

National Negro History Week Celebration From February 6 to 13

By CARTER G. WOODSON

Schools, churches and social agencies will pause during the second week of February to invite attention to the long-neglected record of the Negro. This week, which covers the birthday of Lincoln and approaches that of Douglass, is a most appropriate occasion for this timely observance. Around the story of these great characters and others who have worked for the benefit of humanity and for the Negro in particular, the brilliant record of the Negro may be so dramatized as to inspire the Negro youth to noble deeds.

To invite attention to the romantic story of the Negro, there have been engaged throughout the country numerous teachers, ministers, professional men, and leaders of business who will participate in various exercises held throughout the week.

Public schools will use the hour of assembly for this purpose. City and State school authorities have set aside special days of this week and social uplift agencies will hold appropriate exercises in the evenings.

The enthusiasm has decidedly increased since last year, when this celebration was held for the first time, and the preliminary reports from the field indicate that it will be in every sense of the word a national celebration.

The people throughout the country have been called upon to do certain definite things. They are asked to organize their community through committees for the celebration, to appeal to their board of education for the adoption of Negro history textbooks, to interest their library and school in securing a shelf of

scientific works on the Negro and pictures of distinguished men of the race, to urge everyone to write the Association all he knows about Negro family history and to send it any important documents bearing on the record of the Negro.

The week is to be observed as a purely racial uplift effort.

The Negro must either convince the world that he has a record as glorious as that of any other race or remain content with a fixed status of inferiority. The greatest scholars of today are saying that there is no such thing as race in science and that there is nothing in anthropology or psychology to support such myths as the inferiority and superiority of races.

These truths, however, will have little bearing on the uplift of the Negro if they are left in the state of academic discussion. There must be an actual demonstration. The Negro must learn his past and publish it to this prejudiced world.