

*Data Furnished*

Monroe Nathan Work was born in Iredell County, North Carolina, August 15, 1866. Both of his parents were slaves. He was the tenth child of eleven born to his parents. All were slaves except him and the younger child. When freedom came his father, who was a brick-mason, was buying the freedom of his family.

When he was very young his parents moved to a farm in Kansas, and was one of the pioneer families to settle in that state. Their first home was built of sod, situated 160 miles from the railroad. Mr. Work helped to haul lumber to build the first plank house which the family owned.

Being very poor, young Work left school when he had finished the 8th grade to help support the family, by working on the farm.

At the age of 23 he entered High School, then went to Oklahoma and taught school awhile. Deciding to become a minister, he entered the Chicago Theological Seminary in 1898. Realizing the wider field open for Social Work he entered the University of Chicago and graduated with the degree of Ph. B. in 1902. He received his A. M. in 1903. He was at the University of Chicago eight years and except for the aid given him during his stay in the theological seminary he paid for his own schooling by doing all kinds of work, such as waiting, dish washing, janitor service, etc.

During the years 1903-08 he was professor of pedagogy and history at the Georgia State Industrial College, Savannah, Georgia. Since 1908 he has been director of the department of records and research, at Tuskegee and has developed this department to such an extent that it is considered the world over as a reliable source of information on all phases of Negro life and history.

Since 1912 Mr. Work has published <sup>eight</sup> ~~seven~~ editions of the Negro Year Book, ~~the eighth is now on the press and will be issued at an early~~

late. "It continues to be the standard work of reference on all matters relating to the Negro. Its circulation extends to every part of the United States, to Canada, the West Indies, Central America, South America, Europe, Asia and Africa. It provides, in an inexpensive form, a succinct, comprehensive and impartial review of the events which affect the interests and indicate the progress Negroes are making. It furnishes a compact but comprehensive statement of historical and statistical facts arranged for ready reference. It is a permanent record of current events and at the same time an encyclopaedia of historical and sociological facts, and in addition to its interest for the general reader, its usefulness in the study of the Negro by Mission Study classes, Y. M. C. A., and Y. W. C. A., classes and literary clubs, <sup>it</sup> is especially adapted for use in schools where sociological and historical courses on the Negro are given."

In 1927 after having exhausted the resources of American libraries, the Phelps Stokes Fund and Tuskegee Institute made it possible for him to go to Europe to complete his work on the "Bibliography of the Negro in Africa and America."

There he collected data on Africa from the representative libraries of Europe such as the British Museum, the British Colonial Office, the Royal Colonial Institute of London, the Colonial Institutes of Brussels and Hamburg, the Bibliothèque National of Paris, the Library of the League of Nations, etc. He also consulted with European authorities on Africa, thus insuring that the Bibliography would rank with other representative publications of its kind. In June, 1928, the Bibliography was published.

In 1929 the Harmon Foundation awarded him a gold medal and \$400 for "scholarly research and educational publicity through his periodic compilation and publication of The Negro Year Book.

for the year 1931-32

Recently Mr. Work has received a scholarship from the Julius Rosenwald Fund for study and research work at the University of Chicago. While there he will work on the project, "Changes in Population and Land Tenure in the Counties of the South," which was begun several years ago and upon which he has already done extensive research.

~~At the present time the study is assuming~~ Mr. Work is at present concentrating on this piece of work and when completed will be in a class with his well known

"Bibliography of the Negro in Africa and America."

In 1904 Mr. Work married Miss Florence Hendrickson of Savannah, Georgia who at the time was a teacher in the Public Schools of the City. During their life together Mrs Work has ~~not~~ been a source of untiring help and inspiration to her husband. Several children were born to them but they died in infancy.

seen as a student <sup>insert</sup> <sup>Mr. Work</sup>  
While at the University of Chicago <sup>concerning</sup>  
law the necessity of gathering facts <sup>the Negro's</sup> <sup>his</sup> <sup>defense</sup>.  
the Negro as a weapon in <sup>his</sup> <sup>defense</sup>.  
From experience he knew that to talk  
without having the facts to substantiate  
the talk would mean <sup>nothing</sup>. ~~As early~~  
So <sup>ever</sup> <sup>what</sup> ~~while~~ <sup>they</sup> <sup>unpro</sup> ~~before~~ ~~he~~ ~~went~~ ~~to~~ ~~San~~ ~~Francisco~~  
he had begun to collect data both  
historical & current concerning the  
Negro. It was then ~~an easy thing~~  
~~not only an opportunity for him to~~  
~~but~~ a comparatively easy thing for him to  
accept the invitation of Booker T. Washington  
in 1908 to come to Tuskegee Inst  
to establish a Department for gathering  
facts concerning the Negro.  
In order for the public to have this  
information in a ~~compact~~ ~~orderly~~  
~~and~~ convenient ~~and~~ form ready at hand  
Mr. Work published the Negro Year Book