

to live. The Committee on Congestion of Population in New York city called the national congress with the idea of presenting to the American public this hygienic and social phase of city planning.

A CITY PLAN FOR NEW YORK

As a direct outgrowth of the City Planning Exhibition held under the auspices of the Committee on the Congestion of Population and the Municipal Art Society, an organization will shortly be effected to secure a city plan for New York. Two special conferences were held, the first attended by representatives of some thirty organizations interested in civic, social, economic, political and artistic improvement; and the latter by representatives of fifty-five such organizations, who voted unanimously in favor of a permanent committee. This will comprise a president and five vice-presidents, one from each borough, none of whom is yet chosen. Benjamin C. Marsh will be executive secretary and George B. Ford corresponding secretary. The other officers will be announced shortly.

The committee is to study ways and means of securing a city commission to be appointed by the mayor, which can study and advise and have power to act in all matters relative to a definite city plan for New York. This body differs from previous city improvement commissions in that it will pay special attention to the hygienic and social sides of the question. When the committee has decided on a plan of action, it is to report to the general conference.

In the formation of the committee, the city planning exhibit as held at the Twenty-second Regiment Armory, has definitely accomplished the object for which it was intended,—that is, to put the study of city planning on a definite and permanent basis.

CONFERENCE ON STATUS OF NEGRO

A significant National Conference on the Status of the American Negro will be held in New York on May 31 and June

1. The morning and evening sessions on the first day will be open to the public. The subject of the first meeting will be Race Prejudice Viewed from a Scientific Standpoint, with William H. Ward presiding, and papers by Prof. Livingston Farrand of Columbia and Prof. Burt G. Wilder of Cornell, and discussion opened by Prof. John Dewey. The second session will be a public meeting at Cooper Union, with Judge Wendell P. Stafford of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia in the chair, and addresses by the Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Clarence Darrow, Prof. John Spencer Bassett, Rev. J. Milton Waldron and Prof. W. E. B. DuBois. The other sessions, which are not open to the public, have as their subjects, The Civil and Political Status of the Negro, Industrial and Educational Status, The Negro and the Nation. Among the speakers announced are Oswald Garrison Villard, Edwin D. Meade, the Rt. Rev. Alexander Walters, Mrs. Celia Parker Wooley, Leslie Pinckney Hill, Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett, William A. Sinclair, Dr. William Bulkley, Joseph C. Manning and Ray Stannard Baker.

The conference, it is expected, will tackle its ticklish subject with the well-informed breadth of view exemplified by a timely article in the May *World's Work* by Professor DuBois on Georgia Negroes and Their Fifty Millions of Savings. In spite of bank failures and defalcations and every possible discouragement, the Georgia blacks have saved money and bought land. Emancipation, in 1863, "spelled poverty, complete and dire poverty, to the black man who for the first time was thrown on his own resources." The state helped a little at first, providing work and some cheap land, but soon gave it up, leaving the Negro to fight his way. In forty-four years he gained and held property assessed at twenty-five million dollars, probably worth twice as much at market rates. Negroes own one-twenty-fourth of the soil of the state, and one-twentieth of the cultivated land—a total of 1,420,888 acres, or 2,220 square miles—more than the whole state of Delaware. The number of landholders is

increasing, the value of their farms rising, more live stock and better tools are used—the Negro farmer is coming up in spite of everything. Other industrial classes are considered and out of it all Professor DuBois concludes that “these figures are absolute proof of nothing, but they are certainly hopeful. If they teach anything, they teach that the tendency to save, here manifest, should be encouraged. It is not being encouraged today. . . . What the Negro needs and what the South needs are postal savings banks.”