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HAPPY NEW YEAR



JANUARY - 1943

PRAIRIE VIEW STATE COLLEGE
Prairie View, Texas

A CALENDAR -

- 1 Football...Langston University-Prairie View
State College, Houston.....January 1
- 2 Negro History Discussion..... January 7, 21 and 22
- 3 Religious Emphasis Week ,,, Dr Richardson
Tuskegee Institute. January 8, 9, 10
- 4 First Semester Ends January 31

B MILITARY -

The recent law requiring all young men to register from 18 to 19 years and Executive Order exempting men over 37 years of age from military service will affect the colleges in two important areas, viz -

- 1 It will practically strip the colleges of all male students who have reached their 18th birthday.
- 2 It will hasten the call of married men with no dependents unless they are teaching subjects directly related to the war efforts.

Prairie View State College is committed to the utilization of its facilities in training men for every phase of war endeavor. Therefore, it is expected that much of our college life will assume a definite military atmosphere. Many significant changes are anticipated for the Second Semester in taking steps to synchronize our educational program and machinery with war preparations.

C VICTORY GARDENS -

The recent announcement from Washington that further rationing of foods may be expected prompts the suggestion that the families of the college community should plant Victory Gardens. There is plenty of idle land around our homes that could be used in growing vegetables for table use. Besides a small garden would offer a splendid opportunity for open air exercise after being in doors all day. In order that this Victory Garden program be carried out, it is very necessary to recommend and insist that those who have hogs and livestock of any kind make immediate arrangements to confine them in a safe place. Please cooperate in these suggestions so that every family will have a Garden. It might be well to organize a Garden Club in different sections of the campus.

D FIRST AID -

For a great while there has been much said and written about the importance of every person's knowing the first principles of First Aid, but this has not got beyond the "talking stage." It is generally conceded that a general knowledge of First Aid is a thing that intelligent people need for protection in unforeseen

emergencies. How many people at Prairie View State College would know the proper thing to do in the event of a serious accident or crisis? Let each one answer this question for himself. It must be admitted that our knowledge of the important subject is very limited or it is so general until it is vague and useless. We are pleased to announce that plans are under way to make it possible for every person at Prairie View to know the minimum requirements of First Aid that will lead to a Red Cross Certificate.

E ATTENTION PLEASE -

You will find attached to this News Letter two reports of far-reaching significance. The first one has to do with the findings of Bi-racial Commission sponsored by President H P Rainey, President, University of Texas, Austin; Dr T O Walton, A & M College, College Station; and Dr L A Woods, Superintendent, State Department of Education. The Steering Committee, which recommended to the general Commission these findings, is composed of Dean B F Pittenger, University of Texas, Austin; Dean A D Brooks, A & M College, College Station, President T W Currie, Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin; Mrs Joe Wessendoff, Columbus; Dr H L Lee, Ex-President National Negro Medical Association, Houston; President J J Rhoads, Bishop College, Marshall; and W R Banks, Prairie View.

This Bi-racial Committee is composed of some of the most influential men and women of both races in Texas and the State Superintendent of Education, Dr L A Woods, is the Chairman. Without question this movement ushers in the dawn of a New Day in education of Negroes on all levels in Texas.

The second report is from the Committee selected by the Board of Directors to make an exhaustive study of the program of training of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, College Station. The Committee gave some attention to the work of Prairie View State College and its report is submitted hereto. The Committee was composed of Dr John J Tigert, President University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida; Dean Andrey A Potter, Perdue University, Lea Fayette, Indiana; Dean Harlow L Walster, North Dakota Agricultural College, Station College, N D.

F RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS -

In carrying out the Religious Emphasis Week Program it is fortunate that we can bring to Prairie View State College Dr A V Richardson, Chaplain, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. The Y M C A Leadership Institute will hold a brief session Saturday and Sunday in conjunction with the program of the week. Dr Richardson will be available for group discussion and conferences.

G AMONG OTHER THINGS -

- 1 Dr Smith and his Committee are due congratulations for the fine program at the Faculty Banquet Tuesday evening, December 8. It was a grand occasion. Dr Booker was at his best as Toast Master.

