

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

bring about this result is the fact that the treasurer of the Odd Fellows of Mississippi, who lives in Holly Springs, frequently has as much as two hundred thousand dollars on deposit in the local banks.

I have long been convinced that the most important work that we have been able to do at Tuskegee and through Tuskegee, during the years that the school has been in existence, has not been in the educating of six or seven thousand students to the point where they are able to do good work, but that it has been in turning the attention of the masses of the people in the direction of those fundamental things in which the interest and the desire of both races in the South are in harmony; in teaching the people the dignity of labor; and in emphasizing the importance of those simple, common, homely things which make the life of the common people sweet and wholesome and hopeful.

If circumstances would permit, I would like to carry the campaign begun in Mississippi into every state in the South.

World's Work, 17 (Feb. 1909), 11278-82.

¹ John W. Strauther, an undertaker of Greenville, Miss., spoke at the NNBL meeting in 1904 on "Fraternal Insurance."

² A graduate of Illinois Medical College in 1899, Dumas later operated a sanitarium.

³ Edmund Favor Noel (1856-1927), governor of Mississippi from 1908 to 1912.

⁴ Luther Manship.

⁵ Reuben Webster Millsaps (1833-1916), a graduate of Harvard Law School (1858), was a major in the Confederate Army and afterward a successful cotton broker and banker in Jackson, Miss. As an active Methodist layman he helped to found Millsaps College and gave it financial support.

From Louis Bronislavovich Skarzynski¹

New York March 6th, 1909

Dear Mr. Washington: You were so kind as to promise me a written answer to the questions which puzzle me regarding the liquor problem in America. I should be glad to have an explanation of the subject from one so experienced as yourself in social problems.

1. Do you think that the liquor problem has any part (and if so, what part), in the solution of the entire Negro problem in the United States?