

# THE MONITOR

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

Published Every Saturday.

Entered as Second-Class Mail Matter July 2, 1915, at the Post Office at Omaha, Neb., under the act of March 3, 1879.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES, \$1.50 PER YEAR  
Advertising Rates, 50 cents an inch per issue.  
Address, The Monitor, 1119 North Twenty-first street, Omaha.  
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## TRYING TO FOOL THE PEOPLE

The Omaha Electric Light and Power Company owes it to the citizens to live up fairly and honestly to the terms of the contract which was ratified at the recent election. One of the terms was reduction in light rates to 6 cents per kilowatt-hour for electric current used. That was to have become effective January 1. Now comes this company before the city commissioners and asks authority to charge 6½ cents per kilowatt-hour, with a reduction of half a cent for payment within ten days of rendering the bill.

Four of the commissioners, Messrs. Dahlman, Hummell, Jardine and Withnell voted "yes;" while Butler and Parks voted "no." Kugel was absent. By a vote of four to two the city commissioners have granted permission to the Electric Light Company to raise the rate. This is, in our judgment, a questionable proceeding. It is a most clever ruse to fool the people. It is this method of playing fast and loose with the plain letter and meaning of contracts which has brought public service corporations into disfavor.

We supported the Electric Light contract and were an important factor in helping to carry the election, because we believed it to be advantageous to the city, and private consumers. We believed that a 6 cent rate meant a 6 cent rate, clear and straight.

Commissioner Jardine's "explanation," as reported in the World-Herald of January 30, shows that his conscience hardly sanctions his vote. The other commissioners voting for the raise have not given "explanations" but our opinion is that second thought will convince them they have voted unwisely.

Commissioners Butler and Parks are absolutely right in their opposition to this raise. The Electric Light Company is violating both the spirit and the letter of the contract which was ratified at the recent election and if they want to hasten municipal ownership they are going at it in the right way.

It never pays to fool the public.

## JULIAN STREET ON THE NEGRO

In Collier's, for January 27, Julian Street, well known journalist, begins a series of articles upon the Negro. Every one should read them for the reason that such literature upon the race question has not appeared before. Mr. Street writes with a fairness of an impartial judge, but his deep sympathy for the race is apparent in every line. To him the race is as great a race as any other and he pictures the shortcomings with as sympathetic a hand as he delineates the great achievements. No fairminded man can read the first article without leaving it with a friendly feeling toward the race and a firmer hope for its ultimate triumph.

Mr. Street closes with these words:

"A few years more of Negro progress and it will be only a very blind or a very cruel white man who will fail to extend a hand—not necessarily the hand of social equality, but certainly the hand of good will and helpfulness—to the black man struggling out of the morass."

We shall try and arrange to republish this article in installments for the reason that we want our readers to become acquainted with it. Another man of the stamp of Ray Standard Baker has taken up our cause and we thank him for his favor. It means much.

## FIGHTING JIM CROWISM AND DISFRANCHISEMENT

The program mapped out by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for this year is a vigorous fight against "Jim Crow" cars and disfranchisement.

The Association believes that by concentration of its fire much will be gained. We agree with this view.

Our race everywhere is growing in intelligence, integrity, ability, wealth, self-respect and genuine worth. This being true we are not satisfied and should not be satisfied with the efforts in vogue in certain sections of this country to humiliate us and deprive us of our just rights.

Moreover, the toleration, without protest, in any section of our country of certain indignities, permits the evil to spread. Those of us who live in more favorable localities cannot hope to enjoy the privileges dear to us if we regard with indifference the indignities heaped upon our people elsewhere. For this reason the National Association should have the hearty support of the race throughout the United States.

The recent election of President Wilson made possible by the stolen votes of the South has at last aroused republican leaders to the necessity for taking action against disfranchisement. This will aid in the fight against disfranchisement. Carefully prepared and vigorously pressed suits for violations of Interstate Commerce Law, as applied to interstate passengers, will undoubtedly enlist the friendly and powerful support of the railroads, in eliminating the present glaring injustice and dishonesty of the pernicious "Jim Crow" car system.

Let the race in Nebraska and the great Northwest vigorously support the National Association in its fight against Jim Crowism and disfranchisement.

## GROWING IN THRIFT

Have you ever noticed how many of our people in this city are buying homes, saving money and giving other evidence of thrift? It would surprise you to know how many have bank accounts.

Another gratifying fact is this: Our people are showing commendable discretion and judgment in patronizing those banks and saving institutions which are giving some recognition to our people in the matter of employment, or by giving advertising patronage. The banks in this city which have the largest number of Colored depositors are those who give this recognition.