2 Mr Buchanan reports that payments to the Faculty Community Chest Fund are coming in nicely. The following Departments and Divisions have reported 100%:

- (a) Principal's Office
- (b) College Exchange
- (c) The Library
- (d) Military Department
- (e) Registrar's Office

All contributions to the Community Chest are deductible from Income Tax.

3 Prairie View State College has a large number of her former students serving in many capacities with our military and naval forces. It is gratifying to know that the military training required of the young men here for twenty years has been responsible for most of the boys being given officer assignments or other responsibilities of major importance.

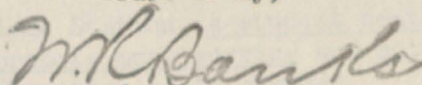
H AND FINALLY -

"All white people appreciate the Negro's Military Service. He is fighting for the same freedom, the same way of American life, that the white boys are fighting for, and properly so. He is entitled to have what he is fighting for and he shall have it."

- Editorial, Houston Post - November 30, 1942 -

I am

Yours truly,



W. R. Banks
Principal

WRB:bt

P S: Meeting usual time in College Gymnasium. May we suggest that every one be present and on time?

2 Prairie View State College

(1) General. The administration and staff of the Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College have soundly conceived objectives. These were set forth in systematic fashion by a Committee on College Objectives which presented its report in January, 1942. The Survey Committee commends their entire report and particularly endorses the recommendations for extending the opportunity for Nursing Education in the Division of Health and for establishing an agricultural research center. It is recommended, too, that the limitation of students in Home Economics be removed in the future as quickly as possible. The Division of Arts and Sciences is well planned and no special recommendations are made concerning it. Independent research in several fields including Sociology, Economics, Biology, and Chemistry indicate that a group of the faculty are capable of conducting research work of excellent quality. The institution, like others in the system, suffers from an overloaded staff and classes of excessive size.

The Library is small (15,000 volumes) and its annual appropriation of \$2,500 is inadequate. Seats are provided for only 15 percent of the regular enrollment. In spite of these handicaps, the Library is being excellently administered. The graduate work that is being done is possible only because of a library loan service which is provided by the University of Texas and other institutions.

A major problem is found in the heavy mortality of students. 40 percent of the freshmen drop out and a careful study by the President reveals the fact that 80 percent of these drop out for economic reasons. The Survey Committee recommends that the tuition be reduced. It does not appear equitable to charge the same tuition for these students, as for White students at the other State schools, considering the economic status of the Negro population. Every possible form of employment available is being given the students in order that they may earn their way but the location of the School, in the open country, limits sharply the possibility for outside employment.

In the important field of Teacher Training, the institution greatly needs additional facilities. There are about six thousand Negro teachers in Texas and Prairie View is now turning out only 150 annually.

At Prairie View, as at College Station, a student center is a great need, the realization of which would promote more service and better morale than any one constructive improvement the Committee could suggest.

(2) The Division of Agriculture. The Survey Committee finds that the Division of Agriculture has two four-year curricula, namely a curriculum in Agricultural Education and a curriculum in General Agriculture, the freshman and sophomore years of the two being identical. Studies made by the faculty of the College at Prairie View show in the past five years 92 percent of its graduates have entered educational work, either as teachers of vocational agriculture or as county extension agents. It is obvious that this outlet for its agricultural graduates is approaching saturation; in fact, that point would be here now if the war had not taken a considerable number of these men away from their jobs. The salary opportunity of from \$110 to \$150 a month offered an agricultural graduate of Prairie View is naturally attractive, for at the time of his graduation he is not financially able to enter actual farming. That these graduates are well oriented toward actual farming appear from the fact that 25 percent of the Negro vocational agricultural teachers and extension agents operate farms or businesses related to the farming enterprise.

The Survey Committee suggests that the Board of Directors make every effort possible to secure further support for the "Laboratory Farms" idea now under way with two units. The Farm Security Administration has promised aid in helping young Negro graduates establish themselves. It is to be hoped that such a program may gain added impetus.

The number of enrollees in the two-year collegiate course in agriculture is so small that it would appear to perform no useful function.

Inasmuch as the soil at Prairie View is relatively poor, the Committee suggests that as soon as feasible the farm be enlarged. This area offers an excellent opportunity for demonstrating soil conservation principles. More land is needed to supply pasturage and forage crops for the herds and flocks necessary for the agricultural unit.

