

## NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

If the Historical Society of America should issue a bulletin proclaiming that Columbus, the discoverer of America was an American Indian, or that Woodrow Wilson was a Republican, or that Julius Caesar settled the Alaskan Boundary dispute, immediately there would begin a feverish thumbing of history, and our libraries would be flooded with inquiries. In a very brief period the actual facts could be established and successful refutation made, and the truth as the world has accepted it for hundreds of years would be re-affirmed and stand unchallenged. And why? All because history touching all of these subjects has been so carefully recorded that the truth is established beyond peradventure of a doubt.

If some authentic source should rise and proclaim that a Negro settled Virginia and that it was a colored man who piloted the Mayflower, such a declaration would be received with laughter because the Negro has no history. The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History is trying its very best to establish in the mind of the world the fact that the Negro has a history worthy of record. For years Dr. Carter G. Woodson has been devoting his entire time to a careful collection of authentic acts and deeds performed by Negroes. He has been collecting the lives of individuals, the happenings of communities and the changing habitats of Negroes for the purpose of handing down to the future reading world some undeniable truths concerning this race of ours. That he succeeded admirably is due entirely to his untiring efforts and his refusal to be discouraged. Already he has furnished us with valuable volumes of indisputable facts concerning a race of people who are really without a consecutive history.

It is proposed to celebrate "Negro History Week" during the second week of February, 1927. The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History is calling upon the Negroes of the country to assist in this celebration. The celebration per se may not be considered valuable, but when it is remembered that there must always be something to celebrate and that future historians must record such a celebration it dawns upon us that the idea is not only a capital one for the group, but that it will be an event calculated to add materially to our already inadequate and incomplete history. THE PITTSBURGH COURIER joins readily in spreading the news to its readers and urging them to join heartily in this week of celebration in order that some definite imprint of the life and achievement of the Negro Group, especially in this country, may be made upon the public mind.

The average Negro student in school is taught the history of every race and tribe except that of his own. He is told by his professor that the Negro has no history; that the Negro has no achievements worthy of record; that the Negro has not written anything worthy of record and preservation. Dr. Carter Woodson has arisen with a substantial and emphatic denial. His denial is recorded in volumes which cannot be disputed, and it seems to us that a further preservation of the achievements of the black man is one of the pressing necessities of the century. We must have a background. We must have a starting point. We must be able to look back upon the labors and achievements of our forbears. The greatest inspiration to any rising generation is the history of its forefathers. The Italian points with pride to Columbus; the Frenchman will not let us forget the early triumphs of the French armies; the Irish revere the sprig of shamrock, and the Chinaman smilingly boasts of the oldest civilization on earth. The Negro must dig into the bowels of the dead past and find for himself the records of his forefathers, long since buried beneath the tramping feet of other rising races. The week of February 6th ought to be a red letter day for the thirteen millions of Negroes in this country, and if the suggestion of the Society for the Study of Negro Life and History finds the approval it deserves, every black American will bestir himself to join this celebration with a zeal and fervor commensurate with the importance of the occasion.

Let us support Dr. Woodson. Let us help him unearth the hidden secrets of our tribe. Let us exhume from the limbo of the forgotten the shining tablets that bear the achievements of our early fathers and hang them in their proper place in the hall of current history.