

THE MONITOR

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of the Eight Thousand Colored People in Omaha and Vicinity, and to the Good of the Community

The Rev. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

\$1.50 a Year. 5c a Copy.

Omaha, Nebraska, May 20, 1916

Volume I. Number 47

Florida Nuns Will Test Unjust Laws

Three Who Teach in Private School for Negro Children are Arrested.

GOVERNOR ORDERED ARREST

Because of Petition Sent Him Advising That the Law was Being Violated, Instructed Sheriff to Make Arrests.

St. Augustine, Fla., May 19.—The law recently enacted in Florida prohibiting whites from teaching in Negro schools is receiving its first test here in the case of three Sisters of St. Joseph's Convent, who were arrested by the sheriff, acting under instructions from Governor Trammell on Monday, April 24. They have been conducting a school for Negro children in their private building on De Haven street.

Sister Mary Thomasine, Sister Mary Scholastica and Sister Mary Benigus were the three nuns arrested and when they were brought before Judge Jackson the court ordered them released on their own recognizance. Sister Mary Thomasine refused to accept her release and she is being held a prisoner at the convent, in custody of Father O'Brien.

When the law was enacted by the Florida legislature, the Sisters of St. Joseph consulted eminent lawyers as to the constitutionality of the law. It was the unanimous opinion of the lawyers consulted that the law was unconstitutional and so the school was continued. The nuns have been teaching schools for Negro children in St. Augustine for several generations, their work being entirely gratuitous and their only object the educational and religious guidance of the Colored youth.

They were not interfered with, even after the passage of the law, until some weeks ago a petition was sent to Governor Trammell, advising him that the law was being violated. This petition was evidently for the purpose of bringing about a test case on the constitutionality of the law.

The case cannot be handled in the local courts as it is a state law, and so it will come before the Circuit Court at this term. It will probably be carried through the State Supreme Court to the United States Supreme Court before it is finally settled.

CLOSED \$67,000.00 DEAL

The Fontenelle Investment Company closed a deal Thursday of last week with C. A. Williamson Co., taking over the Edgewood Park addition which overlooks Carter Lake. The club house which is situated on the grounds will be awarded to the Fontenelle Company after a certain number of lots have been sold. The lots range in price from \$55 to \$750, and some of them can be bought on the plan of \$1 down and \$1 a week.

Something To Make You Think

How Men May "Fight For Themselves"

(The Omaha Nebraskan)

The Crisis, a Negro organ, pays a deserved tribute to the valor of the Colored troops on the Mexican border and says: "So in America, in Europe and in Africa black men are fighting for the liberties of white men and pulling their chestnuts out of the fire. One of these bright mornings black men are going to learn how to fight for themselves."

But they are "fighting for themselves" when they make the splendid record they are making in Mexico. They were "fighting for themselves" when they made their record in Cuba. They were not then, nor are they now, "pulling white men's chestnuts out of the fire." They were and are fighting for a country that is theirs as it is the white man's and in whose history and achievements they will have a part commensurate with the contributions they make.

The Crisis gives its people very poor advice when it intimates that the interests of the Colored race lie along lines of "fighting for themselves" in the sense plainly meant by the Crisis.

To be sure, the Colored race has had many obstacles to surmount but the race has advanced and will advance in accordance with the efforts of its intelligent members to contribute to the general good, to build for civilization and to do their part in the most effective way.

When such plays as "The Birth of a Nation" give offense let the race show itself superior to the touch of such humiliations and, bearing it with dignity, win the respect and sympathy of white men who cannot give approval to such taunts.

There is but one way for any individual or any race to push forward. That way is so plainly marked that it need not be stated.

The conduct of the Colored troops in Mexico has done much to break down prejudice and win respect for the Negro race. So the generally fine conduct of Omaha Negroes—so often commented upon by observing men—is doing much to do away with this prejudice.

