

Aims and Objects

1. To promote and educate its members along the lines of commerce and the dignity of labor.
2. To instill within the members of the race the idea that the interest of each is identical with that of the other, and that it is our duty to so conduct ourselves that our individual examples will confer credit upon the race.
3. To instill within the members of the race the necessity of adopting in their dealings with others an upright, honorable and creditable business intercourse.
4. To advocate the necessity of each individual of the race maintaining his credit inviolable.
5. To promote a better degree of business intercourse and patronage among members of the race.
6. To encourage members of the race in acquiring homes, and the prompt payment of taxes and assessments.
7. To impress upon the members of the race the absolute necessity of decorum, gentility and self-respect in order to acquire the friendship and respect of other races.
8. To impress upon members of the race the vital importance of observing the laws of sanitation.

Officers

President, Z. L. Woodson; vice-president, William Chandler; Secretary, F. B. Cooper; assistant secretary, Fred D. Wright; treasurer, S. H. Stone. Executive committee, D. T. Cardwell, chairman; B. F. Tutt, Harry Legg, Frank Smith, Andrew R. Black and H. R. Cayton.

Opportunities for Negroes

No city in all the United States has a more flattering future than Seattle not from a boom standpoint, but from actual facts. Every man in the city today can get employment at good wages and before another May there will be a crying demand for all kinds of labor. Nothing is more conducive to the rapid growth of a city than armies made up of bucket brigades marching to and fro twice and thrice a day. Should the great shipbuilding concerns in and about Seattle get no more contracts than they now have it would be five years or more before there would be a lull in the work. Shipbuilding, however, is not the only industry furnishing employment to our citizens, but other industries are springing up that are employing equally as many as the shipbuilding industry, all of which completely verifies the statement, "no city has a more flattering future than Seattle."

What part will the colored man play in this game of progress, you ask? Just what you, I and all of us, who work and walk under the banner of the American Negro will decide to play.

While there is a disposition to prevent us from participating in this promised prosperity wave, yet if we come together and work for one common cause—the success of all—there is no doubt but that we will get our full quota. Trying, however, to get our share by individual efforts is completely out of the question, but in one grand strong organization, such as the Negro Business Men's League hopes to be, working for the success of all, hundreds and perhaps thousands of colored men and women will find profitable employment, while others will go into business enterprises and grow financially strong from the support given them by those who will be drawing regular wages.

The Future Outlook

To the casual observer there appears to be few opportunities for colored folks to better their conditions in and about Seattle. Barred from performing either skilled or unskilled work by organized labor and turned down by the men with the money invested to please labor unions. Without sufficient money to establish competing commercial and industrial enterprises; handi-

capped with race prejudice and sadly divided among themselves the prospects of the Negro rising higher in this American civilization than a "scuff about town" seems an almost forlorn hope. But behind the blackest cloud a bright sun shines and for the man with the will there is always a way and that too even with work conditions decidedly worse than in the past. With only odd jobs at their command in the past the colored men and women of Seattle have accumulated valuable real estate conservatively estimated to be worth \$1,000,000. What has been done can be done and even more.

In spite, however, of all these obstacles there are many opportunities in and about Seattle awaiting the magic touch of the enterprising colored man, from which, if properly handled, the promoters can reap a golden harvest. Corner grocery stores, quick repair shoe shops, market stalls, truck gardens and heneries in the suburbs, berry farms and small dairies in the country as well as other small enterprises, none of which would require a great amount of money to put on foot, are all in the reach of the industrious colored man of this city, and out of which a greater amount of money could be realized in the course of a year than could be from wages considered the best. With some of the best talent in the city united for action in this The Negro Business Men's League it will be an easy matter for the Negro to take advantage of opportunities now seemingly unborn.

A Get-Together

Charity, we are told, begins at home and spreads abroad. Who has not confidence in himself can not expect others to confide in him. If therefore the colored population of Seattle would succeed financially and otherwise they must lean heavily upon each other. They must not only get together, but they must stand shoulder to shoulder in their several undertakings. To religiously patronize each other not only guarantees a dependable support, but it encourages other classes to give aid as well as patronage to our commercial and industrial enterprises. It is the duty of each and all of us to consider ourselves "our brother's keeper" and never lose an opportunity to interest ourselves in finding places for the unemployed, food for the hungry and promotion for the beginners. In short if we would have colored men ascend the ladder of success it is the boundin duty of all of us to give them a boost onward and upward and that too whether they be friend or foe. No colored person in this community can be crowned with signal success, financially or otherwise, without every other colored person hereabouts feeling the beneficial effects therefrom. To bring about such conditions among us as a whole is the hope of this organization. If it can get your hearty co-operatin in perfecting these plans, it will not be long before a brighter day will dawn for us all. To organize never hurts and that, that does not hurt is absolutely certain to help. Get together, therefore, should be the watchword of every colored person in and about Seattle.

Our Obligations and Duties

It is the duty of every Negro in the city to try each day to do something that will lighten the burden of some other Negro and if each of us has the inclination the opportunity will be forthcoming. As far as is practical we should not only trade with those in business and those in the professions, but should be boosters in getting other races and classes to likewise do so.

If the Negro would become a factor in this community he should be public spirited, taking an active interest in the things that will build up the community. He must do his bit in politics and do it under wise and conservative leadership.

Nothing is more essential than efficiency in whatever is undertaken. An inefficient employee especially