

An Opportunity In the Southland

A Review of an Interesting
Work for the Negro Youth
of the South Which Has Won
the Endorsement of the Gen-
eral Education Board of the
Rockefeller Foundation

THE AMERICAN CHURCH INSTITUTE FOR NEGROES
281 Fourth Avenue
New York, N.Y.



HOME MAKERS OF THE FUTURE

This advanced cooking class at the Fort Valley School in Georgia will go a long way toward making comfortable homes in that section of the country



GENERAL FACULTY, ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL, LAWRENCEVILLE, VIRGINIA

Archdeacon Russell, who has been the principal of this school ever since its beginning, doesn't appear in this picture. St. Paul's is one of our largest Negro schools

Notable Recognition Accorded Negro Schools

General Education Board Makes Conditional Gifts to Fort Valley and St. Paul's

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Executive Secretary American Church Institute for Negroes and Campaign Director, Field Department, National Council

TWO of the ten schools maintained in the South by the American Church Institute for Negroes have received a signal honor. After careful studies made by the General Education Board (Rockefeller Foundation)



THE REV. DR. PATTON

that body has made generous appropriation toward the financial well-being of these schools, and the opportunity for manifestation of Church-wide interest in this cause seems to be at hand. The schools thus honored are the Fort Valley High and Industrial School, Fort Valley, Georgia, and St. Paul's Normal and Industrial School, Lawrenceville, Virginia. This article acquaints readers of *THE SPIRIT OF MISSIONS* with the scope and service of these two outstanding institutions, tells in detail the impressive recognition they have won, and suggests how our people may cooperate.

In area, Georgia is the largest state east of the Mississippi. It has the largest Negro population of any Southern state east of the Mississippi. It contains by far the largest Negro population of any state in the Union, the census giving it 1,206,000 Negroes out of a total population of slightly less than 3,000,000. In spite of the much heralded migration of Negroes northward, this one Southern state of

Georgia still contains more Negroes than the whole of New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois combined.

The Fort Valley High and Industrial School at Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia, occupies the same relative importance to Negro education in Georgia that Hampton does to Negro education in Virginia. Fort Valley's influence and reputation is not, of course, as extensive outside of Georgia as is Hampton's beyond the borders of Virginia, but Fort Valley has first place in Georgia. It is generally understood that if the Church would consent to turn over this property and its control to the state, the state would make it the center of its educational program and policy for Negro education in Georgia. It is not merely Fort Valley's position and reputation which the state covets, but, as frankly admitted, it is Fort Valley's spirit. This spirit has grown with the growth of the school during more than twenty years since the present Negro principal, Mr. H. A. Hunt, remarkable alike as teacher and administrator and Christian gentleman, became associated with it. If one doubts the value of Christian education plus vocational training for Negroes let him become acquainted with Mr. Hunt and his wife, and visit the towns, villages and countryside of Georgia within seventy-five miles of Fort Valley where 400,000 Negroes live, and he will see for himself a race being reborn.

Concretely, what has Fort Valley

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done? What is it doing? These are the final tests.

First, against incalculable odds of prejudice, ignorance and organized opposition, especially on the part of the worst of the white element, the school and its principal have won the confidence of former traducers. Some who formerly threatened to burn the school now contribute to its support. In addition to its extension work throughout a wide territory, Fort Valley gives direct instruction at the school to between 1,500 and 2,000 Negroes. Of these more than 700 are registered in the regular school term from September to June. On an average 1,000 more receive special instruction at the school in limited courses such as teacher training, farmers' conferences, social service, religious education and the like. Tens of thousands throughout the county and in adjoining counties are directly influenced and taught through the school's "Extension Service."

All students, both boys and girls, receive both academic and industrial training. The Academic Department offers the twelve grades of work as prescribed by the State Board of Education. A normal course, whose graduates receive teachers' certificates from the State Superintendent of Schools, provides teachers for the limitless demands of the rural county schools. A night course is given to those students who must work on the farm or at some trade during the day.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING GIVEN

In the Industrial Department the boys receive instruction and practice in agriculture. Opportunity to carry out projects on the farm and among the livestock is afforded. There is practical training in bricklaying, carpentry, plastering and painting. The girls receive instruction and practice in laundering, cooking, sewing, housework, as well as dressmaking, weaving and basketmaking.

