



PROFESSOR FRANCIS M. WOOD

The subject of this sketch, Francis M. Wood, was born in Barren County, Kentucky, and received his early educational training in the common schools of that State. During the first few years of his life, he lived on a farm with his parents, where he attended the rural schools of that section. He was educated in the common schools of Kentucky, afterwards attending other institutions as the State Normal School, Frankfort, Kentucky; Terre Haute College, Terre Haute, Indiana; Eckstein College, Kentucky, and the School of Education at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia. His experience includes three years in the rural schools; three years in the city graded schools and twelve years principal of the Western High School in Paris, Kentucky, and one year as supervisor of all the schools (colored) of Kentucky and one year as president of the Kentucky Normal and Industrial, Frankfort, Kentucky.

It is but fitting to say that Mr. Wood has held every important position in Kentucky open to men of his race. For many years he was connected in an official way with the State Department of Education, Frankfort, Kentucky, as Rosenwald agent, and as supervisor of schools. Dr. George Colvin, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has this to say of him: "If harmonious relations are to be worked out between the two races without exploiting the colored race, Wood is the type of leadership that must be secured. I believe in him absolutely, and respect him both for his character and his capacity." Dr. F. C. Button, President of the State Normal School at Moorehead, Kentucky, says of him: "He is a man of fine spirits, and he is respected by both races. He is teachable, but not servile."

"This last signal honor that has come to Mr. Wood is more significant because it has come to him without any effort on his own part. This honor will be hailed with joy by his legion of friends in Kentucky, black and white, who have always backed him in any work he has undertaken."

Dr. James Bond, of Louisville, Director of the Inter-Racial Commission of Kentucky, has this to say of Mr. Wood, "No man in Kentucky of the Negro race has been more highly honored than has Mr. Wood. He was president of the Kentucky Negro Educational Association for ten years, where he built up a very fine organization that now has a membership of over 1,200 teachers. For this splendid service the teachers of Kentucky gave him a trip West, where he was enabled to observe many of the best schools open to his people. As director of the Rosenwald Fund of Kentucky, Mr. Wood made an enviable record by the splendid school building program which he promulgated for the Kentucky schools. He is one of the men of our race who has been able to secure the confidence and co-operation of both black and white people without exploiting his own race and without sacrificing his manhood."

"On July 9th last he was elected supervisor of all the colored schools of Baltimore City, Baltimore, Maryland.

"If Mr. Wood carries with him the same energy, enthusiasm and educational spirit to Baltimore, that has characterized his work in Kentucky, and we have every reason to believe that he will, success is sure to crown his efforts. He leaves Kentucky of his own free will, giving up one of the best educational positions in the State and carrying with him the confidence and good will of the people whom he has served so long and so well."

"I have known Mr. Wood for some fifteen years or twenty years, the last ten years intimately, and it gives me great satisfaction to say that he is a man of outstanding character and attainments. He is easily the outstanding educator among the colored people of Kentucky, where as principal of some of our leading high schools, President of the Kentucky Negro Educational Association and lately President of our State Normal and Teachers College at Frankfort, he has done a remarkable piece of constructive educational work for our State."

