

Negroes, it should have as many Negro officials as possible, and in time about one half of the employees were Negroes. At nearly all of the branches, especially after 1870, when some of them were allowed to do a regular banking business,³ there was an advisory council, or board of directors, of responsible Negro property holders. These men were proud of the Freedmen's Bank and of their connection with it.

For example, National Bank Inspector Meigs gave special praise to the Negro board of advisers of the Norfolk branch who, he said, "are very proud of the position they occupy." And of the Richmond branch he said: "They have what is called an advisory board of colored men of the better class and these men evidently take a deep interest in the welfare of the institution and promote in every way the habit of saving on the part of their people."⁴

LITERATURE OF THE BANK

The more thrifty Negroes, believing that their deposits would be secure in these banks, which they understood were supported by the government, eagerly availed themselves of the opportunity to lay up small sums for the future. To each depositor a unique pass book was given. In this book were the usual printed rules governing the making and withdrawal of deposits, a list of the branches of the bank, with names of the cashiers, and this statement:

³ These were at Norfolk, Va., Beaufort, S. C., and Jacksonville, Fla.

⁴ There were whites on some of the local boards. Report of Meigs, National Bank Inspector, in *Ho. Misc. Doc. No. 16, 43 Cong., 2 Sess.*, p. 64; Bruce Report, pp. 246, 247.