



**Smithsonian Institution**

*National Museum of African American History and Culture*

## **The Crisis Vol. 18 No. 3**

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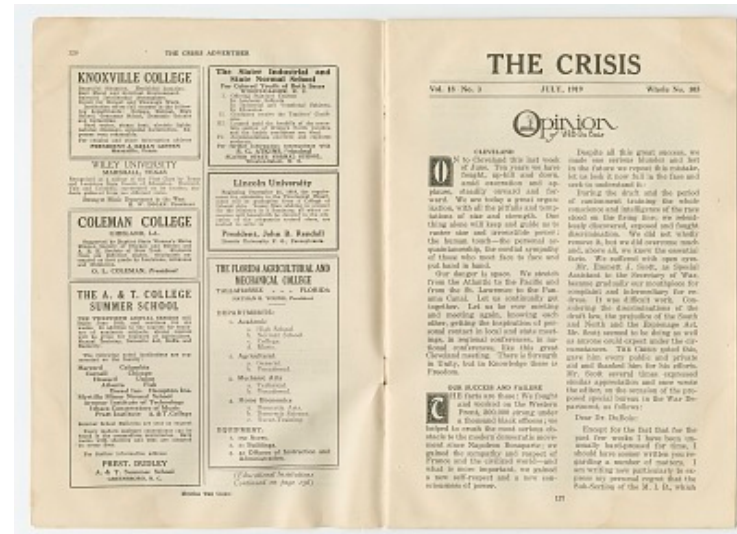
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(Educational Institutions  
Continued on page 156)

Mention THE CRISIS

## THE CRISIS

Vol. 18 No. 3 JULY, 1919 Whole No. 105

[[image: with in the initial O of the following word, a line drawing of a shining lit candle in candlestick standing on an open book]] Opinion of W.E.B. Du Bois

### CLEVELAND

ON to Cleveland this last week of June. Ten years we have fought, uphill and down, amid execration and applause, steadily onward and forward. We are today a great organization, with all the pitfalls and temptations of size and strength. One thing alone will keep and guide us to vaster size and irresistible power: the human touch—the personal acquaintanceship, the cordial sympathy of those who meet face to face and put hand in hand.

Our danger is space. We stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the St. Lawrence to the Panama Canal. Let us continually get together. Let us be ever meeting and meeting again, knowing each other, getting the inspiration of personal contact in local and state meetings, in regional conferences, in national conferences, like this great Cleveland meeting. There is Strength in Unity, but in Knowledge there is Freedom.

### OUR SUCCESS AND FAILURE

THE facts are these: We fought and worked on the Western Front, 200,000 strong under a thousand black officers; we helped to crush the most serious obstacle to the modern democratic movement since Napoleon Bonaparte; we gained the sympathy and respect of France and the civilized world—and what is more, we gained a new self-respect and a new consciousness of power.

Despite all this great success, we made one serious blunder and lest in the future we repeat this mistake, let us look it now full in the face and seek to understand it:

During the draft and the period of cantonment training the whole consciousness and intelligence of the race stood on the firing line; we relentlessly discovered, exposed and fought discrimination. We did not wholly remove it, but we did overcome much and, above all, we knew the essential facts. We suffered with open eyes.

Mr. Emmett J. Scott, as Special Assistant to the Secretary of War, became gradually our mouthpiece for complaint and intermediary for redress. It was difficult work. Considering the discriminations of the draft law, the prejudice of the South and North and the Espionage Act, Mr. Scott seemed to be doing as well as anyone could expect under the circumstances. THE CRISIS noted this, gave him every public and private aid and thanked him for his efforts. Mr. Scott several times expressed similar appreciation and once wrote the editor, on the occasion of the proposed special bureau in the War Department, as follows:

Dear Dr. DuBois:

Except for the fact that for the past few weeks I have been unusually

hard-pressed for time, I should have sooner written you regarding a number of matters. I am writing now particularly to express my personal regret that the Sub-Section of the M. I. B., which

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