

Letters From Our Readers

RACE SHOULD ORGANIZE

Omaha, Nov. 19, 1916.

Rev. John Albert Williams,

Editor Monitor:

President Wilson has at last acknowledged the class struggle and to think he did it in the presence of Samuel Gompers, who has repeatedly denied it and confounded his own democratic (?) press thereby who have also denied it.

The president did this stunt before the visiting delegates of the A. F. of L. Saturday, Nov. 18, 1916, in Washington, D. C. He might have mentioned also that there exists in this country a race problem that is a part of this class struggle. The Colored workingman is struggling along with his white brother for social and economical justice and when he awakens to the fact that his interest is with his own class, organized industrially and politically, into a class organization of workers and not divided into a hundred different kinds of political and industrial groups each fighting the other for the amusement of their masters, he will come into his own.

My advice to our Colored brother is to cut loose from the politicians of all parties, think and act for yourself and remember what they did to that young man who is a man among men, either white or black, and whom I am proud to number among my friends, and I hope some day as a dear comrade in this struggle for an existence. I refer to Will N. Johnson, late candidate for public defender.

Respectfully,

Jesse H. Brillhart,
1332 So. N St.

OMAHA STUDENT WRITES FROM NASHVILLE

Roger Williams Uni., Nashville, Tenn.
Nov. 20, 1916.

Rev. Jno. Albert Williams,

Editor Monitor.

Dear Sir: I received my third copy of the Monitor last week. I find a great deal of interest in it. If I can assist by contributing Race news of interest I would be very glad to do so, because I am desirous of both your success and the paper's.

The environment here is fine with so many professional men succeeding along all lines, and a very important thing to note is that all of them belong to some church and really work in them. They have found that the mixing with the common people serves them and also aids them in their business.

With best wishes toward yourself and family, I remain,

Your friend,

Le Roy Kelley.

INTERSTATE LITERARY ASSO- CIATION TO HOLD MEETING

Topeka, Kans., Nov. 24, 1916.

The twenty-sixth annual session of the Inter-State Literary association will be held here Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 27, 28 and 29, 1916, and an effort is being made to make this session a record breaker. Twenty-five years having elapsed since the association was organized in Topeka, the executive committee desires the active co-operative support of all societies, that a program may be presented commensurate with the occasion, making the session a CELEBRATION. It is desired that every person keep this idea in view.

Any literary society, debating club or other organization rendering programs of a literary or musical character is eligible to membership and

will be admitted on sending to the corresponding secretary on or before Dec. 1, 1916, the name of the organization and city in which such society is located. If not on the roster of the 1915 session, a membership fee of \$1.50 must be paid. Societies recorded at the 1915 session retain their membership by sending to the corresponding secretary \$1.00 on or before Dec. 1, 1916. Each society thus enrolled is entitled to three (3) delegates and three (3) alternates and to be further represented by one of this number on program.

One evening will be given over to contests in oratory, original poetry, original music aid declamation, to the winners of which first and second cash prizes will be awarded. This contest will be open to anyone except persons graduated in either of the above mentioned branches.

While the literary program will be the most important feature of the session, the social side of life will not be overlooked. The executive committee meets early in December to arrange program and unless topics of papers are sent in by December 1st they cannot be printed on official program. For further information address,

Mrs. Ella M. Guy, Cor. Sec.
410 Kansas Ave., Topeka, Kans.

AFTERMATH OF THE CAMPAIGN

Editor Monitor:

The re-election of President Wilson was a great disappointment to the Negroes of the United States. They opposed him upon high grounds, believing that his return to office would prove hurtful to the progress of the race. The time is not far distant when the election of a president will be decided by the majority of the citizens of the United States. Several reasons contributed to our recent defeat, viz., "Lack of a perfect organization. "Lack of ability on the part of those who were in control of the political machinery." "Aimless expenditure of money." "Petty jealousies on part of the G. O. P. leaders." "Lack of a popular slogan."

"Wilson's popularity with the great mass of the common people." "The elimination of the Negro from an active participation in the campaign." The few Negroes sent out by the national committee gave a good account of themselves, and who, if living, will be found on the "firing line" in 1920.

J. Silas Harris,

President Negro National Educational Congress.

THE OMAHA STREET LIGHTING CONTRACT

(Continued From First Page)

When a corporation makes a proposition it is always quite natural for the public to believe that said corporation is going to look after its own interests first, and the public will get the worst of the deal.

Of course, a corporation, as an individual in business, is in duty bound to make as good a bargain as it can for itself. We believe that the Omaha Electric Light and Power Company expects to make its contract with the city pay and pay well. The company is not in business for its health. It is entitled to a fair and just profit. This it will get under the five year contract which is up for ratification and which we believe ought to be ratified. But that an exorbitant profit will be made cannot be borne out by the facts, if we compare the cost per lamp offered Omaha under this contract and the charge per lamp made in other cities.

Figures are always wearisome and people do not care to wade through

them; so we do not intend to give a great list of figures; but only a few facts which our examination of statistics show. The facts are these:

The yearly cost of lamps for street lighting in several cities in or about Omaha's class averages around 50 cents per candle power. The yearly cost to Omaha under the proposed contract will be 20 cents per candle power. Does this look like the rate proposed is excessive? By no means. It looks very much as though for once a public service corporation is honestly trying to "tote fair."

Under the proposed street lighting contract upon which you should be interested enough to vote December 5, provision is made for giving Omaha the best modern, ornamental lights at a much lower rate than we are paying for old-style and unsatisfactory lights now; the number of lights will be increased by more than eleven hundred, which, of course, as any one can see, means the lighting of a larger area, which needs it.

The whole question then resolves itself, as we see it, into this: Do you want Omaha to be a better-lighted city now—just as soon as the lights can be installed? Do you think the pending contract will give us the desired results, at a reasonable cost, as compared with the cost of lighting other cities? If you do, then your duty is clear: vote to ratify the contract pending and get your neighbor to do the same. This is a matter in which you as a citizen and taxpayer are vitally interested. Show your civic pride, show that you are interested in your city by studying such questions as those of light and water service and other public utilities so that when they come up for decision you will see the importance of them and cast your vote intelligently. Realize that the street lighting contract

concerns you because you are a citizen and taxpayer of growing Omaha, and vote right.

HOW TO TREAT THE EDITOR

At a recent convention a minister offered the following toast: "To save an editor from starvation, take his paper and pay for it promptly. To save him from bankruptcy, advertise in his paper liberally. To save him from despair, send him every item of news of which you can get hold. To save him from profanity, write plainly on one side of the sheet and send in your contribution as early as possible. To save him from mistakes, bury him. Dead people are the only ones who never make mistakes."

Nominating Cardinals.

The ceremony of nominating cardinals, which takes place at Rome, is not without its picturesque side. The consistory of the sacred college meets in secret—though particulars of the proceedings are afterwards given to the press—and, following upon a brief address, the pope names the persons he wishes to elevate to the purple. His nomination is final, but in accordance with the old custom when the cardinals voted for the election of their comrades, he asks, "What is your desire?" The cardinals then silently lay down their red silk caps, rise, and bow. It is the formal assent, and the new cardinals are declared elected.

England has cardinals other than those created by the pope. At one time there were officials of that title attached to a number of her cathedrals, whose duty it was to visit the sick and relieve the needy, but St. Paul's is now alone in the possession of a senior and a junior cardinal, elected by the deans from among the minor canons. One of the holders of the title in recent times was the author of the "Jackdaw of Rheims."



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