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# THE MONITOR

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A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

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## Extension Carries No Reflection

General Ballou, in Command of Training Camp, Writes to Correct False Impression.

### MOBILIZATION IS DEFERRED

Wisdom and Commonsense Dictate That Advantage Be Taken of Extended Time.

Under date of September 14 General Ballou, in command of the training camp at Des Moines, Ia., has written the following letter to Dr. Cabanis of Washington, D. C., in explanation of postponement of graduation of Colored officers:

"I was very much surprised to learn that any one should construe the one month's extension of this training camp as an indication that the Colored candidates for commissions required more time than white candidates, and that the month's extension was made in order to bring them up to the standard of the white camps. As a matter of fact, no one is in a position to institute any comparison between the proficiency of the Colored candidates and the whites, as no one has had an opportunity to compare their work. The inspector general of the army visited all of the training camps and could, therefore, institute a comparison as to the little practical work he observed in his brief visits, and also as to their apparent discipline, 'set up' and smartness of appearance. I am convinced from his remarks that the candidates at this camp would not suffer from any such comparison.

"The fact of the matter is that there is no reason whatsoever for supposing that the extension of this camp to October 15 was caused by any consideration of relative fitness of candidates, and there seems every reason for believing that this had nothing at all to do with the matter. There was not one word or figure in the report and recommendations of the classification boards at this camp that could possibly have indicated to the War Department, or any one else, the slightest reason for believing that the Colored candidates were not as well qualified for their commissions as were the white candidates.

"The War Department has not felt it necessary to explain its action, and it should not be necessary, but the following may explain the matter to those who see something sinister in everything they don't understand:

"The men conscripted under the first call are to be actually mobilized in several increments. The reason is obvious. To dump thirty or forty thousand men in a camp all at once would be to create confusion if not chaos and to entail much actual suffering. Most of the officers who are to handle these conscripts are the briefly instructed men of these three months' training camps. They can't be expected to handle such big matters efficiently till they have had a little experience with smaller ones. Then there is the vast problem of supply. The machinery needs time to get it to running at maximum speed and efficiency. It needs oiling up and to begin at rather low speed.

"The Colored troops are to be organized in units by themselves, and not mixed with whites. Since the Colored officers' training camp did not begin until one month after the white camps, the white officers were graduated and ready one month before the Colored ones could be. That the white regiments should, therefore, be the first ones mobilized is as simply logical as that two and two make four.

"It will be well along in October before the last of the several white increments can be called out and cared for.

What is the sensible thing to do meanwhile with the Colored candidates for commissions? Any man who knows anything at all of the necessary qualifications for an officer knows that three months are not one-tenth of the time really necessary for his training, and that not one of our officers of three months' training has more than made a slight beginning in learning his duties. If time were available they would all be kept in training a much longer time. Now, is it the part of commonsense to graduate these Colored candidates a month or two ahead of the mobilization of the units they are to organize, feed, equip and train and let them idle away the interim, or is it good business sense to continue their preparation by an extra month of work specially selected, with a view to enabling them to

avoid the very mistakes now being made by the less fortunate officers who, however sadly they may need an extra month's training, were not so fortunate as to get it?

"No one but trouble mongers can have any doubt either as to the wisdom of this extra month's work, under the circumstances, or as to it being absolutely devoid of any reflection whatsoever on the Colored candidates.

"You are at liberty to make any use you see fit of this letter.

"Sincerely,  
(Signed) "C. C. BALLOU,  
"Brigadier General National Army."

### OLDEST BANK MESSENGER DIES

Cincinnati, O.—In the passing away of John H. Troy, the career of a family long identified with the financial institutions of this city is closed. He served three banks of this city for a period of more than fifty years as a trusted messenger, the National Lafayette Bank, the Merchants' National Bank, and finally the First National Bank, with which he was connected at the time of his death. He was the oldest bank messenger of the State, not only in years, but in point of service.

## The Conservation of Food Work

The First From the Department of Food Administration for Nebraska.

G. W. WATTLES, Food Administrator

October 21 to 28 Named as Pledge Card Week.

