

nite contribution. While the roseate and visionary solutions are to be expected, although scholars do not think that they are necessary, they need not entail undue consideration.

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The Movable School Goes to the Negro Farmer. By Thomas Monroe Campbell. (Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee Institute Press, 1936. Pp. 170. Price \$2.00.)

No educator who values extension work that instantly enriches the lives of its adult students can afford to overlook this book. Its thrilling story is the veritable essence of vital education—education which pays immediate dividends in removing the squalor, disease, dilapidation, and ignorance which haunt the Negro farmer and his family in the South.

The idea of carrying to the very door of the Negro farmer a "college on wheels" was projected by Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee's famous founder. His guiding philosophy for advancement of the Southern Negro was that "We shall prosper in proportion as we learn to dignify and glorify labor and put brains and skill into the common occupations of life."

In 1906 two big mules pulled the Jesup Agricultural Wagon from the Tuskegee Institute campus to a backward section of Macon County, in which Tuskegee Institute is located. As the first Movable School, it carried a staff of teachers and a practical selection of implements and equipment with which to demonstrate improved farm practices to the Alabama Negro.

Through the years thousands of demonstrations have been given by the Movable School at the homes of Negro farmers. A demonstration lasts all day—and, many times, into the night. By advanced word-of-mouth advertising a large crowd is assembled at the home—usually that of a tenant farmer—where the demonstration is to be held.

The men are taught better farming methods of all sorts; and the women are instructed in various phases of home-making. With the cooperative labor of those present, the home of the farmer is improved during the day almost as if by magic. Its

cleaned-up premises, white-washed buildings, and repairs transform it into a model for inspiration to others.

Today the Movable School is transported in a new \$5,000 truck donated by Alabama Negro farmers and their friends to the Federal and State Extension Service. Named the Booker T. Washington Agricultural School on Wheels, its routes lead into every Alabama county and, frequently, into other Southern states.

The story of the Movable School would be incomplete without something of the life of Thomas Monroe Campbell, author of this book, who has been largely responsible for its development and who is the first Negro Extension agent appointed in America. An account of his heroic struggles to gain an education at Tuskegee contains all the drama of a modern play.

Son of a poverty-stricken tenant farmer in Northeast Georgia, T. M. Campbell heard of Tuskegee through fellow laborers soon after Booker T. Washington delivered his famous "Atlanta address" at the Cotton States Exposition in 1895. Four years later, with 35 cents in his pocket, he of necessity slipped away at night from home and headed for Tuskegee on foot—a distance of some 200 miles away. It was in the dead of one of the South's severest winters—January, 1899. His money was soon exhausted. He sought work to buy his food, and for a time was quartered with relatives who themselves were faced with starvation.

"I almost developed a grudge against cows and horses that had good comfortable stalls," he says in relating this experience in the "Semi-Autobiography," the part of the book which constitutes half the volume. "I became increasingly embarrassed at my boarding place because two young men were, as was I, out of work, and because the food they shared with me was hardly enough for them. One morning, while the ground was heavily covered with snow, I wrapped my feet in crocus sacks and, with only a stick for a weapon, went to hunt rabbits. Late in the afternoon I returned with a bag full of rabbits. That night we had a great feast for supper and sufficient was left over for a similar meal the next day."

After more than three months, Campbell, a towering Negro youth in tattered clothing, arrived at Tuskegee on April 26, 1899, only to find the school under an iron-clad smallpox quar-

antine. If he entered, he would be "imprisoned" until the quarantine was lifted and also face the danger of the dreaded disease. Nevertheless, he entered without hesitation and with only 15 cents in money. Quick vaccination saved him from smallpox, but soon a severe case of malaria almost proved fatal; and it did claim the life of his older brother who had preceded him to Tuskegee.

Looking back of his 37 years at Tuskegee as student and veritable "agricultural missionary" to his people, Campbell closes his book with what is certainly the keynote of his service to fellow Negro farmers in the South: "The deeper significance of it all is seen in the enrichment of the lives of the people,—these people who have no other educational advantages."

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