

MANHATTAN IN 1940?



This illustration gives a panoramic view of Manhattan Island. It shows the district that would be under complete Negro rule if the present tendencies in population continue.

the century it jumped up to Harlem, where it will probably be centered for some years. On the east side there is a large settlement around 99th street and smaller ones above 110th street.

Undoubtedly a large number of Negroes would have gone to other boroughs just as the whites did had they been welcomed and been able to find accommodations. So, while a few thousands have forced their way into Bronx, Queens and Richmond, the bulk live in Manhattan, with

about 40,000 across the harbor in the Borough of Brooklyn. In the meantime, the white population of the island is dwindling. If it decreased by nearly a half million in the five years from 1920 to 1925, how many will be left on the island by 1940? Certainly not many, if the present trend continues. Today the total population of Manhattan Borough must be close to 1,600,000, with the Negroes numbering 200,000, constituting one-eighth of the total.

Negroes to Rule by 1940
By 1935, at this rate, the total population of the Island will be much less than a million. If the number of Negroes resident there has grown to 500,000 by that year, colored people will control Manhattan politically, and by 1940 their supremacy will be beyond question. Then only rich whites, few in number, will be able to reside south of 110th street, while the colored folk will be massed north of that thoroughfare.

Thus it is certainly not far-fetched that Manhattan will be governed by a Negro borough president, represented by Negro aldermen largely, policed by black patrolmen and protected by black firemen and watchmen.

Free Negroes in 1791
Are Negroes deserving of such a trust? It would seem so. There were free Negroes on Manhattan Island in 1643. While slavery was inaugurated in 1650, their introduction was prohibited in 1782.

gradual emancipation began in 1799, and all of the enslaved Negroes were freed by 1827. The number of slaves began to decrease after two slave insurrections in colonial days: one in 1712 and the other in 1741, both ruthlessly suppressed with hangings and burnings of the culprits.

In 1704, Dean's school, the second educational institution for Negroes in the United States, was established; the famous Mother A.M.E. Zion Church came into being in

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THE LIFE OF BERT WILLIAMS No. 17 . . .

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"Under the Bamboo Tree" had an entirely white company with the exception of Bert, who was the star. All admired him and took him as a member of the "family."



They were very fond of him and all grieved when they found that in spite of his great acting his health was falling and that he played under great difficulties.



All day, every day, during the time of his last show in Chicago, he stayed in bed and gave orders to be reported "all right," despite the fact that he was very ill and needed constant attention.