
Editor's Observations.

Buxton, Iowa.

On my wheel with quill in hand, we will again jot down a few observations from Monroe county, Iowa, including the town of Albia, Buxton and Hite-man. We had planned to give our readers an illustrated edition of Buxton; similar to one gotten out three years ago, but have deferred it until next year; hence we shall be satisfied with a synoptical mention of the far famed Buxton, which has been truly styled the Negro Athens of the Northwest. While there has been several attempts to "Write up the Town" by other editors in this limited space, I can but briefly mention a few of the interesting things that show signs of progress of the race under the best opportunity and environments as but few other Negro communities have. First thing, don't you believe all the bad things that you hear about Buxton by what some newspapers report; but go and see the Negro and his white companion, working in peace and harmony, hand in hand, in their daily labor. Unions in schools, and stores, in shops,

and in the mines. Here we have a population of 5,000 people of which 3,500 are colored. Here we see the whole town managed by colored people; here is the only town in Iowa that we saw automobiles running too and free owned and operated by colored men. Here we see rubber tired buggies drawn by fine horses, bicycles, hacks, wagons; in fact everything except the airship. The postmaster is J. P. Mill, a colored man with three assistants. Mr. Mills is a leading citizen, highly respected and an active church and Y. M. C. A. worker; the only first-class hotel is owned and managed by young W. L. Perkins and mother. He also runs a confectionary and news stand in the hotel. Lewis is a model and exemplary young successful business man, liked by the thousands of miners. Hobe Armstrong and son Charles, own the largest meat market in the city. and Mr. Armstrong is one of the wealthiest of our race in Ia. He was drawn on the Federal Grand Jury, and was in Ottumwa. He has

been in business twenty years. The Y. M. C. A. costing more than \$20,000, is a credit to any town; Mr. LeRoy Tucker is secretary, He is a fine young man; all business. He books all the shows at the theater and the Y.M. C. A. Literary course. He is a good man. Mr. W. A. Brown is Sec'y of the boys department where several hundred boys spent the evenings in study and gymnastics. He is the agent and representative of the Bystander. The large company store managed by Mr. R. R. McRea, an energetic up-to-date business man who now employs about fifty clerks, of which ten are colored. namely, Wm. H. Cozens, W. [P. Lewis, C. C. Strong, Jos. Baker, Henry Weaver, Channey Monroe, Walter Blaney, and Misses Susle Roberts, Julia Buckner and A. P. Sharp. This town contains nearly all secret societies known among the race. The Masons, the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Elks, Modern Woodmen, Knights and Daughters of Tabor, Red Men, True Reformers and I. L. U. Order. In the church we find it alive. The A. M. E. pastor-

ed by that able and hard worker, Rev D. E. Butler, whose cut and biography see elsewhere. Sunday they had a rally, raising over \$180 to finish paying off the old debt and to repair the church. The Mt. Zion Baptists have also been conducting a rally to put new chairs in their church, they raised \$280 00. Rev. Woodward has charge of the church, and is doing well. See cut elsewhere. The other Baptist church is now without a minister. The London Bros is still in the insurance business and runs a piano and milliner store. They are successful business men. The Jeffers Bros. still conducts the best restaurants here; serving good meats. Mr. B. F. Cooper is still in the drug store. As usual for the past sixteen years is doing a big business. He is the wealthiest single man of our race in Iowa. Ruben Gains, one of the wealthiest in Buxton is a real estate dealer. He has a fine automobile. Mrs. Lobbins runs a good restaurant in Coopertown. Mr. James Roberts owns the only cigar factory operated in this state operated by colored men. He is doing well and is a coming race man. The Gradison Bros. owns a first-class Taylor shop, doing

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well. Mr. J. W. Neeley owns a first-class grocery store in Coopertown, He has a large trade; he is a fine man to meet. Dr. E. A. Carter is employed by the company as one of the company's doctors. Dr. C. G. Robinson has a large practice. Mr. P. Abbington and Reasby are doing well with lunch wagons. In the public schools there are three buildings, with twelve teachers, with six colored and six white teachers. All schools are mixed. No. 2 has Mrs. W. London as the principle. See write up elsewhere. Miss Georgie Blackburn, Mami zP. Findly and Mary E. Bates, teachers. In No 1 Miss Ina Lafayette, principle with Misses Myrtle Besson, and Webb, teachers. No. 3, Marshall Thorp (white) principle His associates names we did not get. In the baseball field the Buxton Wonders are well known over Iowa. Last year they played 93 games and only lost 17, They have been organized for 7 years. This year's season just closed with them playing 43 games and winning 37. This term has been maintained for the past 7 years without asking the aid of Buxton, but next year it is likely that the business men will be asked to support it as all other semi-pros are

supported by the home town. The list of this year's players are: Manager, Riley Sales, Captain Richard S. Lee A very competent man from Evenston, Ills., who was ex-coach for the North Western University for six years. He is an excellent man and seldom makes an error; they ought to be proud to have him on their team, the 2d baseman is Geo. Neal, a great player, catcher is Cliff Wallace, the leading batsman; catcher John Cross, a very steady player; cather Clinne Carter, also good short stop; Adolph Wilson, and his brother, Horace. 2d base are two excellent players; left fielder is Robert Weaver, a coming star.

There are boys and girls away attending many colleges and Universities. Young L. R. Willis just graduated from dentistry at Howard University. He also attended two years at Highland Park and Macon, Mo., College. He may locate in Iowa. Miss Ruth South all is in Junior year at Howard. Prof. Hicks is taking a law course at the Iowa State University at Iowa City. Mr. I. K. Hutchins is still rinning his beauti-

ful drug store in the South part of the city. Mr A J. Brookins owns a very beautiful and up-to date grocery and notion store in the south end. He is a hustler, H. D. Williams has the only meat market in the south part of town, doing well His wife is assisting him. Mr John B. Lucas & Sons have a very large bakery and are doing a lucrative business. They are a credit to any race and are doing first-class work. Attorney Gee. L Woodson, the nesor of his state, lives here. and Mr. J. A. Spears a'iso practice law here. both doing well in their professions.

There are many other worthy people and business that we would like to mention but time and space will not permit before the illustrated edition comes out.

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Friday, November 4, 1910, Page 1, Columns 2 and 3