

A STRATEGIC ADVANCE

The precedent smashing election of Dr. Alain Locke to the presidency of the American Association for Adult Education represents an important advance in an important area of influence. Though adult education flourished for fifty years or more in Denmark and Sweden before its concept took roots in American soil, it has in the last decade become one of the major interests of our contemporary scholars.

For democratic America and as well as for the Scandinavian countries where the people are yet bowing to the will of hereditary monarchs, adult education affords a new vista of light and hope to the despairing citizens whose lack of formal discipline has excluded them from the benefits of a fruitful cultural society.

Ignorance, whether at the top or at the bottom of society, has always been a threat and a deterrent to the march of civilization. Culture is not created in a vacuum. It is the result of sustained traditions transferred from one generation to another. And, if the torch of civilization is transmitted by the old generation to the new, we must make certain that the old generation

has the requisite intellectual equipment with which to inspire and instruct the new.

In the election of Dr. Locke the frontier of race prejudice has been crossed at a very strategic point. It is a point from which a proper diffusion of knowledge will aid the neglected segment of the population to assume moral responsibilities for rational acts.

Locke, who is chairman of the Department of Philosophy at Howard University and is at present a visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin, is without a doubt one of the best trained minds of our day. His scholastic records at Harvard, Oxford and Berlin were brilliant.

His contributions to the field of general culture and his influence in American educational philosophy have been considerable. The distinction of being made president of the American Association for Adult Education must be very gratifying to him and to the enlightened members of the association. For, the noted scholar has devoted a good deal of his energy and time toward enlightening mankind of whatever hue or creed.