"Upward and onward," not through force but through civilization's instrumentalities, through faithful service as soldiers and good conduct as citizens—that is the motto and that is the course for every individual and every race who would win the spurs.

Prejudice and Art

We have said several times in this column that in art the Negro encounters less prejudice than in any other field of endeavor. If a Negro writes a great poem or a great book, or paints a wonderful picture or composes real music, his color is little or no hindrance to his gaining recognition and appreciation of his work. This is one of the paradoxes of American prejudice. It is more difficult for a strong, able-bodied Colored man to break through the New York labor union, and get a job to carry a hod than it is for a talented Colored composer to get a hearing for his music in Carnegie Hall or Aeolian Hall.

There has just been completed at Jacksonville, Fla., a new armory for the First Regiment of the National Guard of that state. This armory was opened last week. It was christened by a musical festival given under the auspices of the Ladies' Friday Musicals, and the work that was rendered was "Hiawatha's Wedding Feast" by Coleridge-Taylor. A well known Southern tenor of Atlanta, Ga., was engaged to sing the famous "Onaway, Awake, Beloved." Does it not seem more than strange that the opening of an armory in a city of the far South should be celebrated with the rendition of a musical work which was created by Negro brain?

The Jacksonville papers extolled Coleridge-Taylor's music before and after the performance. Jacksonville society turned out and made the event a gala one. Those who took part and those who listened were enraptured by the divine art of a black man. Yet, Colored citizens were denied admission. Denied admission to a building paid for out of the public funds. Such are the inconsistencies of prejudice.—The New York Age.

Use the Monitor to Reach the Colored People of Nebraska. It Is Their Only Newspaper.

Church Elected Delegate-at-Large

The Colored Republicans of Tennessee Win Notable Victory in State Convention.

RACE LEADERS ARE UNITED

Impossible to Ignore the Arguments Advanced or Desert Such a Capable Organizer Admission of Congressman Sells.

Nashville, Tenn., May 19.—All Tennessee is celebrating the victory won by R. R. Church, Jr., in the Republican State convention held at Nashville, May 3. The Negro emancipated himself. Ending a campaign that claimed the attention of every element in the Republican party, Mr. Church was elected a delegate-at-large to the coming Chicago convention. For the first time since 1892 a Tennessee Colored Republican has been given a place as a delegate-at-large to a National convention.

It is not too much to say that the victory achieved by Mr. Church in the name of 75,000 Colored Republicans, is the most notable in the annals of Tennessee politics. He had the active support of only one of the State leaders, former Governor Ben W. Hooper, nominee for the United States Senate.

Two hours before the meeting of the convention, Mr. Church was told that there was no hope for him and his people. Then in a most remarkable conference, in which all the big leaders took part, the slate was broken. Congressman Sells said that it was impossible to ignore the arguments advanced or desert so fine an organizer as Mr. Church had proven himself to be. For the first time in the history of Tennessee politics all the Colored leaders stood together, supporting Mr. Church every inch of the way. Among those active in the fight were J. C. Napier, A. N. Johnson and A. W. Fite, of Nashville; T. H. Hayes, Wayman Wilkerson, Bert M. Roddy, F. M. Nesbitt, O. W. Williams, the Rev. R. J. Petty, J. H. Brown, J. B. Martin, A. F. Ward, H. R. Saddler, of Memphis; Roscoe Simmons, of Louisville, and P. H. Brown, of Hopkinsville, Ky.

HUNTINGTON FUND CLOSE TO \$500 MARK

Huntington, W. Va., May 19.—A fund containing \$419.91 in cash and unpaid subscriptions to the sum of \$50, an aggregate of \$468.41, has been raised by Colored people of Huntington for the Booker T. Washington Memorial Fund. The campaign which was waged for this purpose concluded Sunday afternoon in a big rally held in Carnegie Hall. However, the committee has decided to continue its efforts until the amount of \$500 originally suggested as Huntington's subscription, is all raised.