The first big work of the Food Administrator is to secure the co-operation of the housewives of Nebraska in conservation of food products. The means to this immediate end is the signing of pledge cards by citizens of Nebraska, giving their voluntary assistance in this work. The week of October 21 to 28 has been set aside, nationally, as pledge card week and Mr. Wattles hopes to secure the pledges of seventy-five percent of the 290,000 families of Nebraska.

Mr. Wattles has gathered around him a strong Executive Committee, composed of representative men of the state, to assist in the work. The personnel of the committee assures its success.

"The purpose of this campaign is two-fold," says Mr. Wattles. "First, to secure the realization of the importance of food conservation, and, second, to get a list of housewives of Nebraska who will assist in this work, and that they may be advised, directly, of the methods and plans. There is nothing in the card that any one cannot sign. It simply asks the voluntary co-operation in the work of the national food administration.

"We, in Nebraska, waste enough food to feed Belgium. If we can save what is wasted, we can supply food to our boys in the war zone who are entitled to the best there is, and we can save starving mothers who are dying for want of nutrition. It is important to the last degree, this question of food conservation."

### AMERICAN BANKERS' ASSOCIATION MEETS

John Mitchell Makes Report on Nation-wide Thrift Campaign Among Colored People.

Atlantic City, N. J.—The American Bankers' Association met in its annual session here the last week in September. Among the delegates was John Mitchell, jr., president of the Mechanics' Savings Bank of Richmond, Va., a substantial institution capitalized and officered by Colored men.

For the first time in the history of the American Bankers' Association President John Mitchell, jr.'s, report as chairman of the Special Committee on the Nation-wide Thrift Campaign Among Colored People appeared in the advance report of the officers of the Savings Bank Section and was distributed among the more than two thousand wealthy men of the country. It produced much favorable comment.

Great Producing Power  
These reports will also appear in the financial journals of the country. Mr. Mitchell showed that the annual producing power of the Colored people of the country is \$600,000,000 per year. The meeting of the Savings Bank Section here is the largest in the history of the organization.

## Give Us a Colored Commander for Colored Troops

PRESIDENT WILSON, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMY, TWELVE MILLION COLORED AMERICANS RESPECTFULLY PETITION YOU, SIR, TO GIVE OUR RACE A GENERAL IN THE PERSON OF CHARLES YOUNG, DAVIS, GREEN OR ANY OTHER COMPETENT MAN NOW SERVING IN THE ARMY, AND TO GIVE HIM COMMAND OF COLORED TROOPS; AND WE PLEDGE YOU OUR HONOR THAT OUR COUNTRY WILL THRILL WITH PRIDE AT THE VALOR OF THE TROOPS UNDER HIS COMMAND.

GIVE US A COLORED COMMANDER FOR COLORED TROOPS. OUR LOYALTY AND SERVICE MERIT THIS RECOGNITION.

## The Negro Soldiers' Valorous Part In America's Wars

They Have Been Eager Volunteers and Brave Fighters from the Revolution Until Today; Only Two Isolated Blots Were the Outbreaks at Brownsville and Houston.

By Benson Crawford, in the New York Times.

Ever since the American grew careless about spilling tea at Boston the blood of black soldiers has been spilled for the eagle bird. It was Crispus Attucks, a mulatto and a fugitive slave, that led the patriot mob at the Boston massacre. It was Peter Salem, one of the enfranchised Negroes who fought at Bunker Hill, that shot dead Major Pitcairn, leader of the British marines, as he leaped over the breastworks crying "The day is ours!" Sprinkled with the blue and the gray alike stood the soldier in black during the war between the States. The rattle of black musketry brought the white flag from the Spaniards on the summit of San Juan Hill which ended the war with Spain. It was a troop of black cavalry that penetrated the plains of Mexico and dealt havoc to Villa's band of guerrillas before being trapped and cut to pieces by a machine gun.

All this for the eagle bird—and more. When Congress called it war with Germany, patriotic Negroes began holding mass meetings throughout the country, even though German spies or sympathizers were mailing letters to their leaders in the Southern States saying "This is a white man's war, and Negroes would better go to Mexico and get higher wages." A Colored regiment was quickly organized at Norfolk, Va., and offered its services to the President. More than 10,000 Negroes were among the applicants to enlist with the expeditionary army proposed by Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. Although the raising of an army fell upon the United States in the early Springtime, when the Negro population of the cotton belt is largely under contract to remain in the fields, many black soldiers enlisted along with their white fellow-countrymen.

