

CURRENT EVENTS.

At the annual session of the National Negro Business League, held in New York on the 16th inst., Booker T. Washington said in his address:

"The most potent demand that we can make for fair and just consideration is actual achievement in the locality in which we live. We can do more in a day to advance our cause than legislation can do in a year. More and more we must turn our faces toward the rising sun of constructive, creative and progressive effort and away from the setting sun of whining and complaining.

"We should let no influence turn our eyes from the fact that while wrong and injustice often touch our lives, the masses of our people are dependent upon the white people of the South, in a large degree, for employment, education and protection of life and property. We should see that no fire of racial hostility is lighted. Those who light the fire should go into the heart of the South and take the consequences along with the helpless masses who follow their mad advice.

"There is a group of white men in the South, however little we may hear of them at a distance, who are constantly exerting themselves to help forward our cause, and we should see that no action on our part embarrasses them or makes their task more difficult. We should condemn that which is wrong in the white race, but give credit to those in the South and the North who are seeking to help us."

It was stated at the recent sessions of the International Factory Inspectors' Association, that despite the efforts to reduce the army of working children in America, during the period from 1880 to 1900, while the population of the country increased only 50 per cent., the number of boys from 10 to 15 years of age engaged in mechanical and manufacturing pursuits increased 100 per cent., while the number of girls between the same ages and in the same class of industries increased 150 per cent.

During the recent legislative campaign in Pennsylvania members of the Legislature from Philadelphia were found who had not seen the interior of a textile mill, while members from that hive of industry, known as the Pittsburg district, confessed that they had never visited a glasshouse and had not en-

tered one of those little tenement cigar shops, where girls and young children roll the famous "Pittsburg stogies" for eight cents 100.

The physicians of New Orleans are hopeful that the yellow fever scourge is yielding. The people of the entire city have united in an effort to exterminate the disease-carrying mosquito.

Goldwin Smith, who has outgrown the small title of "Prof." by the breadth of his intellectual activity and usefulness to an advanced age, has reached his 82d year. The *Toronto Globe*, in calling attention to the anniversary, referred to him as "the most distinguished" Canadian now alive.

Discussing the prospects of peace to-day, a representative of one of the great New York banking houses says: "Russia can obtain in America all the money she wants to make peace, but none to make war. Our position is the position of the Paris bankers."

Henrik Sienkiewicz, the Polish novelist, has been sentenced to detention for an indeterminate period in his residence for signing and publishing papers in protest against the Russification of schools in Poland. A number of other notables were similarly punished. Sienkiewicz published an article dealing with the Polish schools in question, in which he described school life in Poland as "a round of chagrin, torment and tragedy." He added: "The years of youth and adolescence are years of suffering and torture. It is only the fear that their children may become social pariahs that makes parents wish them to obtain certificates."

John Hauke, of Williamsport, Pa., 90 years old, has completed four days of harvesting, in which he swung the grain cradle and kept up with the young men without trouble. He celebrated the event with a family reunion, at which he danced with his great-grandchildren. He is the father of twelve, grandfather of forty-six and great-grandfather of thirty-nine, a total of ninety-seven descendants. Ninety of them are living. The old man says that he intends to live to round out a century.

A commission of landed proprietors and farmers have laid before the authorities the conditions prevailing in and about Osuna, in Andalusia, Spain. They estimate that there are 5,000 workmen armed with rifles roaming about the country. Municipal authorities disclaim responsibility for this condition of affairs. The jails are crowded with persons who have committed no offence, but who have given themselves up to the police on the pretence of having committed a crime, in order to procure shelter and food. The charitable societies have exhausted their resources, and Government action is anxiously awaited. The famine has now reached the point of actual starvation throughout the fertile valley of Andalusia. The work-

men are unable to secure food. They are too weak to work, and are becoming desperate. The children are living on fir cones and the fruit of the wild cactus. Hunger riots are of daily occurrence, and are becoming more and more serious. Theft and pillage are common, and it is impossible to maintain order. Not a drop of rain has fallen in that district for nearly five months, and the summer and autumn crops will be ruined unless rain falls soon.

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