

conditions are not peculiar to this little island, and also that they are not of our making, except as our best-intentioned charity may have aggravated the effect of the climate.

The question as to our part in working out the problem,—which is, after all, not of our making,—I put at every mile of the way; the question which the whole temperate zone is putting to the tropics. I asked it of every stolid face; of every idle man; of the boy who walked at my side begging for a centavo; of the father carrying his dead child upon his shoulder, in the glaring sun, to consecrated ground miles away; of the boy who, in primitive fashion, balanced the produce on one side of his panniers with rocks on the other, and of the Indian who guided me through the pathless woods and brought me sugar-cane to suck when I could get no food,—of all these I asked it. I did not need to ask the fallow fields and the bare hillsides; I knew their answer, and it was put into the mouth of the people. It is the answer of all the tropics, that the temperate zone has an obligation there. We certainly have an obligation in Porto Rico.

But there is a hopeful side to the situation in Porto Rico even now, if our theories will let us enjoy it. The schools are being opened all over the island, under competent supervision. Roads and bridges are being built. Franchises are being sought for redeeming swamp-lands, for water privileges, for building street railways and steam railroads across the island. Neglected plantations are being brought into culti-

vation again, and prosperity seems on the eve of entering the island. The taxes are being honestly collected, and progress is being made toward securing justice to all. These are rather abstract statements, but there are concrete facts back of them. There is no occasion to be jubilant or boastful or sanguine; but if our civilization means anything, it means that the agencies that we have established there will some day bring good to the island and its people.

The orange grows wild in Porto Rico, but it lacks that particular flavor which the cultivated palate demands. Since the American occupation, new-comers have set out orchards with the purpose of grafting slips from California or Florida trees upon native stock, that they may produce, not Porto Rican, but California and Florida oranges. The simile is easily carried into the field of politics.

It will be at least five years before the orange-trees will bear, and then perhaps not abundantly. And the simile will allow the further suggestion that one ought to be as patient with the processes of political growth as the orange-growers are with their slow-fruiting trees. Barring hurricanes, they are as likely to get their California and Florida oranges in time, and the island of Porto Rico will get its civilized fruitage, if only the political storms are not too violent. One may not reason from orange-trees to human beings; but the processes of Nature in the transformation of a wild tree do certainly give most hopeful analogy.

THE AMERICAN NEGRO AT PARIS.

BY W. E. BURGHARDT DU BOIS

ON the banks of the Seine, opposite the Rue des Nations, stands a large, plain white building, where the promoters of the Paris Exposition have housed the world's ideas of sociology. As a matter of fact, any one who takes his sociology from theoretical treatises would be rather disappointed at the exhibit; for there is little here of the "science of society." On the other hand, those who have followed historically the development, out of the old Political Economy, of a miscellaneous body of knowing chiefly connected with the larger aspects of human benevolence, will here find much of interest: the building and mutual-aid societies of France; the working-man's circles of Belgium; the city governments of Sweden; the Red Cross Society; the state insurance of Germany,—are all here strik-

ingly exhibited by charts, statistics, models, and photographs.

The United States section of this building is small, and not, at first glance, particularly striking. There are, in the center, well-made tenement-house models; in one corner a small exhibit of the American Library Association, and elsewhere sets of interesting maps and photographs showing the work



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of factory inspectors and typical industrial plants. All these exhibits, are, unfortunately, rather fragmentary, and do scant justice to the wonderful social and economic development of America.

In the right-hand corner, however, as one enters, is an exhibit which, more than most others in the building, is sociological in the larger sense of the term—that is, is an attempt to give, in as systematic and compact a form as possible, the history and present condition of a large group of human beings. This is the exhibit of American Negroes, planned and executed by Negroes, and collected and installed under the direction of a Negro special agent, Mr. Thomas J. Calloway.

In this exhibit there are, of course, the usual paraphernalia for catching the eye—photographs, models, industrial work, and pictures. But it does not stop here; beneath all this is a carefully thought-out plan, according to which the exhibitors have tried to show:

- (a) The history of the American Negro.
- (b) His present condition.
- (c) His education.
- (d) His literature.

The history of the Negro is illustrated by charts and photographs; there is, for instance, a series of striking models of the progress of the colored people, beginning with the homeless freedman and ending with the modern brick schoolhouse and its teachers. There are charts of the increase of Negro population, the routes of the African slave-trade, the progress of emancipation, and the decreasing illiteracy. There are pictures of the old cabins, and, in three great manuscript volumes, the complete black code of Georgia, from colonial times to the end of the nineteenth century. Not the least interesting contribution to history is the case given to Negro medal-of-honor men in the army and navy—from the man who "seized the colors after two color-bearers had been shot down and



EXHIBIT OF AMERICAN NEGROES AT THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

bore them nobly through the fight" to the black men in the Spanish War who "voluntarily went ashore in the face of the enemy and aided in the rescue of their wounded comrades." It was a Massachusetts lawyer who replied to the Patent-Office inquiry, "I never knew a negro to invent anything but lies;" and yet here is a record of 350 patents granted to black men since 1834.

