

A GROWING TOWN

Lawnside, N. J., and its progressive-ness has been called to the attention of the Tribune so often by various Philadelphians who have visited that place that a special representative of this paper was sent to investigate the facts concerning its advantages to the Negro as a Home Settlement.

The report seems favorable indeed, and may interest many of the Tribune readers.

White Horse Pike is a famous road along which the residences of many wealthy white persons are strewn between Camden and New York City.

About 20 miles from Camden, upon this Pike, is located Lawnside, and is thereabout lined with beautiful residences of prosperous colored citizens, among whom are Mrs. Foster Sermon, Walter Miller, Horace Bryant, Mr. Hebron and others. Mrs. Sermon's (formally Mrs. Porter, of Phila.) home is a beautiful monument of negro workmanship and is valued at \$1000.00.

For a small population the two modern church edifices and the one school-house seem adequate, but even in Philadelphia, we cannot boast of such as our colored brethren in Lawnside have in the way of a large, modern and finely furnished hotel. They likewise own two large halls, a third hall (Masonic) under construction a baseball park, business buildings, etc., to say nothing of the two negro magistrates.

Among the leading contractors are Walter Miller, Horace Bryant, Alvin Miller, William Bryant, Thad. Miller and Joseph Miller.

We learn that John S. Watson, a well known Philadelphian, is chiefly responsible for the success and progress at Lawnside. Mr. Watson is president of the Home Mutual Investment Company, as well as being an active member in other financial, civic and religious enterprises.

To the Mutual Investment Company may be given the credit for the live real estate movements whereby many of the better class from Philadelphia and Camden have purchased or built homes at Lawnside. The Company is capitalized at \$25,000 and is also a stock company. A recent legal step, headed by Mr. Watson, has obtained for that corporation a clear title to a large and valuable tract of land, which was peculiarly handicapped by the oversight of a deceased member of the company.

A colored fire department has been organized and will soon built a fire house. All the carpenters, mechanics, etc., are likewise colored and they have even organized a municipal association to assure the citizens their several rights, as well as to provide laws for civic betterment.

In all, Lawnside is very much like some of the southern cities, controlled by negroes, of which we often read and are anxious to behold. It is at least one progressive negro village wherein the race has golden opportunities and where they take advantage of the same.