(2) Division of Mechanic Arts. The "Trades and Industrial Education and opportunities offered in this field are performing useful functions. The location of the institution remote from industrial areas constitutes handicaps, particularly for industrial education.

The Committee recommends that consideration be given to the development of a new terminal program of study which will prepare people for posts concerned with the maintenance of public buildings and grounds.

In the long look ahead, it would appear that some time Texas might well establish an industrial school for Negroes in an industrial area and perhaps shift some of the industrial activities at Prairie View to such a school. The continuing broadening and strengthening of the agricultural opportunities at all levels at Prairie View is a program deserving of liberal support.

The industrial training now available at Prairie View might well be articulated somewhat more closely with the agricultural curricula so as to give agricultural graduates a somewhat wider range of mechanical skills.

(4) Graduate and Professional Courses. It is the judgment of the Committee that education for Negroes on the graduate level and in professional and technical fields will have to be gradually developed and strengthened in Texas as the result of the opinion of the United States Supreme Court, rendered in the Gaines case, against the University of Missouri, in which the principle was clearly laid down that each state would have to provide within the borders of the state, equal educational opportunities for all. As Texas is already offering a program and providing the types of education which are offered in Land-Grant Colleges at Prairie View, the most economical and satisfactory solution of the problems which are created by the Supreme Court decision will be found in providing additional higher educational opportunities at Prairie View for Negroes.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF STEERING COMMITTEE
TO
THE SPONSORS AND COMMISSION
FOR
THE IMPROVEMENT OF NEGRO EDUCATION IN TEXAS

STATE CAPITOL, DECEMBER 16, 1942

The Steering Committee makes the following recommendations to the sponsors and Commission:

1 That the Commission be requested to continue itself at least during the next biennium so that a body of interested people may be available to continue to work for improvement of opportunities for the education of Texas Negro people.

2 That the present Bi-racial Steering Committee be continued or that the sponsors be authorized to designate another to assist them in a continuation of the study of the educational needs at all levels and especially at the college level and in the work of trying to achieve the goals that will be set up by the Commission. The Steering Committee should report back to the sponsors and Commission before June 30, 1943.

3 That teacher training colleges and universities be invited and urged to include in their courses in administration and supervision necessary content material to prepare superintendents and supervisors to more fully realize and to handle the problems peculiar to the administration and supervision of the dual educational system.

4 That the Commission authorize the sponsors to set up a legislative committee to work with the sponsors in the preparation of a bill for a salary schedule beginning, without regard to race, with a minimum of say \$600 annual salary and providing for increases based on preparation and successful experience, and providing that state aid be conditioned upon impartial and fair adherence to the law.

5 That provision be made for the addition of two Negroes to the supervisory staff of the State Department of Education.

6 That the Commission urge the State Superintendent of Education and the State Board of Education to formulate a plan by which such service in supervision and leadership in Negro Education as is rendered by the Jeanes Teachers be made generally available to all counties with considerable Negro population and request from the Legislature the necessary legislation and appropriation.

7 That the State Superintendent of Education and the State Board for Vocational Education be urged to provide a plan of area supervision in home-making education for Negroes comparable to that now obtaining in vocational agriculture.

8 That the sponsoring committee be authorized to publicize factual information in any way it sees fit for the advancement of the undertaking.

9 That scholarship aid for out-of-state study by qualified Negro graduate and professional students be continued as during the last two bienniums, except as may be deemed wise to change because of Federal government plans and regulations for graduate and professional education.

10 That the importance of providing for the erection of a new library building at Prairie View State College as early as possible be emphasized in order that the State may be able to secure substantial aid for equipment and books from the General Education Board, Rosenwald Fund, and Carnegie Fund before these funds are liquidated. The library building and books are also essential to the development of graduate work at Prairie View State College.

11 That the Committee indorse and recommend the passage of appropriations as set up in column 5 of the first 4 pages of Principal Banks' budget report to the Commission except for items 2 and 3 upon page one, in which case, we recommend the corresponding items listed in column 6 be substituted as this would help to facilitate the Masters degree work in education. These items would add \$11,325 to the total of the 5th column. We indorse the budget recommendations as set forth in column 4 of the last two pages of Principal Banks' report.

The above report of the Steering Committee to the sponsors and Commission was approved December 16, 1942.

B F Pittinger, Chairman

Gordon Worley, Secretary