Race Prejudice Can Best Be Combatted Through Individual Effort, Declares Walter A. May The Pittsburgh Courier (1911-1950); Jan 20, 1923; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Pittsburgh Courier

Race Prejudice Can Best Be Combatted Through Individual Effort, Declares Walter A. May

Walter A. May, head of the May Drug Company and one of Pittsburgh's leading philanthropists, told a reporter of The Courier last week, 'I have a theory that race prejudice can be combatted best through individual action. I do not have time to develop this idea. But there is still the need of concerted action for an organization that can speak with authority for the group affected. In voicing the needs of a group, as well ns its aspirations, it must offer sane advice and not merely protests."



Kizzia atsville. Ala. The guests present ere the Mesdames O. Henry, Jennie Washington, Smith, King, Johnson, Negroes of Greater Tritsburgh have Jennie Johnson, needs which the community, whole should know, such needs can be presented only through an ac-credited organization. The business and professional men express their views through the Chamber of Commerce; the lawyers speak through the Bar Association of Allegheny County; the physicians through the Allegheny County Medical Association; labor has its local organization; Jewish social endeavor is expressed through

the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies; so too, other denominations and interests unite in some organization. "In order to be effective the Ne-

groes must have an organization of their own. If the Urban League is to satisfy this need, it must be ready to answer any challenge as to its right to speak for the group, but the only answer that would be convincing would be that it has a membership numbered by the thousands and not by hundreds and that these members show their confidence by voluntarily assessing themselves with member-

ship dues to carry on the work:

is to continue to extend its usefulness in this community will be determined sofely by the number of members who enroll themselves each year. There is no other means of knowing whether your racial needs are being interpreted correctly or whether sat-isfactory results are being obtained." Mr. May was the first president of the Pittsburgh Urban League and served in that capacity for three conof her parents. Mrs. Rebecca Muzon, matron of honor, appeared in green taffets with silver lace trimming. Miss Lucille Martin of St. Augustine,

spirited white persons. As an evidence that Mr. May fully comprehends the necessity for such an organization as the Urban League in Pittsburgh the following statement made over two years ago shows his keen insight into the problems confronting the Negro in community life in the Ditteburgh district and the nein the Pittsburgh district and the ne-

a most substantial contributor to the

work and his interest has brought to the League the support of many fine

cessity for judicious handling of corrective measures for the best good of all concerned. Mr. May's statement

"Some twelve million Negroes in the United States constitute a fact; some fifty thousand in Pittsbu stitute a fact; some sixty thousand passing through our railroad stations in the past five years constitute a fact; thirty-three thousand Negro migrants settling in the Pittsburgh district constitute a fact. Lack of understanding, or training for the changed environment on the part of the Negro migrant is very generally a fact; inadequate housing is a fact. "Upon these facts certain factors are the part of the pa "Every intelligent man, woman of the Negro race who is able to spare from \$1 to \$100 a year is urged to give this support to the 'Urban League. Whether the Urban League

can be brought to bear: Educational opportunity, through church, school and neighborhood, is an important factor; the quality of education afforded is a factor; opportunity for wholesome recreation is a factor; the conditions of industry is conditions of industry is conditions of these facts and Well 171 say! more are fundamat the Jolly Journal health of theife.

can be brought to bear: Educational

trial effer "It in's Auxiliary.

The me ting of the Western District of the Land Bernstein of the L ban League says this also, but in addition it says, it is unwise, it is costly, it is wasteful." Here are some of the things the Ur-

ban League asks referred to it-persons asking you for financial assistance, needing relief, such as food, clothing or coal; newcomers seeking lost relatives or friends; individuals needing clinical or hospital care; babies looking for home or homes looking for babies to adopt; lodgers looking for rooms or families looking for lodgers; persons needing assistance in getting transportation to relatives; persons having difficulties not neces-sarily requiring legal advice; persons needing jobs—the State Employment Bureau occupies adjoining offices; for Bureau occupies adjoining offices; for information about clubs, churches, or any data concerning the Negro in the Pittsburgh district. The Urban League assists directly in adjusting only a few of the above kinds of cases, but it maintains close co-operation, with the cooled and interest. tion with the social and industrial channels through which it can get the best and quickest results and will ad-vise you of what is done with the cases referred to it.

It is natural to want to help in such cases, but oftimes more harm than good is accomplished.

The annual "Round-Up" for mem-

The annual "Round-Up" for mem-berships and contributions for the League in a county-wide canvass of League. In a county-wide canvass of every Negro home to help in the support of a larger program for 1923 will be held from January 25 to 27 inclusive. The goal set for Negroes in this drive is \$5,000. Mr. Clark, the executive secretary, says that he would like to have 300 more workers and tive secretary, says that he would like to have 300 more workers and requests that persons interested be kind enough to get in touch with the League at once.