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Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College

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Mr. O. J. Baker

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* VOLUME X * NUMBER 9 *

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PRAIRIE VIEW STATE COLLEGE
Prairie View, Texas

I CALENDAR -

A May 1941

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Music Week | May 4-11 |
| 2 | Senior-Junior Entertainment | May 10 |
| 3 | Midwives Institute | May 12 |
| 4 | Honors Day | May 13 |
| 5 | Annual Alumni Meeting | May 17 |
| 6 | Baccalaureate | May 18 |
| 7 | Commencement | May 19 |

B June 1941

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Coordinated Institute | June 2-4 |
| 2 | Workers' Meeting | June 5 |
| 3 | Opening of Summer School | June 6 |
| 4 | Extension Agents School | June-July 5 |

II CALVIN HOFFMAN WALLER -

He was born May 1, 1880 and died April 15, 1941.

It was the possession of a sustained determination, and a consuming enthusiasm as well as an indefatigable "drive" which sent him from a humble parentage and an obscure environment, in the plains of central Georgia, in quest of knowledge to Tuskegee Institute and on to Pennsylvania State College where he was graduated and here to Prairie View State College where, as a member of the Faculty, he served for many years. It was under his guidance that for more than two decades the Extension Service for Negroes in Texas has become one of the largest and most effective educational units in the rehabilitation of Rural Life in the South for Negroes. He was a useful citizen and a helpful neighbor. In times of distress and calamity he was among the first to be present and the last to leave. His family, his work, and the every interest of Prairie View State College were always his first lines of defense. One should not wonder then that he has a host of friends and a multitude of acquaintances of both races throughout the South. Those qualities which made him a success in life, have not been monopolized; they are still here in unlimited abundance for the youth and the living.

If there is such a thing as eternal life, free of tears, pain and constant fear; if there is such a thing as mansions not made with hands, where the just are made perfect; and if there is a final reward for the faithful who "shall dwell forever with thee", - then death is the only door to these things.

III A WORTHY SUCCESSOR -

The position of State Leader for Negro Extension Service in Texas, is one that is fraught with tremendous responsibilities. If the person is to carry on in the fine way as our colleague, the late C H Waller, he

must possess unusual tact, resourcefulness, and rare ability. It was fortunate that Dr E B Evans, was drafted to assume this important task. In complete confidence, let us move forward knowing that -

- 1 The Extension Service is in the charge of a wise leader
- 2 The program of rehabilitating Negro Rural Life in Texas will continue to be extended in an effective manner.

Congratulations Dr Evans!

IV HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES -

A	Total Graduates	3,363
	(a) Male	1242
	(b) Female	<u>2121</u>
B	Attending Colleges	1,092 or 29.9%
	(a) Out of state	89 or 8.1%
	(b) In state	983 or 91.9%
C	Not in School	1,974 or 70.1%
	(a) Male	754
	(b) Female	1,405

Note:

This study was made over a period of 5 years - 1931 to 1936 - and after a lapse of five years, it has been resumed. The significant facts revealed about the graduates of High Schools for 1940, are as follows:

- 1 The number of High School graduates has increased greatly
- 2 There is a decrease in the number of students going to colleges out of the state
- 3 The number of students "not in college" and "in college" for 1940 is relatively the same as in 1936.

The 1974 High School graduates of last year, or 70% who are not in college, have very definite curricula implications for High Schools.

V COMMUNITY CHEST

We want to urge that those who have not paid their Community Chest dues, please do so this month. In fact, we have had the cooperation of nearly 100% of the faculty in meeting this obligation, and, we are certain that this fine record will be maintained this year. Although this Community Chest activity is purely voluntary, yet, it carries significant implications.

VI RETURNING -

Those of our staff who have been away studying will return this summer as follows:

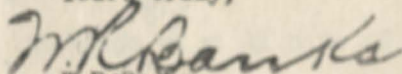
- 1 G W Morton - Summer School
- 2 G A Lockett - Summer School
- 3 C E Carpenter - Summer School
- 4 H E Wright - Summer School
- 5 G L Smith - August
- 6 O A Fuller - August
- 7 W L Watson - September

VII AND FINALLY -

"Let us gird ourselves carefully and deliberately to build a new world of culture by loosing human talent of every kind from the chains of poverty and prejudice so that the world may sing and paint and mold, write and portray and say with voice and actions whatever it will, unfettered and unrestrained. Not in war, violence, agitation and hatred come peace and civilization but in creative work, human cooperation, the equality of the souls of men and utter freedom of truth and fantasy."

W E B DuBois
Phylon Institute

Yours truly,


W R Barks
Principal

P S - Next meeting will be Monday night at usual time and place.
Please note Monday night.

WRB

DATA SUBMITTED TO EXTENSION SERVICE PER DR EVANS
- By Henry A Bullock -

Conditions indicating the need and partly determining the nature of the program of Agricultural Extension Work among Negroes in Texas:

Conditions as Indicated by the Nature and Distribution of the Negro Population of Texas: The Negro population of Texas is dominantly rural. The 1930 Census reports show that 61.4 per cent of the Negro population of Texas live in rural areas. The Texas Negro population declined from 83.7 per cent in 1890 to 61.4 per cent in 1930. Although this shift in population is true for the nation as a whole, it has been characterized by conditions that facilitate an abnormal population distribution for rural areas. In this is our first major problem. Although we still have 48 per cent of our Negro population of the State on farms, we have experienced the age old problem of the drain of the most productive and independent element of our population from the farm. This may be mildly referred to as a form of folk depletion. It is just as ravaging in its nature for rural community life as soil depletion and soil erosion are for agricultural industries. Those who move are the adolescent and young adult groups whom the rural areas have spent thousands of dollars in training but must now release to urban areas that have had little or no responsibility for training and developing them to productive maturity.

