

# Modern Press Promoter of Racial Strife, Says Locke

More than 300 persons, representative of the most influential elements of both races in Chicago, crowded into the dining room of the City club, 315 Plymouth Ct., Tuesday night to hear Prof. Alain Locke of Howard university discourse on "Some Recent Gains in Race Relations." It was the occasion of the 11th annual banquet and report of the Chicago Urban league.

Prof. Locke, whose book, "The New Negro," published two years ago, is still one of the most widely discussed works of literature, stressed in his talk the apathy of the modern press toward the better contributions of the Race as compared with its eagerness to broadcast the most uncomplimentary and unpleasant side.

"Our newspapers," he said, "are largely responsible for the low estimate with which the Negro is greeted wherever he turns. It is our duty to bring about a change of attitude on the part of the press. It is not the progress of the Negro that is creating a problem; the Negro is progressing in spite of all efforts to stop him, notwithstanding all reports to the contrary. It is recognition of Negro progress that is immediately at stake."

## Some Recent Gains

Speaking directly of some recent gains, Prof. Locke cited four notable incidents in the health programs that have been instituted throughout the country to lower the high death rate; the industrial survey as conducted by the Urban league throughout the country; the attempt to meet the housing problem in urban communities through the co-operative apartment system, as is being inaugurated by Rockefeller in New York, and a \$174,000 community house recently erected in Canton, Ohio, and which he pointed out as a step in the right direction for all Urban leagues.

Speaking of the industrial survey made by the Urban league in Chicago, Dr. Locke criticized it as being "amateurish," but excused this condition on the basis of the narrow budget with which this body has to operate. He poked a little fun at some of Chicago's whites, who are directly responsible for the hectic real estate problem in this city.

"Negroes of Chicago have been criticized for living in some fine homes which they are unable to keep up to their original standard. This condition, if it exists, was made possible through the social insanity of some of the property owners, who

hastened to take flight at the approach of a dark brother."

In his quiet, scholarly manner Dr. Locke also chided white friends of the Race about their indifference in the face of so much adverse criticism of the Race. "If we can get so-called friends of the Negro to propagate their opinions with as much enthusiasm as our enemies spread theirs against us, we will be contributing a great force toward Racial betterment."

## Business Session

Elbridge Bancroft Pierce, president of the Urban league, acted as chairman of the meeting and introduced Dr. Locke. In the business session immediately preceding the speaking Dr. M. O. Bousfield, chairman of the nominating committee, presented a report asking for the re-election of the following members of the board of trustees: Editor Robert S. Abbott, Attorney Earl B. Dickerson, Miss Mary Pomeroy Green, Miss Mary Rozet Smith, Horace J. Bridges, Mrs. Etta Fountain, Harry Eugene Kelly, Dr. Bousfield, Judge Albert B. George and Mrs. James F. Lawson. He also reported that Mrs. George Meade was elected to fill the unexpired term of Levi Southe, and Alfred K. Stern to fill the term of W. C. Graves, and recommended the election of Dr. Charles M. Thompson to fill the term of Walter J. Greenbaum. All recommendations were adopted by the body.

Judge Albert B. George made the report of the finance committee in place of Attorney Earl B. Dickerson, who was out of the city. The assembly was enthusiastic over the report of A. L. Foster, executive secretary of the Chicago branch, who told of some of the work of his organization. The T. Theodore Taylor quartet rendered three musical selections.