

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.

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MAINTAIN YOUR RIGHTS

We publish the Civil Rights Bill of Nebraska that our readers may know just what the law is. The violation of this law is becoming bolder and more flagrant every day in Omaha. This is particularly true of moving picture theatres and places of amusement where a determined process of segregation and discrimination is becoming more pronounced. Something must be done to stop the insults to which well-behaved and self-respecting Colored people are becoming more and more frequently subjected, in constantly increasing and unlooked for places.

Last week three of our most highly respected women, who are property owners and tax-payers, were subjected to most humiliating embarrassment in a Douglas street moving picture place. This is only one of many recent cases. Two white gentlemen who witnessed the humiliation of these women, left the theatre as they did and politely accosting them, said:

"Ladies, we are indignant at the outrageous and uncalled-for treatment and embarrassment to which you have been so unjustly subjected. Here are our cards and if you take any action in this case, which we believe you should, call on us as witnesses."

These gentlemen, in our opinion, represent thousands of our broad-minded white citizens, who have no sympathy with certain indignities which are being thrust upon our people by cheap movie managers and others.

What then is to be done? This: We advise our people first to be exceedingly careful of their conduct, as they have been, when patronizing these places which are bidding for public patronage and are open to the public—not any special class—but the PUBLIC. If any indignity is offered them, by which their civil rights are denied, then bring action against the management and any and all who may be cited for aiding or abetting in the violation, for violation of the Civil Rights Bill, following this by a suit for personal damages.

Moreover, if any employe of the place or places, or any police officer called by the management to evict you, when you have not been guilty of any misconduct, lay his hand or hands upon you, have him or them arrested for assault.

This is the line of procedure to stop this discrimination. But be sure to keep your head. Don't allow yourself to be betrayed into boisterous talking or any exercise of force, save in self-defense.

After vindicating our rights as well-behaved and self-respecting citizens to patronize public places of amusement like all other citizens, then let us give our patronage only to those places where we know we are welcome and are given courteous treatment—and there are many such places in our city—and studiously avoid those places where our people have been subjected to indignities.

There is a principle at stake which

must first be vindicated: Our rights as citizens of Nebraska. If it takes a thousand suits at law to vindicate this principle and establish our status, then let us have the suits. Let us spend our money freely for the safeguarding of our rights.

Is the Civil Rights Bill of Nebraska, a mere "scrap of paper"? Are we as self-respecting men and women going to sit supinely by and permit the violation of its specific provisions without protest? If we do we are not worthy of our citizenship.

"Bob" Smith and Harry Pearce have not yet found it feasible to give our people any place among their large force of employes. "Death bed repentance" on their part will not impress us as very sincere. About the time the term of their office expires they will probably want to throw some little crumb to our people to catch votes. Such "death bed repentance" will not count. Make the appointments NOW.

Eventually the United States Government will be compelled to admit Colored Americans to the navy, why not now? Secretary Daniels, why cannot the present limitations and restrictions as to the enlistment of Colored men be withdrawn?

SKITS OF SOLOMON

Band Concerts

A band concert is a magnet that draws folks away from the hot and dusty cities and reminds them that there are such things as parks. If it wasn't for a band concert 99% per cent of the population wouldn't know what a park is for. Said per cent would hunt the shady side of the bungalow, fondle a pitcher of ice water and wonder who in the heck invented summer anyhow. But a band concert avoids such outbursts of profanity. The only time one almost cusses is when he has to play the trapeze act trying to stick on a crowded car long enough to fall near the park entrance. But such little things are soon forgotten. As soon as one's narrow number twelves begin to stroke the greensward, pearly gates and bold curbs begin to fade. And then when Des and his boys start juggling with notes, gloom gets into the corral immediately. Thereupon you are not very much worried as to whether it is summer or not and you forget all about the strike and a dry state and the coal man and other little daily peevs like that. The gent puffs his Selecto Cabago and his tootsie chews her Nearnmint and all goes as merry as a new flivver. You clap joyfully after each selection and when the band puts across a ragged romp you go into a spasm and raise a crop of blisters on your palm sites. There's nothing like it. And if you take out a spread and nibble while the Sommerston Sonata in Z Minor is being put on trial, John D. and J. P. and Andy haven't anything on you when it comes to music with your meals. The park concerts have got all parts of it—and then some.

Obvious Observations

Who is Villa? Never heard of him, Lucille; never heard of him.

It looks as though we will have a cool summer and that's real nice. Now if we will just have a warm winter we will try to be satisfied.

The air raid over London makes us think that Germany is still awake.

Every big city is having a strike and Omaha apparently must have one, too.

In Schenectady, N. Y., 16,000 men are said to have struck because one Negro was hired. Well, they had better go back to work because they will have to get used to it sooner or later—so why not sooner?

How's your garden? Has it had enough rain? Ours is doing so so, thank you.

From the size of the crowds that pour out to the parks to hear Desdunes' band it seems that quite a num-

ber of people have heard its music and sort of like it.

It appears that the parties to the police scandal don't care anything at all about each other's reputations—that is if said parties ever had any.

Please remember to pay your subscription. It's harder to run a newspaper on nothing than it is to run an automobile on air.

Thanking you for your fagged appearance, we will now shut up.

The United States Government is issuing bulletins which furnish house wives and others with valuable and needed information on the value and preparation of foods. Our women should supply themselves with such literature.

"Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." It is eminently fitting that precepts of this kind should find firm lodgment in our memory.

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