Let the good work go on. We have been too long inclined to be spend-thrifts. We are glad to chronicle the fact that so many are getting the saving habit.

## SONG OF SOLOMON

### Knocking.

1. Listen, O my son, while I string my banjo to the tune of rebuke.
2. There is one gentle art our race hath learned to a frazzle and a fare-you-well and that is the art of knocking.
3. They use not a hammer, O my Son, but an ax and use it most royally.
4. Whenever a black man would try to do he is hammered to a cute finish.
5. If he succeed the mob handeth him the noise that he is a robber and a thief and that he hath the swelled noodle and the high eyed go-by.
6. If he faileth, they giggle with glee and whisper joyfully, "I told you so."
7. Racial praise for a grand race effort is as rare as an oasis in the Mojave desert.
8. Thou must know, O my Son, that a little praise to a man or woman for something rightly done is like gasoline and motor oil for a struggling automobile.
9. Lay aside thine axe and get thee a horn and learn the tune of the rooting rah rah.
10. Thy race needs it, O my Son, in its travel towards the high lights and great plateau.

## COLORED NEWSPAPERS

The newspapers of the race are constantly lauding the merits of our men and enterprises. They are setting before the world the many achievements of the race in all the vocations that tend to make man honorable and worthy of distinction; the essential thing for it is the noble acts or accomplishments that the white papers a sa rule fail to print, or give an obscure place. And yet we have met men who will openly declare that it doesn't mean anything to advertise in a Negro paper, and that the short comings of the Negro paper is that they don't fight the white man's burden. However, as Winston and thousands of others have won, so will the Negro news journals win, and the race must finally recognize them as their greatest defender in championing and fighting a righteous cause for all the people.—Searchlight.

## OBVIOUS OBSERVATIONS

Caranza, the big chief of Mexico, and Villa, the big bandit, both are telling the Mexicans that they made the Americans trot back across the border. Now for some real fun.

Last week one of Omaha's Colored citizens of local fame told us that after he had devoured a two pound chicken, three pounds of fried potatoes, twenty-one biscuits, a plate of hot cakes, two bowls of cereal, and five cups of coffee, in the morning, he had just then begun to develop an appetite for breakfast. And what is more, we believe it. We all call him "Jim."

The tiny rivulets are running down the streets and the birds are twittering in the warm sunlight and—are we dreaming?

Have you read Julian Street's article on The Negro in Collier's? Read it and you will find it is one of the finest things you have ever read.

Wilson's peace note was a gem. Now let him study up something nice to deliver to the senate on the race problem.

The Colored race in America is doing some great things these days, but you will find the record of their achievements in your own journals.

We thank subscribers for paying up their subscriptions so willingly and our inside secret is that we are constantly planning for a bigger and better paper.

Thanking you kindly for your attention, we will now proceed to investigate the price of prunes.

## A GROWING QUESTION

We wonder when Robert Smith, clerk of the District Court; Michael Clark, the sheriff; and Harry Pearce, the register of deeds, are going to give our people those positions to which we are entitled. In the language of Dunbar, "Speak up, Sam; 'spress yo' sef."

Those who are familiar with the Bible will recall the words of the Psalmist, which read: "I said in my haste, all men are liars." Wonder if he could have foreseen "the leak investigation" at Washington?

## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Mr. Editor: Please allow space in your valuable paper to say that too much encouragement cannot be given the women of our community who have the ability and tact to hold together an organization of women and through them accomplish much good for the race. A more influential woman could not have been selected to take up the splendid work of the Old Folks Home, where the matchless organizer and president, Mrs. Martha Smith left off than the one selected, Mrs. James G. Jewell. She is holding the organization together and continuing the work grandly. The luncheon given by Mrs. Lawrie, who has always stood by the Home, under the management of Mrs. Jewell, was a marked success.

The house kept filled and there was a continuous coming and going of interested women anxious to help the worthy cause. Mrs. Jewell, in her pleasing manner, greeted all and made each feel that it was a duty that fell upon every Colored woman in Omaha to help support the Home. Being much impressed by the method and ease the worthy president, the members of the Home and Mrs. Lawrie handled the guests at luncheon, I felt the flowers of encouragement now would do more real good toward impressing others to give to the community and to the glory of God the benefit of their talents. The churches and organizations of Omaha are calling for women who can do, and we have the ability and real leadership lying dormant among us that if utilized could accomplish great uplifting good among our people. We are pleased to say that many are coming to the front and giving to the public something worth while at the Tuesday Eve Forum at St. John's A. M. E. Church.

Mrs. W. T. Osborne.

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