

Portland New Age

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AFRO-AMERICAN HANDLES MILLIONS YEARLY

So Successful as to Elicit Congratulations From Roosevelt.

If it is true, as is often reported, that President Roosevelt's intention, in making an Afro-American the international collector for the Second district of New York, was to confound skeptics as to the capacity of the race by the spectacle of an Afro-American administering with eminent success one of the most important offices under the federal government, then the President's intention has been accomplished to his satisfaction; for he has sent to Hon. Charles W. Anderson a letter congratulating him upon the conduct of his office during his first year, which has just been completed.

During the year his office has been examined four times by four different inspectors in the international revenue service, and each time the office has been rated No. 1. It has, therefore, maintained during the whole year a higher rating than it held when Mr. Anderson assumed charge. This is saying much for Mr. Treat, his predecessor, now treasurer of the United States, was regarded as one of the best collectors in the country. Under him the office was excellently managed and rated high. Three of the inspectors made special reference in their reports to the personal attention given by Mr. Anderson to the business of his office.

Since he has been in office Mr. Anderson has made, in the class exempt from the civil service, seven appointments, five of which were of Afro-Americans. These include one deputy at \$1,650 a year, one at \$1,400, two at \$1,200, and a lady stenographer at \$1,200.

In appointments under the civil service he has followed not only the letter but the fundamental intention of the law, which is to secure the best men as employees. As most of us know, the appointing power is allowed to choose from the first three names on the civil service list. Mr. Anderson has invariably taken the first man on the list, and has never availed himself of his opportunity to take the second or third. One Afro-American, who headed the list, Mr. Anderson promptly made a gauger.

The Second internal revenue district of New York, which extends from the Battery to Twenty-fourth street, comprises the Wall street and financial section of the city, perhaps the richest piece of territory of its size in the world. It is not only the seat of the greatest bankers, brokers and business men of the country, but also contains all of the largest importers of champagnes, French brandies, cordials, etc., and the greatest importers of whiskeys, tobacco and Havana and Porto Rican cigars. Both the tobacco trust and the whiskey trust have their headquarters in this district; the tobacco trust (the American Tobacco Co.) paying into the collector's office for stamps alone \$2,500,000 yearly. Besides there are nearly 1,500 other cigar manufacturers and tobacco dealers in the district.

Here also is located Special Bonded Warehouse No. 2, the largest in America, containing millions of dollars' worth of the finest old liquors.

Coming also under the collector's supervision are many of the greatest manufacturing chemists' houses in the country.

BOOKER WASHINGTON'S DECLARATION ON NEGRO EDUCATION. (Cincinnati Enquirer, June 13, 1906.)

The Douglas school, in Alms place, which is exclusively for colored children, and has only colored teachers, will have manual training and domestic science equipment installed during the summer, and, beginning in September, a larger variety of work in these two departments will be taught than in any other school in the city.

Booker T. Washington, principal of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, in a letter replying to one from Superintendent Dyer, asking for suggestions, says:

"Fundamentally, I cannot get away from the idea that the ideal system of industrial work or manual training for any people should be based upon a careful study of the occupations which the parents and the people in the community are actually engaged in. If, for example, the parents of the boys are engaged pretty generally in woodwork, brickwork, or household work, or the parents of the girls in laundering, cooking, or in household service of any character, I believe that the school should emphasize efficiency in the industry in which the parents are successful. When education is based on such a foundation, one is not running the risk of feeling that the student is being trained for an occupation which he cannot follow. To be more specific, the ideal arrangement for your school, it seems to me, would be to have your superintendent of manual training make a careful investigation and see in what direction the colored people are actually employed in the neighborhood from which these children come, and then in the school try to bring the every-day industrial life to the people in touch with what will be done in the school. In this way the education is not only made helpful and practical, but secures at once, or should secure, the interest and cooperation of the parents."

Superintendent of Manual Training Hall, when shown the letter, said: "The suggestions made by Booker Washington are good and valuable, but there is serious objection to carrying them out to the letter. His plan would leave children where their parents are, while our object is to broaden their horizon and enlarge their field of opportunity. We are now working out our plans, and, while details are not yet decided on, it can

be said that more things will be taught in the Douglas manual training department than in any other school."

New York, July 9.—Hannah Elias, the colored woman who has got \$685,000, mostly in one bunch, and a great deal more at other times from John R. Platt, has jarred a goodly part of Harlem by ordering all of the white tenants out of two big flat buildings, and notifying the neighbors that in future none but colored families will be allowed to occupy the premises.

This indicates that the wealthy colored woman will make a colored settlement out of one of the choicest neighborhoods above One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street.

Philip A. Payton, a colored real estate dealer of No. 67 West One Hundred and Thirty-fourth street, purchased a few days ago for \$100,000 the two flats at Nos. 168 and 170 West One Hundred and Thirty-fifth street, occupied by more than 15 reputable white families. West and east of these houses are many high-priced apartment houses. The occupants of these, as well as the tenants of the purchased houses, are the ones who are jarred by the edict of the rich woman.

The sale was made last week, and on Friday each tenant of the Elias houses received a note from Payton, notifying him to vacate by tomorrow, the note adding that in the future none but respectable colored families were to occupy the flats.

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