

has been one of the leaders of his race at Spokane ever since reaching the age of maturity. He was for four years confidential messenger for the D. C. Corbin Company and was deputy county treasurer for four years. He was doorkeeper at the state senate for one term, and is at present in his old position as confidential messenger to the D. C. Corbin Company. He is the owner of extensive real estate in that city and county. A fine farm a few miles from the city is among his many other holdings.

I. Israel Walker, becoming disgusted with his state, as soon as Ben Tilman was elected governor, left South Carolina immediately and came direct to the then territory of Washington, trying, as he said, to get as far from Tilman as possible and yet stay in the United States. At the outbreak of the Klondike excitement he was with the first rush for the gold fields and remained there nine years. He returned to the city recently and is now proprietor of a lodging house. He is arranging to open a mercantile business in the near future.

W. C. Miller, a well known plasterer of this city, is the foremost Negro in his line in the state. For a number of years he has worked at the trade here and at all times and under all circumstances has held a high and respected position. There are few men in the business who can put on more mud or do it better than he. As a workman his race should be proud of him for he is proving that the color of the skin has nothing to do with a man's ability as a workman. Mr. Miller is a high Mason, a taxpayer and a worthy citizen.

Jas. W. Gray was born in Ironton, Ohio, in 1873. He attended the public schools of that city and was apprenticed to learn the trade of plasterer. Hearing of the opportunities of the West he came to this city seven months ago where he soon found work at his trade and as a plasterer he is in the first rank and has just completed the largest job ever done by a Negro in this city, having plastered an apartment house of 100 rooms, making more than 10,000 yards of work. His present contract will take him all summer to finish.

R. S. White is reckoned as one of the old-timers of Spokane. He was for a number of years in the employ of the U. S. government in the postoffice of that city. Mr. White is a very thrifty and industrious citizen and thoroughly alive to the development and advancement that is in progress in his town. He owns some very valuable real estate and is full of business. He is assistant secretary of the Clarence Ray Buffalo Hump Gold Mining Company and has had the immediate oversight of the developing of that property and he is enthusiastic over its ultimate outcome. The property, which is situated in the fastings of the mountains, is immediately surrounded by valuable mining propositions and the property in which he is interested can hardly fail to produce.

John W. L. Fort, one of the latest employes of "Uncle Sam" in the city of Seattle, is a native of Tennessee. He has lived in the West for a number of years, the most of the time at Fargo, N. D. He came to Washington six years ago and after spending some time in Seattle engaged in the restaurant business in Bellingham which he continued until he was appointed mail carrier for this city. He is

sober, industrious and a literary and social favorite among those with whom he associates. As a mail carrier he is making good. He is quite active in the upbuilding of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Seattle and is demonstrating in many ways that he is made out of the right kind of stuff.

George W. Anderson is a pioneer of this state, having lived within its borders for the past twenty years. He was for a number of years in Tacoma, where he held various positions of trust and honor, but moved to Spokane for business reasons. He has been in Spokane a number of years and is recognized as one of the energetic men of that city. He is secretary of the Clarence Ray Buffalo Hump Mining Company and for nearly two years represented that company in the East, where he floated much of the company's development stock. His report from time to time as to the financial condition shows that no mistake was made in electing its secretary. Judging from the reports that company in the very near future will hit it rich.

G. O. Allen, while not what would be considered an old-timer of this city, is a most worthy representative of the Negro. He is a clerk in the Seattle postoffice and has the reputation of being one of the swiftest as well as most reliable men in the office. Mr. Allen is proving that race or color are not bars to efficiency. Nothing but words of praise are heard from the officials when speaking of him. He is a member and officer in the Fourteenth Street A. M. E. Church.

C. H. Brown is one of the eight Negro employes of the Seattle postoffice. He was recently transferred to this office from the Chicago office. He came highly recommended and has proven himself a most efficient clerk. At present he is one of the collectors in the business district of the city. It is confidently expected that he will prove a most satisfactory addition to the already long list of colored employes of this office.

Rev. S. J. Collins came to Seattle nineteen years ago from Georgia, his native home, where he had been foreman in the car shops in Macon. He is one of the best Negro carpenters that ever came to the Sound. He worked at his trade in this city for a number of years. Being always of a religious temperament he became imbued with the idea that there was need for more workmen "in the vineyard of the Lord," so he entered the ministry and has advanced in his chosen profession until he became presiding elder, which position he has most creditably filled for a number of years. Rev. Collins, with his family, have in recent years moved to Tacoma and has made a home for himself there and is doing well, spiritually and financially.

Elder J. M. Webb is an evangelist of the church of God and a traveling lecturer. Elder Webb has traveled over the greater part of the United States and lectured on the subject: "Jesus, Solomon and the Queen of Sheba were Negroes by Blood," and has written a book on the subject. Many very favorable comments have been made by learned men on this subject since it was first introduced by Elder Webb. When not engaged in lecturing and preaching he is one of the substantial farmers of this county and is well and favorably known in this city.