Like a pathetic romance runs the story of our soldiers in black. Too little has been told about them by the writers of American history. Certainly too little has been taught about their activities in warfare from school histories. A better understanding between the races might have long ago materialized had a page or two here and there from the musty old Government reports and official war records, long buried in the dustiest corners of big libraries, been inserted in the textbooks on American history giving the Negro's part in the nation's wars.

In the very first war for American independence and long before the Negro knew for himself the meaning of the word "freedom" his finger got hungry for a trigger at the tap of a drum. In the war of the American Revolution and in the war of 1812 many Negroes bought their individual freedom by fighting for the cause of the colonists. Others went to the front as substitutes for their masters and the sons of their masters. The present-day generation of Americans would probably not believe it, but official records make it true, nevertheless, that at one time right in New York State, now the Empire State of the country, Negroes were put in the trenches to fight for American independence, and their pay as soldiers went to their masters in payment for their own individual freedom. This by legislative enactment, too. (Oct. 24, 1814.)

So eager were Negroes to enlist in the war of the Revolution that laws had to be passed repeatedly by the States or colonies to prevent them

from mustering into service. On May 20, 1775, the Revolutionary Committee on Safety found it desirable to rule that "only free Negroes should be employed as soldiers;" whereupon many patriots freed their slaves. In the Continental Congress Edward Rutledge of South Carolina moved on Sept. 26, 1775, that all Negro soldiers be dismissed from the Colonial Army. But there was strong opposition to this move and Colored men were still received, often as substitutes for their white masters, who set them free on this condition.

The Congressional Committee of Conference with General Washington before Boston, headed by Benjamin Franklin, issued an order on Oct. 23, 1775, to the effect that Negroes "especially such as are slaves," should be no longer enlisted. This brought much dissatisfaction among the Negroes who had already enlisted, and General Washington reported that he had cause to fear that those Colored troops whose time had expired might show their resentment by deserting to the enemy. Congress permitted these to re-enlist Jan. 16, 1776) and General Washington, who had great faith in the Negro as a soldier, had the satisfaction of continuing his plan of using the black man in the trenches.

There were 775 Negroes enrolled in the Continental Army on August 24, 1778. Two days later the Rhode Island Legislature set free enough slaves to form a regiment on condition they would enlist with the State militia. The terms were gladly accepted by the slaves and they fought with conspicuous and commendable gallantry in the battle of Rhode Island. In his book, "The American Conflict," Horace Greeley wrote: "Had the Revolutionary war lasted a few years longer slavery would have been abolished throughout the country." It should be stated in reference to the battle of Rhode Island that Major Gen. Greene had three regiments—one of them the enlisted slaves—and they repulsed three vicious attacks intended to flank the American Army. The British thought the Negroes were the weak spot in the line, but they found they were not.

One of the great disputes at home arising at the outset of the War of 1812 was whether the Negroes should be used as soldiers or not. General Andrew Jackson issued a proclamation from Mobile, Ala., on Sept. 21, 1814, in which he bitterly denounced "the mistaken policy of excluding Negroes from the army." He praised unstintingly those Colored soldiers who had fought under him, and had no cause to regret his utterances shortly afterward in the defense of New Orleans when the Negroes under his command fought bravely with the whites and succeeded in driving Pakenham and his trained British troops from behind the breastworks. (Jan. 8, 1815.)

### CONNECTICUT HAS COLORED COUNTRY CLUB

Cheshire, Conn.—With the opening of the Cheshire County Club in this place, with all the attractions and conveniences of a modern country club, the Colored men composing its membership now over 200, have no doubt launched the most complete organization of this kind owned and operated by Colored men in this country.

Do your level best wherever you may be employed.

### RACE PRESS TAKES UP OUR SLOGAN

The Monitor's slogan: "Give Us a Colored Commander for Colored Troops," is being taken up by the race press throughout the country. Let press, pulpit and people unite in this demand, and eventually the petition will be granted.

