have influenced him quite as much as he has influenced them.

The Black Renaissance

A great change has come over the darker races of the world. India, China, Japan, South Africa are speaking with the voice of manifest destiny. Whatever may happen to the white race,—whether it has reached the end of its rope, as some pessimists proclaim, or whether new and great achievements still await it,—there is no doubt that a new destiny awaits the colored races, and the age in which we live may be known as the Colored Renaissance.

The darker races are becoming self-conscious, that is conscious of their economic exploitation and of their own dignity and aspiration, and it is natural, and indeed wholesome that the American Negro should feel his kinship with this new spirit in the colored races of the world. But however much he may share this feeling and may gain spiritual sustenance from it, it is his racial position here that most of all makes him look elsewhere for his highest hopes. In his heart of hearts he is first of all an American, anxious most of all to share in the duties and discipline of American life. And the same is true of all the other races.

The same sense of racial discomfort is making them look elsewhere for their spiritual centre, when it is here in America that they would like to find their true spiritual home. For just as it is true that the American Negro is more American than African, so it is true that the American Catholic is more American than Roman, the American Jew more American than Jewish or Zionist, the Irish American more American than Irish, the German American more American than German, and so on through all the races—certainly those that have been nursed even half a century in our extraordinary American civilization. We are at the parting of the ways. Shall these races turn outward or inward for their spiritual centre? It needs only a new sense of racial equality, a new fusing religion of the American spirit, to destroy the centrifugal forces that are endangering our country.

Slavery Destroyed Rome

One of the greatest of European psychologists has pointed out how at the beginning of the Christian era three-fifths of the population of Rome consisted of slaves, and how this slave psychology flooded ancient Italy; how the Roman living constantly with slaves was inundated by slave psychology. For the hate and envy of a submerged race or group acts as a kind of subtle poison in the state.

History and Race Superiority

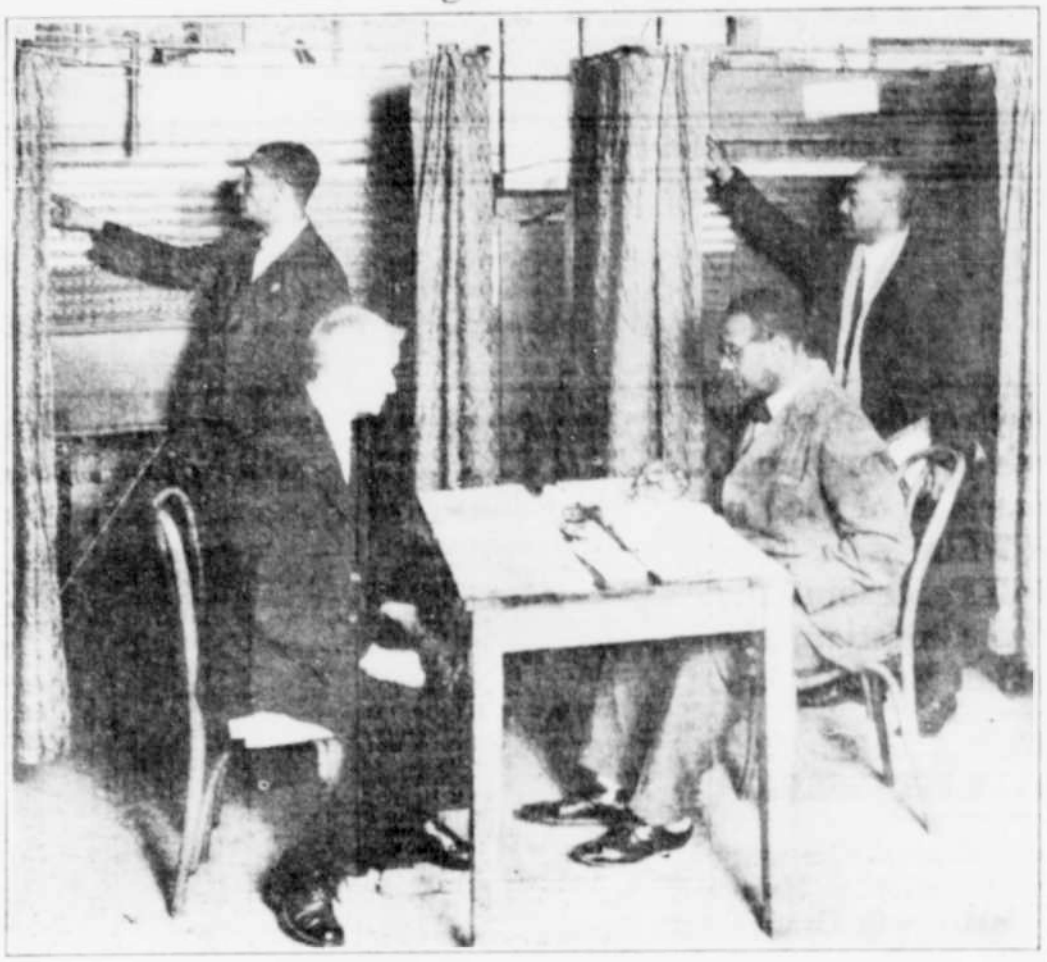
In making this plea for racial equality, I might appeal to the science of anthropology, which is virtually unanimous on two points: first, that there is no such thing as a "pure race"; and secondly, that no scientific evidence has yet been adduced to prove conclusively that any race is inherently inferior or superior. But I prefer to appeal, not to anthropology, but to history. A simple pride of race or love of country is natural and wholesome; but it would seem as if history teaches as clearly as it teaches any lesson, that the development of a conscious theory of superiority on the part of any race or people foretokens its early doom.

The first and most famous example is the theory of the "chosen people" among the ancient Hebrews, which was followed by the destruction of the nation and the dispersion of the race. But in more recent times there are even more striking examples.

In Dixie

We hear little of superior and inferior races in the South of Washington and Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, when our Southern states were at the height of their glory; it was a Virginian who created the famous phrase that all men are born free and equal. But in the decades just before the Civil

Here are Colored and White Judges of Election and Voters in a Polling Booth in Baltimore



But out of 300,000 black people in Louisiana eligible to vote, hardly 2,000 are registered. Race equality means a colored person could vote without fear of gangsters. Politicians never give a thought to the Negro who doesn't vote. If you think some Negroes lack political strength ask Judge Parker, who wanted to sit on the Supreme Bench. Race equality adds 5,000,000 more voters to the nation's elections. The N.A.A.C.P. has fought for political emancipation for 23 years. It will continue the battle.

She Rivaled Booker T. Twenty Years Ago

MISS MARY WHITE OVINGTON retiring N.A.A.C.P. president after 22 years of service as a national officer. Her first association dinner at a New York hotel with guests of both races attending created as much stir in New York newspapers as Booker T.'s dinner with Teddy Roosevelt at the White House.

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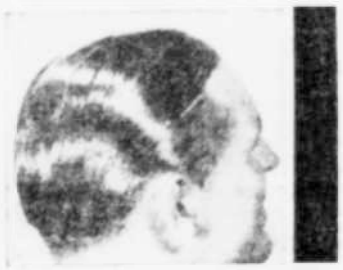

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