These hard won lessons are carried into the home and into the community. Practical chemistry, as applied to agriculture, is carried from the school to the farms where, in addition to the better class of Negroes, many ignorant, shiftless, dishonest and seemingly hopeless Negroes are being transformed into decency, respectability and usefulness under the guidance of the boys and girls who received their training and their inspiration for service at Fort Valley.

A BIG, BRIGHT LIGHT

This school influences the ideals and affects the conduct of more than half a million Negroes. It is the biggest, brightest light in a vast, dark valley one hundred miles long by one hundred wide, containing 570,000 Negroes.

The "Extension Service" of the school is conducted under five heads: Farm Demonstration Agent, Home Maker Club Agent, Jeanes Worker, Social Service and Health Service. Wholesale redemption, reaching tens of thousands of Negroes through every open path of intelligent service—that is the work of the Fort Valley School. Realizing the efficiency of its service, the state government of Georgia and the United States government pay the salaries of five agents and teachers who work with and under the direction of the management of the school.

Assured of the truth of the above statements through a thorough survey by their own specialists, the General Education Board (The Rockefeller Foundation) said *in substance* to the Director of The American Church Institute for Negroes and to the Principal of the Fort Valley School, "You have provided \$180,000 in your Advance Work Section, as officially adopted by General Convention, for building, equipment, etc., at this school. You agree with us that this school needs immediately and deserves some equipment and buildings not included in your program. These addi-



THE CATTLE CLUB OF FORT VALLEY SCHOOL, GEORGIA

The boys are being taught how to judge cattle. Fort Valley is doing much to improve farming in this agricultural section

tions will cost \$90,000 more or a total of \$270,000. We will give \$100,000 towards your program, in addition to the \$25,000 we have already appropriated, if you will raise the remainder. Furthermore, we will pay our \$100,000 as soon as you assure us that you have raised \$100,000 of your share plus \$13,000 of accumulated debts." In other words, including \$25,000 previously given, the General Education Board grants us \$125,000 towards a total objective of \$270,000 for Fort Valley, payable as soon as we inform them that we have raised \$113,000. Could anything be fairer or a higher tribute of confidence to the school, to the American Church Institute for Negroes and to the National Council?

Towards our share, \$113,000, which must be raised to secure the additional gift of \$100,000 from the General Education Board, we have received \$33,000 in cash and pledges, leaving \$80,000 to be raised for Fort Valley.

To tell in full the story of St. Paul's Normal and Industrial School at Lawrenceville, Virginia, would be to repeat the substance of much that has been said above about Fort Valley. In many respects the work is similar. Owing in part to the fact that St. Paul's has been an Institute School

much longer than Fort Valley, its work in general is known by a larger circle of Church people than that of Fort Valley. Archdeacon Russell's achievement as Principal of St. Paul's has given him a reputation unparalleled by any other Negro in our Communion. His saintly life, his dogged determination, his tact, patience and unfaltering faith, his own extreme poverty and the poverty of his school during those dark years when Negro education was taboo in the South, have earned for him a just distinction.

Dr. Russell was born a slave. The Proclamation of Emancipation declared him free. Mr. Hunt was born after the Civil War in the Reconstruction Period, which, in some respects, was a worse heritage than to be born a slave. But real freedom cannot be conferred or withheld by proclamation or by birth. It is an achievement of the spirit and of the mind. Both of these men achieved freedom for themselves and their people by self-discipline, by labor, and by humble dependence on God.

From the standpoint of good relations between the races, efficient labor in the trades, and the influences which make for good citizenship and public

order, St. Paul's is the greatest single asset in all that section of Virginia lying between Richmond, Danville and Lynchburg, and even beyond. Its students come not alone from Virginia, but from ten to twenty other states, including those in the North.

CONTACT WITH COUNTY

St. Paul's and its work are original and unique in several respects. In general, all of our Institute Schools are patterned after the fine example of Hampton and Tuskegee. Several of our principals, including Dr. Russell, and some of our best teachers were trained at Hampton or Tuskegee. We owe an incalculable debt to Hampton and Tuskegee for having blazed the trail and for their excellent standards. But St. Paul's and Fort Valley, and other Institute Schools, are meeting a need in a manner and from an angle of approach which both Hampton and Tuskegee would gladly admit they cannot duplicate. The job is too big, too many sided to be accomplished by one or two institutions however efficient. Our ten Institute Schools are indeed an extension of the Hampton-Tuskegee idea and plan. We are proud of it.

