

years farm conditions have much improved in the section where the Bedells reside and they are greatly enjoying the improvement. Mr. Bedell is an outstanding character in his community and is an active member of the various farm organizations which flourish in and about him. He came to the state some forty years ago to do coal mining, but having been reared on a farm he realized that a good farmer was being spoiled by becoming a coal miner, uncertain in its remuneration and dangerous in its operation. The couple have two daughters and some grandchildren.

Mrs. Viola Berry operates a four-acre garden near Sumner, Washington, and is quite out of the ordinary of women of her group, in that she gave up a nice business in Seattle and moved to the country and took up farm life as a means to an end. Without experience she undertook to have those four acres of ground

not only make for her a living, but likewise an investment. She in the very outset therefore stocked it, at least to a limited extent, with chickens, ducks and geese and then began to grow foodstuffs for them to eat. Some cows were added to the above aggregation and in a comparatively short time she was marketing some vegetables, some eggs, chickens and ducks as well as daily selling milk to nearby consumers. Her venture therefore was a success even sooner than she herself had expected. Something like ten years have passed since she first ventured out from the bright lights of the city, but she feels that she had been amply repaid for giving up her city business to become a farmer and her place is now pointed to with pride by her old time city friends, who, perhaps, advised her against putting into execution her mad country idea. Mrs. Berry has fully demonstrated that the country is the place for the person refused employment in the city on account of a color handicap.



MRS. VIOLA BERRY



W. ARTHUR DIXON



BEDELL HOME

Colored Federal Employees

No city west of the Mississippi river has as many Federal employees as has Seattle, which is another evidence of a proper foundation having been laid by such men as the late J. E. Hawkins and the writer, H. R. Cayton, who, on account of their strong political alliances with the powers that were, in early days, were able to approach those, who did the selecting of men from the civil service list, and exact from them a promise, to remember the man at the bottom of the ladder, and they kept their words. Postmaster George M. Stewart was the first to set this ball to rolling and as a result thereof the following persons were employed in the Seattle post office:

Mail clerks: Clarence L. Miller, John W. Fort, Frank N. Harris, Earnest A. White, David Shaw, Milton Vernon, Richard E. Butler, Will H. Dixon, Everett J. Davis, W. E. Talbert, Homer E. Harris and Lee Hankins, railway mail clerk; Toliver and Mrs. E. Hancock are caretakers of the building. Other Federal employees are John M. Green, U. S. marshal; George Wright, efficiency clerk; John T. Gayton, court bailiff; S. C. Valley, U. S. meat inspector; Mr. Smith, immigration guard; John Williams, watchman, immigration station; and Mr. Alexander, janitor.

William Arthur Dixon appears on the surface as Tacoma's foremost colored Republican, he being seen in most every instance, where state-wide Republican meetings are held. At the various sessions of the legislature he is always put at the head of the caretakers of the house of representatives and he must be giving absolute satisfaction as little or no complaint is ever registered. If there be but a form of a Colored Republican Club in Tacoma Dixon has it well in hand and through it he obtains such political recognition as the powers that be give to the members thereof. Mr. Dixon has fought valiantly from time to time to maintain a state-wide Colored Republican organization and though his efforts have been more or less a failure, yet it was no fault of his. He has resided in Tacoma for quite a number of years and is very loyal to his home town and yet he always has a kind word to say for the "boys" in Seattle, "a Tacoma suburb." While he has held quite a few political positions, yet he has always had some kind of a business enterprise, from which he derived considerable revenue.