stated that his orders for Sunday-school literature, church-helms and supplies numbered at the close of business May 31, twenty-two thousand, five hundred and fifty-five (22,555)—a record-breaker in itself, representing a majority of all the Negro Baptist Sunday-schools and churches in the United States. "I do not know," said Dr. Boyd in answer to a query from the Globe reporter, "just how many Sunday-schools we have supplied, but I estimate we have sent orders to eighteen or twenty thousand Negro Baptist Sunday-schools. These schools are scattered throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, South and Central America, West Indies, Philippine Islands and Africa."

It would be interesting for any institution to note the vast number of letters being delivered every day, some of them coming from such places as Saba, a small island in the group of the Danish West Indies. One could hardly find it on the map. Yet, according to Dr. Boyd's statement, wherever there are loyal Negro Baptists who have heard about and know the workings of the National Baptist Publishing Board, he has either been able to control or will soon be in a position to control their patronage.

"The incoming quarter, which is known as the July quarter," said Dr. Boyd, "is usually the largest quarter in the year. From June 15 to July 1 there will be an average of over one thousand letters per day. It will be particularly heavy this year on account of the extensive preparations for Children's Day, as about one hundred thousand copies of the Children's Day programs will be distributed, and on account of the ever-increasing interest in the National Baptist Sunday School Congress, which is to convene in Jacksonville, Fla." Aside from this the business shows other marked im-

provements, as this week will witness the preparations for the finishing touches to be put on the first story of the Memorial Building. Then will begin the installation of the machinery purchased some time ago.

It will be remembered that three buildings have been practically built and completed by this concern since the panic began, and though Dr. Boyd has been handicapped to some extent in a financial way, the expenses have been paid for as the work proceeded.

This is only one among the remarkable showings made by the Negro in Nashville, which proves that he is a potent factor in building up "Greater Nashville."

The One Cent Savings Bank shows a decided increase in its business. The deposits have been larger than in any period during its existence.

A report printed in the Nashville Globe from the Secretary of the A. M. E. Sunday School Union, just prior to the General Conference at Norfolk, showed that this religious plant, like that of the Baptists, had weathered the panic in such a way as not to be materially affected. Its year's work showed by far the most successful it had ever witnessed. They, too, have extensive plans under way for improvements, which will bring up their plant to a higher scale. There is no doubt but that within the next eight or ten months all records such as buildings, improvements and business ventures in the race, so far as Nashville is concerned, will be smashed, and the people, as a whole, benefited.

THE BLIND SCHOOL CLOSES.

A Successful Year of Hard Work Finished.

The commencement exercises of the colored department of the Tennessee School for the Blind began with a musical in the chapel of that institution last Friday night, which was beyond doubt one of the best ever held. The students showed marked improvement, which was the result of careful training. The instructor in music, Miss Quinnetta Compton, has demonstrated that she is an earnest, conscientious worker. The baccalaureate sermon was preached last Sunday at 3 p. m. by Rev. Mr. Imes, pastor of Howard Congregational Church. Many friends from the city crowded the chapel to its utmost capacity to listen to this eloquent appeal. On Tuesday night a literary entertainment, for which had been prepared a very nice program; but the crowning efforts were seen in the graduating exercises on Wednesday, at which diplomas were awarded to those who had successfully finished the course outlined for the State of Tennessee in this special line of education. Miss Minnie May Hunter, who has charge of the literary department, and who has been at the institution for several years, has succeeded in accomplishing that most difficult task—instilling in all the minds of those without sight the art of reading, ciphering, spelling, mathematics, geography and writing.

The following program was given: Jubilee song; invocation, Rev. E. C. Jones; chorus, "Come, Smiling Spring;" recitation, Resey Thomas; instrumental duet, "Cooling Doves," Lizzie Casey and Nannie Gore; vocal solo, "Deep in the Mire" Jake Simmons; recitation, Blanche Davis; vocal duet, "I Would That My Love," Flossie Covington and B. Boyd; drama, "Picnic;" piano solo, "To the Waltz," Blanche Davis; vocal duet, "Mary and Marie," Jess & Seawright and Mary Sue Dickerson; drama, "Actions Speak Louder Than Words;" jubilee song, farewell chorus.