St. Paul's School, throughout the year, keeps its finger on the pulse of the whole Negro population of the county in which the school is located through a unique, personal contact with each family. The school has divided the county into 310 groups, in each of which three of the best Negroes are selected as leaders of the others. Three times a year the school communicates by messenger or letter with these 310 groups of three who in turn pass on the good work of instruction, advice and encouragement concerning every phase of Negro life.

The General Education Board has, therefore, recently informed us that it would like to share also in the building and equipment program for St. Paul's.

The immediate program for St.

Paul's, including, as in the case of Fort Valley, the payment of accumulated deficits, is \$158,000. This total is less than the amount of the program for Fort Valley because it was not deemed expedient to undertake more for St. Paul's at this time. The \$158,000 includes a dormitory for girls, a practice school building, and accumulated deficits incurred chiefly for repairs and improvements for the protection of the property. Towards this sum \$34,000 has been raised, in addition to the appropriation of \$33,333.34 from the General Education Board, payable when the remainder, or approximately \$90,000 is raised.

Towards the whole objective of \$270,000 for Fort Valley, plus \$158,000 for St. Paul's, a total of \$428,000 for the two schools, \$258,000, including the General Education Board's gift, is in hand in cash and pledges. The remainder to be raised to complete the whole immediate program for the two schools is therefore \$170,000.

POLICY OF THE INSTITUTE

The American Church Institute for Negroes is the organ of the National Council for the supervision and administration of this work. It is a Corporation and a Trust Company, authorized and empowered by law to receive, hold and disburse all money given for this purpose. Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, well known both in America and abroad as one of the leading authorities, says, "The unique value of the American Church Institute for Negroes, among all American agencies for Negro education and inter-racial concord, deserves special consideration and commendation. There is no other institution that combines the following qualities with such substantial reality. First, it represents the national interest of the Episcopal Church of America in the Negro people. Second, the Institute works through the local dioceses, thus insuring local coöperation



CLASS IN TAILORING AT ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

Every student at St. Paul's must take a course in some industry in addition to going through the academic department

of white and colored people, an equally fundamental belief of the American people. Third, the colored people are encouraged to participate actively in the affairs of their schools. It is increasingly recognized that sound religion and effective education require coöperation with a people rather than for them. The officers of the Institute understand the truth of this vital principle and they are working to realize it in the policy of the Institute."

The Institute is the witness and the voice of the whole Episcopal Church. No other religious body in America is so constituted and organized for the education of the Negro people. The Institute has never lost a dollar of its invested funds; but, by wise investment, has largely increased them.

The ten Institute Schools are incorporated under the laws of the eight Southern states in which they are located. The American Church Institute is like a parent corporation to them all, fostering, coöperating with and directing them in coöperation with their own Boards of Trustees and management.

The Institute and its schools hold endowments of about \$400,000 which should be expanded to \$5,000,000. The total property held is worth more than \$2,000,000. The present budget for maintenance is nearly \$550,000, towards which the National Council appropriates \$150,000. The remainder is raised by special gifts, by income from endowments, and from fees and charges to students. Students pay about forty per cent of the total budget for maintenance.

This story of the work of The American Church Institute for Negroes, with special reference to the Fort Valley and St. Paul's Schools, is told in this number of THE SPIRIT OF MISSIONS, in order that Churchmen may be more fully informed as to the character of this work for America, and in the hope that the whole of the \$170,000 necessary to secure the gift from the General Education Board and to complete this program, will be sent spontaneously to the Treasurer of the Institute, or to the Treasurer of the National Council, without resort to any kind of drive.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
 PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 281 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

I enclose herewith \$..... for the Advance Work Items for The American Church Institute for Negroes.

I desire this used:

- (a) For Advance Work either for St. Paul's or Fort Valley, at the discretion of the Institute.
- or (b) For Advance Work at Fort Valley School, Fort Valley, Georgia.
- or (c) For Advance Work at St. Paul's School, Lawrenceville, Virginia.

This gift is in addition to any pledge I have made or may make for the Budget of the Church's Program through parish channels.

Name

Address

Diocese Parish

The term "Advance Work" means primarily buildings and equipment. Gifts for the foregoing purposes count on the Advance Work quota of the Diocese. Checks should be made payable to LEWIS B. FRANKLIN, *Treasurer* of The National Council, or to LOUIS J. HUNTER, *Treasurer* of The American Church Institute for Negroes, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.