

# THE MONITOR

A Weekly Newspaper devoted to the civic, social and religious interests of the Colored People of Omaha and vicinity, with the desire to contribute something to the general good and upbuilding of the community.

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## "IDLENESS AMONG NEGROES"

This is the caption of a thoughtful article which appears in "the Social Service Department" of The Living Church in its issue of July 15. This department is under the efficient editorship of Clinton Rogers Woodruff, of Philadelphia, a recognized expert in Social Service, and as such, necessarily, an intelligent and sympathetic observer of social conditions affecting all classes.

"Social Service" may be defined as the science of applied Christianity. It aims at the improvement of social conditions and seeks to give every man, woman and child, the environment in which, and the opportunity by which he can reach the highest and fullest development and become a useful member of society. It rightly emphasizes the fact that one of the chief purposes of religion is to improve man's condition in this present life.

The outcome of this conviction has been the organization of Social Service Commissions by the various religious bodies of the country to study social problems with the honest intention of finding and applying the remedy for social ills and evils. Commendable progress has been made.

The Social Service Commission of the diocese of Pennsylvania has been considering the subject of Idleness among Negroes, with a view to arriving at some means by which idleness and its attendant evils might be relieved through co-operate religious action.

The Commission called to its aid trained workers of both races. The committee appointed gave serious attention to the work assigned it. The article in question significantly states that:

"This committee learned much by these conferences, but felt incapable of devising any single line of action towards the relief of the idleness, because, it became evident, the roots of the question extend deep into the ground under the personal, political, economical, industrial, social and religious activities of the white and black races as they now exist in America."

In other words, these impartial trained investigators, anxious to get at the truth, learned that the problem of bread-winning upon the part of Colored Americans has become seriously complicated by racial prejudice. That is precisely what the excerpt just quoted means. This is proven by these words which immediately follow:

"Whites do not wish to be near blacks; the Negro is exploited politically in every state; industries are closed to the blacks by the rules of the labor organizations, which prevent the black from working and force him

to degenerate, even though once he may have acquired a trade or become skilled in an occupation."

This indictment is undoubtedly true and gains in significance when it is understood that this is the finding of impartial white investigators; and is not the pessimistic wail of impatient, querulous, over-sensitive and fault-finding Negroes. And, moreover, these investigators find that economic and industrial discriminations are having their baneful influence, as a matter of course, upon the religious life of the race, for it is noted that

"While the Negro may be considered to be essentially religious, the adversities under which he lives are so great and so pernicious that his religion cannot fortify him against inevitably sinking into viciousness and, too frequently, criminality."

The fairmindedness of the report appears from the fact that the committee desires it to be understood that they have been considering the idle Negro. It has found that

"The industrious Negro asks for a fair chance to make good. He asks to be employed and not turned away because he is black. He asks for equal consideration with the white laborer when his equipment and capacity equal the white man's."

Whenever this chance is given the race makes good as the records will show.

Another significant statement which this article contains is this:

"Certain of us, if not all, hold that proper housing in shelters which are more than walled pens scarcely fit for animals, would go far towards maintaining the stimulus to persistent labor."

These investigators state with truth: "That the relief of these conditions lies within the power of the Christian Church and should be solved by the whites and blacks working together."

Much can be done by the pulpit and broadminded citizens "urging that employment be given to the Negro, not only in domestic service, but in such arts and crafts as those in which it is now known that he has become skilled."

It is gratifying to learn that such investigations as the one here noted are occupying the attention of thoughtful men and women throughout the country. A candid statement of facts by impartial investigators will have far-reaching influence in improving conditions.

## JUST TO KEEP

### THE RECORD STRAIGHT

The Monitor is constantly doing favors for its readers and patrons for which it cannot be and does not expect to be remunerated in dollars and cents. We are here to serve the community as well as we know how.

As an illustration of what The Monitor does we wish to call attention to the splendid success of The Free Trip Contest for the benefit of the N. W. C. A. home. Had it not been for the fact that the energetic chairman of that committee, with whom the idea of the contest originated, Mrs. Martha Taylor Smith, and her efficient committee who so loyally served with her, had a paper like The Monitor to give publicity to the contest, it goes without saying that it would have been impossible to have achieved such signal success. Keeping the standing of the contestants before the public was the prime factor in keeping up interest.

This publicity at the current advertising rate would have amounted to \$46.02, not including special articles which we published from time to time. The Monitor has received \$27.24 for seventeen weeks of advertising, an average of \$1.60 a week. We donated \$18.78 in advertising space, more than 40 per cent, or practically all of our profit. It is well that the public should be advised of facts of this kind in order that they may appreciate the fact that The Monitor stands ready to do its share in anything and everything that makes for the good of the community.

The Monitor issuing 1,500 copies weekly and going into the homes of all classes has fully demonstrated its value as an advertising medium, as well as its fearlessness in championing the rights of the people.

We shall continue to serve the people faithfully and do all in our power for the upbuilding of the community. While not looking for praise, it is well from time to time to let the public know what we are doing in order to keep the record straight.

We desire to compliment the N. W. C. A. and the young ladies who worked so faithfully in the Free Trip Contest upon their success in practically clearing the indebtedness of \$800 on the home, which has been a source of so much anxiety to the faithful women who a few years ago undertook its purchase. Our women have demonstrated their ability to do things. The remaining \$100 due should be speedily paid. The Monitor last summer asked for donations towards paying off the indebtedness on the home. Mr. E. W. Pryor contributed \$5.00 towards the fund. It was the only contribution received. The Monitor will now turn over that sum to the treasurer of the home with the hope that the remaining \$95.00 will soon be secured.

## CARD OF THANKS

We, the Contest Committee of the N. W. C. A., desire to thank the young ladies who made the race for the Free Trip, all those who contributed their services on the program, the daily papers and the Monitor for their space, and the public in general for their co-operation and assistance in making this contest a success, and the closing entertainment Wednesday, July 12, one of the grandest affairs ever given in Omaha. We are pleased to announce to the public that the proceeds from this contest will reduce the indebtedness on the N. W. C. A. home, 3029 Pinkney street, to \$100.00.

MRS. MARTHA T. SMITH,  
Chairman

MRS. IRVINE GRAY,  
MRS. E. R. WEST  
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