It was encouraging to note the excellent and high marked attainment by the entire class, which, while not as large as the year before, reached higher marks, and the work showed more improvement. In the mechanical department or industrial department, Prof. Neal was able to bring better results than heretofore. He seemed to understand his work thoroughly and he has proven, although blind himself, an excellent teacher. The friends and admirers of the institution cannot think too highly of the principal, Mrs. Susan M. Lowe, who has spent more than a quarter of a century working in this department of educational up-building of the race. The school closes with a hope that when the following term opens hundreds of the unfortunates who have heretofore not enjoyed such privileges, will be sent at once to the school for necessary training.

Miss Ella Howse, of 705 Lea avenue, left the city Tuesday evening for St. Louis, where she will visit her sister.

VISITS ALMA MATER

Prof. J. D. Crenshaw Delivers Dedictory Address.

TRINITY COLLEGE, OF ATHENS, ALABAMA, SCENE OF BRILLIANT DEDICATION.

ONE OF THE OLDEST CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTH—COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES HELD ENTIRE WEEK ALUMNI OF SCHOOL FOUND IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE—PRESENT SITE SCENE OF MANY CONFLICTS DURING CIVIL WAR—GLOWING TRIBUTE PAID TO MEMORY OF FOUNDER—FACULTY AND ALUMNI BANQUET PROF. CRENSHAW.

Athens, Ala., May 28, 1908.—After an absence of twenty-three years, all of which time has been spent in active, progressive educational work, Prof. J. D. Crenshaw, a graduate of Trinity College, and recently of Texas, but now of Nashville, Tenn., returned to this city upon special invitation of the principal, faculty and trustees to deliver the dedicatory address at this school, which is one of the oldest of the Congregational schools established in the South. The building that was dedicated to-day is situated in the center of the old fort, which was the scene of many conflicts during the Civil War. It is one of the most beautiful school buildings in the sunny South—magnificently constructed and just one mile from the center of the city.

The school was founded early in 1865 by that fearless, tireless, Christian woman, Miss M. F. Wells, to whose memory Prof. Crenshaw paid a deserving tribute in his address. He said that in the face of a most threatening and dangerous opposition to such a movement, she came South and entered upon her chosen work. Time and again her life was in jeopardy, and on more than one occasion did the Ku Klux Klan, then so noted in Northern Alabama, threaten her life, but never did she entertain a thought of leaving or discontinuing her efforts to do good for an oppressed people.

The exercises for the entire commencement week have been of the very highest order. Graduates from this college are numbered among the most noted men and women in the race. They fill positions in every walk of life, reflecting much credit upon the institution to which they point with pride as their Alma Mater. These forty-three years have proven the worth, the need and the growing importance of this school.

The building dedicated to-day takes the place of the one destroyed by the disastrous fire on February 13, 1907, and guarantees the continuance of the aggressive educational campaign begun in this city over two score years ago. The older students from far and near contributed much to the success of this commencement exercises. The address of Prof. Crenshaw was the principal feature. His theme and his entire discourse, eloquent, logical and timely, was well received and applauded throughout. At the conclusion of the address, the present principal, Miss Hubbard, the faculty, trustees, the graduating classes and the Alumni Association entertained Prof. Crenshaw, their guest. The list of graduates this year was considerably larger than any previous year in the history of the school.

ALL-DAY MEETING.

It is announced by Mrs. B. H. Gray, a member of the State W. C. T. U., that arrangements have been made by which an all-day meeting, under the auspices of the Christian Temperance Union, will be held at the Spruce Street Baptist Church on Friday, June 12. The plan is that of Mrs. Susan Rhines, and it is styled as a God-given plan calculated to do much good. The morning session of the meeting will be devoted to papers and discussion. The afternoon session will be a mother's meeting, in which mothers are requested to come and bring their children. The day is to be spent in prayer. Mrs. Broughton, the state President of the W. C. T. U., will be among the speakers for the occasion.