It is true, even now, that over 40 per cent of all Negroes in the state who are gainfully employed are engaged in agricultural pursuits. The 1930 Census showed 42.8 per cent of all working Negroes engaged in such enterprises. Because of this, the welfare of agriculture in Texas determines the welfare of a large element of the Texas population - whites and Negroes included.

As is generally known, almost all of these Negroes are located in East Texas. This locates the problem of agriculture and therefore directs the

geographical directions of methods of agricultural improvement.

It is to be recognized that the Texas Negro farmer is mainly a tenant; that this rate of tenancy is on the increase. Between 1910 and 1930 land ownership among Negro farm operators in Texas decreased from 30.5 per cent in 1910 to 24 per cent in 1930. In other words, in 1910 69.5 per cent of the Texas Negro farmers were tenants; in 1930, 76 per cent were tenants. Of 76 major Negro counties - that is counties in which there is a relatively large Negro population - 29 possessed tenancy rates above 76 per cent.

Conditions as Indicated by Degree of Literacy of Texas Negro Population: These tenant farmers are further handicapped by lack of formal education. Although the Negro illiteracy rate in Texas is rapidly falling, there is still the problem of too few Negroes who can read and write. Whereas 52.3 per cent of the Texas Negro population were illiterate in 1890, less than 16 per cent were so classed in 1930. In spite of this fact, in 1930, 84 Texas counties possessed a Negro illiteracy rate above the rate for Negroes of the state as a whole. Twenty (20) of these counties had over 20 per cent of their Negro population illiterate. Inadequate school facilities and a poorly constructed curriculum tend to give us very little hope for those Negroes who have had the chance to secure some form of formal education.

Conditions Indicated by Health Status of Negroes: There is no better indication of the physical deficiency of Texas Rural Negroes than the rate at which infants die. The total infant mortality rate for Texas was 71.7 infant deaths per 1000 live births in 1934. When we distribute the rates by counties we see that those counties that have a high ratio of Negro population have higher infant mortality rates. In all instances the Negro death rate is higher than that of whites in the same area. We are underfed, underhoused, and undertrained. These take their toll in abnormal mortality and relief rates.

Implications of These Problems for Agricultural Extension: These are not all of the problems which we face. They merely prescribe and define a pattern, the expansion of which is the rule rather than the exception. The fact that a large proportion of our population is rural definitely justifies concerted and serious effort in planning for these people. The fact that a larger number of those who work is found in agriculture than in any other occupational field is added evidence of the fact that there is a chance for a successful extension program to go a long distance toward shaping the economic life of Negroes in Texas. That these farmers are mainly tenants is suggestion to us that we must shape our program to correspond to the problems of tenant-landlord relationships. That we must recognize that the land-lord has a case as well as the tenant; that our program must be democratic in that it will result in the greatest good for the greatest number in the greatest state. That there is a health problem is evidence of the necessity of our so shaping our extension program that it will not only assure adequate subsistence but adequate and wholesome diet for adequate health.

We know, from facts on the educational status of Negroes in the state, that our program will not only be hampered by a poorly educated group of Negroes, but that it will have to be shaped to assist in the education of these masses.

If these problems can be adequately met, the Texas public will no longer have that tremendous responsibility of supporting dependents; it will no longer have as a great responsibility as it now has of providing for the care of the mentally deficient, physically ill and morally unsound.

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE OF TEXAS
College Station, Texas

June 11, 1940

Dear Sir:

The Board of Directors of the College has given instructions that a copy of subsection (17) of the Appropriation Act for the current biennium, which is a part of the law of the State, be enclosed with the monthly salary check of each member of the College Staff. For your information the Sub-section is printed below.

Very truly yours,

/s/ T. O. Walton
PRESIDENT

"Subsection (17) Be it further provided that, since liberty is the most precious heritage enjoyed by the people of this nation or any other nation in the world, a heritage which has been denied to such a large percentage of the peoples of this earth, and it is indeed comforting to know that such splendid and patriotic organizations as the American Legion, The Spanish-American War Veterans, The Daughters of the American Revolution, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the various women's auxiliary organizations, and every patriotic American citizen, are all ever on guard against vicious, subversive, alien influences which would sow their seeds of destruction on American soil; and because of the fact that the oceans which protect us on the east and on the west cannot protect us from dangers from within, it would seem that even in this enlightened year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-nine, eternal vigilance must as ever be the price we must pay for the maintenance of our heritage of liberty; therefore, in order that the American people may be fully protected from all sources of alien and un-American propaganda, to the end that the American way of life shall be preserved; and that war shall never again take the sons of American mothers over seas to alien soil and into a holocaust brewed of the hates of nations; and to this end, in order that the youth of America may be protected against unscrupulous or unwise and un-American doctrines and principles, it is hereby further provided that any member of any faculty of any State-supported institution who shall advocate, subscribe to or believe in Communism, or any form of totalitarian state doctrine, that is, that the individual citizen exists for the benefit and glory of the state, which is the opposite and the antithesis of the American ideal and theory that all governments should exist for the benefit and glory of the citizens thereof, shall be discharged from such faculty when found guilty of advocating or encouraging such theories of government by the governing board of such institution."