

# CANVASS IN BEHALF OF LOCAL HOSPITAL

## R. E. Clay Returns From A Trip Through Virginia Coalfield District

R. E. Clay, President of the local Negro Business League, has just returned from one the most successful trips he has had in Southwest, Va. or East Tenn. in the interest of Mercy Hospital. He canvassed practically all the coal fields in Southwest Virginia and the success of the trip is attested in the number of subscribers to the hospital fund, and the cash collected at the different mass meetings held.

The first meeting was held at Stonega, Va., where a mass meeting was attended by colored men and women from far and near to learn of the hospital. A private conference was also held with officials of the Stonega Coal and Coke Company, who heartily endorsed the step taken by those interested in the hospital. The colored church in which the meeting was held was packed to capacity with miners and their families. Dr. C. B. Bowyer, surgeon in chief for the Stonega Coal and Coke Company, R. E. Clay, and Dan Martin addressed this meeting. The colored people were enthusiastic over the benefits of the hospital, and were liberal in their collection taken for the hospital. Five members on the board of directors of Mercy Hospital will represent the Stonega Coal and Coke Company.

The meeting at Norton, Va., Feb. 13, at Toms Creek, Va., Feb. 14, and Dante, Va. Feb. 15 were equally enthusiastic over the prospect of the hospital in the future, and were eager to join hands in helping make the hospital a success. Each place visited, elected representatives to serve on the board of directors of the hospital, and after giving collections for the use of the hospital, subscribed to the fund now being raised to take care of the future needs of the building.

At Dante, Va., the meeting was enthusiastic and helpful. Many points of interest were brought to the attention of people regarding the usefulness of the hospital as affecting the colored people of Southwest, Va. Especially was this true in the coal regions where the likelihood of hospital attention and service are twofold. Lee Long and Dr. L. C. McNeery, highly endorsed the establishing of Mercy hospital here as one of greatest benefits to the colored people of this section of the country. Clay expressed complete satisfaction over the results of the trip, and the way in which the Virginia Operators' Association, and some of the officials of the different coal operators responded to the requests made for their support. Much interest was displayed by miners and their families in pledging support to the future welfare of the institution. Clay will make a detailed report to the hospital emergency committee which will meet at the hospital at four o'clock this afternoon.

Mercy hospital has so far been a marked success. There are eleven patients there now and reservations for more have been made.