

# Former Boxer Succeeds Garvey As UNIA Head

By WILLIAM H. FERRIS

NEW YORK.—State commissioners and division presidents of the Universal Negro Improvement association assembled here in an emergency conference August 18 to 21.

The object of the emergency conference was to select an acting president-general to carry on the work of Marcus Garvey until the world conference of the UNIA in August, 1942.

The permanent historical record and archives of the UNIA, a permanent biographical record of the late Marcus Garvey, education in promulgation of studies of the history of the black man ancient and modern; the good and welfare of the UNIA, and the black people of the world, establishment of a centralized headquarters for the parent body, the national policy politically for the UNIA in the Presidential election in the United States and decision on a bi-monthly paper were other items on the agenda.

Commissioner J. P. Stewart of Cleveland, Ohio, was elected acting president-general; Commissioner Charles L. James of Gary, Ind., was elected assistant, acting president-general; Miss White, Garvey's London secretary, was elected first assistant secretary-general, and Miss Theresa Young of Cincinnati, Ohio, second assistant secretary-general.

Acting President-General Stewart was born in Morehead, Miss., in

1903. His father is a wealthy plantation owner and his uncle, William Stewart was a professor in Centerville, Miss. His first schooling was in Morehead. At the age of 12, he went to Cleveland. Here his education was continued.

He took a course in art and a commercial course. After leaving school, he served as a mail clerk in the post office for a year and a half. Later he was instructor in a class in Spanish and interpreter for the Pennsylvania railroad. He became an amateur boxing champion of Ohio at the weight of 138 pounds.

President-General Stewart joined the Universal Negro Improvement association as a juvenile in 1919. He became president of the Cleveland division in 1933 and commissioner of Ohio in 1937. He took the course in African philosophy from Marcus Garvey in 1937 and graduated with high honors. He attended the recent Toronto conventions.