The bulk of the exhibit, is naturally, an attempt to picture present conditions. Thirty-two charts, 500 photographs, and numerous maps and plans form the basis of this exhibit. The charts are in two sets, one illustrating conditions in the entire United States and the other conditions in the typical State of Georgia. At a glance one can see the successive steps by which the 220,000 negroes of 1750 had increased to

7,500,000 in 1890; their distribution throughout the different States; a comparison of the size of the Negro population with European countries bringing out the striking fact that there are nearly half as many Negroes in the United States as Spaniards in Spain. The striking movement by which the 4½ per cent. of Negroes living in the cities in 1860 has increased to 12 per cent. in 1890 is shown, as is also the fact that recognized mulattoes have increased 50 per cent. in 30 years, even in the defective census returns. Twenty per cent. of the Negroes are shown to be home-owners, 60 per cent. of their children are in school, and their illiteracy is less than that of Russia, and only equal to that of Hungary.

It was a good idea to supplement these very general figures with a minute social study in a typical Southern State. It would hardly be suggested, in the light of recent history, that conditions in the State of Georgia are such as to give a rose-colored picture of the Negro; and yet Georgia, having the largest Negro population, is an excellent field of study. Here again we have statistics: the increase of the black population in a century from 30,000 to 860,000, the huddling in the Black Belt for self-protection since the war, and a comparison of the age distribution with France showing the wonderful reproductive powers of the blacks. The school enrollment has increased from 10,000 in 1870 to 180,000 in 1897, and the Negroes are distributed among the occupations as follows:

In agriculture, 62 per cent.; in domestic and personal service, 28 per cent.; in manufacturing and mechanical industries, 5 per cent.; in trade and transportation, 4½ per cent.; in the professions, ½ per cent.

They own 1,000,000 acres of land and pay taxes on \$12,000,000 worth of property—not large, but telling figures; and the charts indicate, from year to year, the struggle they have had to accumulate and hold this property. There are several volumes of photographs of typical Negro faces, which hardly square with conventional American ideas. Several maps show the peculiar distribution of the white and black inhabitants in various towns and counties.

The education of the Negro is illustrated in the work of five great institutions—Fisk, Atlanta, and Howard Universities, and Tuskegee and Hampton Institutes. The exhibit from Fisk illustrates, by photographs and examination papers, the work of secondary and higher education. Atlanta University shows her work in social study and the work of her college and normal graduates; Howard University shows the work of her professional schools, especially in medicine, theology, and law. From Hampton there

is an especially excellent series of photographs illustrating the Hampton idea of "teaching by doing," and from Tuskegee there are numerous specimens of work from the manual-training and technical departments.

Perhaps the most unique and striking exhibit is that of American Negro literature. The development of Negro thought—the view of themselves which these millions of freedmen have taken—is of intense psychological and practical interest. There are many who have scarcely heard of a Negro book, much less read one; still here is a bibliography made by the Library of Congress containing 1,400 titles of works written by Negroes; 200 of these books are exhibited on the shelves. The Negroes have 150 periodicals, mostly weekly papers, many of which are exhibited here.

We have thus, it may be seen, an honest, straightforward exhibit of a small nation of people, picturing their life and development without apology or gloss, and above all made by themselves. In a way this marks an era in the history of the Negroes of America. It is no new thing for a group of people to accomplish much under the help and guidance of a stronger group; indeed, the whole Palace of Social Economy at the Paris Exposition shows how vast a system of help and guidance of this order is being carried on to-day throughout the world. When, however, the inevitable question arises, What are these guided groups doing for themselves? there is in the whole building no more encouraging answer than that given by the American negroes, who are here shown to be studying, examining, and thinking of their own progress and prospects.*

* Mr. Thomas J. Calloway, the special agent of the Negro exhibit, gives the following list of awards to the exhibit, together with a note of explanation, which we print below:

Grand Prix—American Negro Exhibit (on the collection as a whole): Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, Hampton, Va. *Gold Medals*—Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.; Howard University, Washington, D. C.; T. J. Calloway, Special Agent Negro Exhibit (as compiler); W. E. B. Du Bois, Collaborator as Compiler of Georgia Negro Exhibit. *Silver Medals*—Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.; Agricultural and Mechanical College, Greensboro', N. C.; Berea College, Berea, Ky.; Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga.; Booker T. Washington, Monograph on Education of Negro. *Bronze Medals*—Roger Williams University, Nashville, Tenn.; Central Tennessee College, Nashville, Tenn.; Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga.; Pine Bluff Normal and Industrial School, Pine Bluff, Ark. *Honorable Mention*—Haines Normal and Industrial Institute, Augusta, Ga.; Claflin University, Orangeburg, S. C.

While these awards represent the appreciation of the several juries, taken together there is not the even balancing that might be wished. Some of the principal features were not installed till after the juries were disbanded. For example, the books, the models, patents, etc., fall under this lists. The awards, therefore, except in certain cases like Hampton, Tuskegee, Atlanta, etc., do not necessarily represent the strongest features of the exhibit.

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