

MEN AND WOMEN OF MERIT TO BE RECOGNIZED

Mr. Edward C. Wentworth of the Frederick Douglass Center Writes Letters to Prominent Professional and Business Men of the White Race Asking "If There Is Any Prejudice Against the Employment of Competent Members of the Race in Offices and Stores?"—Receives Many Replies—Some Admit Its Existence and Pledge Themselves to Help Eradicate It.

**GEORGE H. WEBSTER,
JULIUS ROSENWALD,**

Judge Edward Osgood Brown and Other Well Known Men Lead the New Movement—Subject Is Discussed in Detail—All Agree That There Is Undue and Unnecessary Prejudice—Hereafter Merit and Not Color Must Rule—No Reason for Closing the Door of Hope Against Any Race—Movement Is Widely Discussed.

By D. W. Johnson.

It is indeed a great relief—even though we are burdened with many sorrows and our pathway strewn with many obstacles—to be assured that the whole world is not against us. Last week it was our painful duty to register a protest against the unjust and discriminatory treatment of the young ladies of the race who graduated at the Englewood high school.

This week we are delighted to mention the fact that there is a worthy and charitable effort being made by the white friends of the race to better their condition economically and extend to them the right of industrial employment as is given to every other race and nationality.

Douglass Center in Worthy Move.

An investigation propagated by Mr. Edward C. Wentworth, chairman of the Frederick Douglass Center, to determine whether there is any prejudice against the employment of Negroes in Chicago stores and offices resulted in the publication of letters written by Chicago bankers, lawyers and merchants, who recognize and admit that there is such prejudice, but pledged themselves to do all they could to help eradicate it.

Webster and Rosenwald.

Among those high-minded and noble-spirited business men pledged themselves to give the young men and women of the race an equal opportunity with the whites were: Messrs. Julius Rosenwald, William E. Mason, Judge E. O. Brown, N. W. Harris, George H. Webster, Irwin S. Rosenfelds, John O'Connor, Maurice S. Kuhns, George Packard, Francis E. Bromell, Louis F. Post, Robert McCurdy, Harold Icks and others representing many professions.

The different phases of this subject were generously discussed by many of these gentlemen, but they all agree that there is undue and unnecessary prejudice, and that wherever a young man or woman of the race is worthy and qualified he or she should be recognized on merit.

Merit, Not Color, to Rule.

The time is near at hand when business men will cease to look upon the complexion rather than merit. The great volume of business transacted each year in the United States demands men and women of capacity, not of color; and as soon as the business man recognizes this fact, his business will increase in proportion as well as in stability.

Door of Hope to Remain Open.

There is no good reason for closing the door of opportunity against the meritorious young men and women of the race. There are hundreds and thousands of them worthy and fully capable to perform the duties exacted in all lines of industrial and mercantile business, but because of this peculiar condition they are subjected to enforced idleness. Wherever employes are compelled by discipline to respect one another, the two races, or any different races, will have no trouble.

No Friction in Government Service.

In the government service there are thousands of men and women of the race employed, and there is little or no friction at all. There is at least no more friction between the different races than there is among the same races.

It is earnestly hoped that the efforts of these gentlemen will be attended with success, for it is high time the young men and women of the race who so zealously prepared themselves for the battles of life were given a chance to show their worth.