

however meagre the pay, and to take advantage of every legal means to meet the obligations which they have incurred, and where this is not possible, to see their landlords and creditors and make some definite arrangements with them for carrying over their obligations.

Times like these call for patience and consideration on the one hand, and diligence and frugality on the other hand. Life in the South is built up on cooperation and good faith between black and white. And to my race it means as much as dollars and cents to have confidence, good will and support of their white neighbors in every undertaking. This has never been made more true than it is today.

At the same time I want to sound a word of warning to my people against permitting themselves to be stirred up by agitators from outside, whether black or white, who come with plausible arguments and fair promises creating suspicion and ill will between the races, with the ultimate purpose of making trouble even to the point of destroying our own government. It has been noted over and over again when these agitators appear and trouble begins they have a way of disappearing and leaving the ignorant and gullible to bear the burden and blame and suffering caused by their activities.

I believe that there is enough common sense among the leaders of both races in the South to adjust their problems and difficulties without the intervention of outsiders who know nothing of our local situation and care less for the genuine interests of either race.

In my judgment there never was a time when there was a greater disposition among thinking men and women of the white race in this section to manifest an attitude of justice and fairness towards my people than obtains today. With mutual confidence and good will, with patience and consideration, I am satisfied that all the difficulties which we now face can be gone through without serious consequences to any of us. The indications are that there is an abundance of foodstuff in the South and that there is, besides, a disposition to treat all who have need with the utmost consideration. Both which the federal government has already put in operation measures that are intended to take care of emergencies wherever they may occur. With patience and tolerance on both sides I am satisfied that we can face all the hardships that may present themselves without disaster.

—R. R. Moton

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama
October 1931

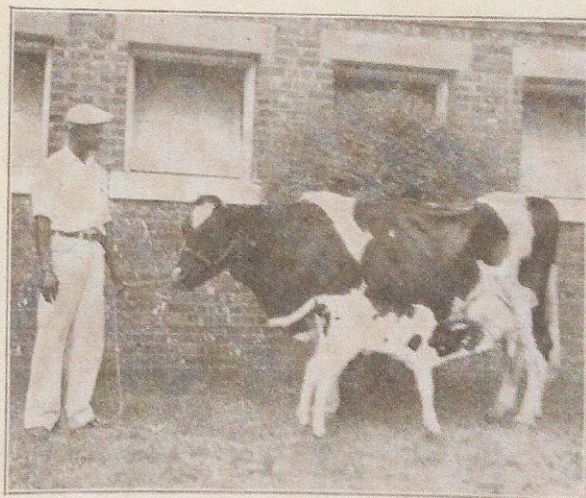


THE TUSKEGEE NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE

cordially invites you, your family and
friends to attend the

FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL TUSKEGEE NEGRO CONFERENCE

Established by BOOKER T. WASHINGTON



PERFECTION JOHANNA NETHERLAND AND HER
HEIFER CALF

Wednesday, December 2, 1931

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

ROBERT R. MOTON, *Principal*



PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 2, 1931

- 7:30-10:00 a. m.—Seeing Tuskegee Institute
10:00-12:00 m.—Morning Session in Institute Chapel
12:30-1:00 p. m.—Dinner
1:30-4:30 p. m.—Afternoon Session in Institute Chapel

GENERAL TOPIC FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Meeting the Crisis in the Present Farming Situation

I. The Negro Farmers Insurance for 1932

- (A) A larger winter planting program
- (a) An increased corn yield per acre from the use of Austrian Winter peas and hairy vetch.
 - (b) At least two acres of oats per mule.
 - (c) An acre or more of grain and vetch or Austrian peas for each cow.
 - (d) Winter green-crops for chickens and hogs.
- (B) A livestock program of two dairy cows, twenty-five hens and two brood sows.
- (C) A soil building program of winter and summer legumes, proper terracing, better handling of barn yard manure, and the right use in amount and kind of commercial fertilizers.
- (D) A home improvement program through beautification, sanitation, modern conveniences, an orchard and a year around garden.

II. The Cotton Program for 1932

- (a) An abundant supply of food and feed for man and animals.
- (b) That the acreage be reduced fifty per cent.
- (c) Cotton of better quality and staple for each community.

III. An Economic Survey of Negro Farms

- (a) To determine a long time program for his farm operations.
- (b) As a basis for determining Federal loans to Negro farmers.

IV. The Extension Service Program for Negroes Enlarged and More Adequately Supported in Its Teaching Program which Reaches the Individual Dirt Farmer.

- (a) Teaching him better methods.
- (b) Changing his farm practices.

- (c) Aiding the farmer to lower his cost of production.
- (d) Causing the farmer to select better sires and seeds.
- (e) Providing the farmer and his family with a more wholesome social life of home, church, school and community.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SOUTH

The South is going through what is for thousands of people both black and white one of the most critical years in its history. As everyone knows a great part of the farming operations of the South is carried on by advances of money and supplies made in the spring of the year and continuing through the growing season. These obligations are so arranged as to mature in the midst of the harvest seasons. October the fifteenth is the usual time for the maturing of notes and papers based on these operations.

Always a matter of serious concern to those involved, the settlements this year are a matter of grave importance particularly to Negro farmers who, like all the rest of us, are involved in the economic depression which prevails throughout the country.

I am taking this means of making an appeal to bankers, merchants, planters and other business men throughout the South who have made advances to Negro farmers, asking them to show the largest possible consideration to all those who are under obligations of this sort to them. It is already apparent that the cotton crop this year, though large, will not enable this class of farmers to settle their accounts. Because of the prevailing unsettled conditions there will be a temptation to many creditors to press their debtors to the utmost in obtaining satisfaction for advances made. The effect of such a course will mean grave suffering on the part of thousands of helpless women and children besides men who are wholly without means, not only of meeting their obligations, but of sustaining themselves and their families during this depression. This will throw the burden of the support of these people upon the public, and add greatly to the confusion and distress which we must all face.

At the same time I want to make an appeal to all the leaders among my people, preachers, teachers, demonstration agents and the like, to urge all classes to be frugal during these hard times, and to seize every opportunity for honest employment,