The Citizens Advocate, of Los Angeles, Cal., has this to say:

"The Monitor, one of our esteemed contemporaries, is carrying a double column header on its front page appealing to President Wilson to appoint a Colored commander for Colored troops. We give place to this appeal because such an act on the part of the President will meet with the approval of one-tenth part of the population—and in justice to the Negro soldier it ought to be done.

### QUIZ SOLDIERS HELD IN RIOT

Fort Bliss, Tex.—One hundred and four prisoners of the Twenty-fourth Infantry have been examined here by the National Board of Inquiry, which is making an investigation preliminary to filing charges against the members of the 24th Infantry, alleged to have had a part in the rioting at Houston on August 3.

## New York Race Men Nominated

First Time in History of State Voters Colored Voters Have United on Their Own Candidates.

### BOTH MEN CREDIT TO RACE

New York City.—E. A. Johnson and J. C. Thomas, Jr., two candidates representing the best intellectual and business types of the race, have been named by the Republican party as candidates for the Assembly and Aldermanic Board in Harlem, respectively. It is said to be the first time the party has ever designated race men as candidates for elective offices in New York City.

Edward A. Johnson was nominated as a candidate for Assemblyman of the Nineteenth district. He is a man of excellent accomplishments, and has a fine record as a clean-cut business man and gentleman. He defeated his opponent for nomination by 14 votes. Mr. Johnson is 56 years of age, and was born in Raleigh, N. C., where he was admitted to the bar, and served for some time as an assistant to the United States attorney for that district. He is a graduate from both Atlanta and Shaw universities, and for some years was a trustee for the latter institution, as well as its dean. Four times he went as a delegate to National Republican conventions. Mr. Johnson is also an author of national reputation. He came to New York in 1906, and was admitted to the bar here the same year. Among his literary productions is one on the "National Negro Business League," a "History of the Negro Race," "The Negro Soldier" and a half dozen other authoritative works.

The aldermanic candidate has quite as interesting history. James C. Thomas, Jr., was graduated from the city schools and Cornell University, where he took high honors as a scholar and made an enviable record as a member of the university track team. His father is an undertaker, who has amassed a fortune that is said to approach \$1,000,000. Young Thomas was admitted to the New York bar in 1912, and was a delegate-at-large to the Constitutional convention, of which Hon. Elihu Root was chairman. Mr. Thomas lives at 2229 Fifth avenue. He is a candidate for alderman from the Twenty-sixth district of the Twenty-first Assembly district. Mr. Thomas' led his nearest opponent by 150 votes.

### HURRICANE HIT JAMAICA; KINGSTON MISSES DAMAGE

Kingston, Jamaica.—The island of Jamaica was struck by a hurricane Sept. 22 for the third time in as many years. The gale was not of excessive violence in Kingston, and no damage was done to buildings. No details are available from the interior of the island, as all the telephone and telegraph wires are down.

### COLORED SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES ALMOST EMPTY

Jacksonville, Fla.—It is reported that schools and churches in the rural districts of the State are almost empty this fall, because of the great exodus to the North. Business men and preachers are also leaving in great numbers for northern fields.

## Roosevelt Receives Colored Delegation

Fourteen Representatives of the Race Wait Upon Militant Ex-President in Kansas City.

### ASK MESSAGE OF INSPIRATION

Counsels Bravery, Patience, Progressiveness and Trust in God; Maintains That Justice Will Triumph.

Kansas City, Mo.—A delegation of prominent Colored men, upon an invitation extended by ex-President Theodore Roosevelt, soldier, statesman, hunter and traveler and the greatest living figure in the world today, visited him at his stopping place while in this city last Monday, September 24, at 3 p. m. at the palatial residence of Hon. I. R. Kirkwood, son-in-law of the late Colonel William R. Nelson, founder and editor of the Kansas City Star, and were graciously received by both Colonel Roosevelt and his host, Mr. Kirkwood. After being ushered into the magnificent reception room of the Kirkwood residence, Mr. Nelson C. Crews, as the spokesman of the delegation, introduced the members of the party to the ex-president, and after an exchange of greetings briefly stated their pleasure in having this distinguished honor conferred upon them of being permitted to meet the distinguished guest, to express their confidence in him and to thank him for his manly and courageous stand for the race in the recent controversy with Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor at the recent clash in Carnegie Hall in New York City. Mr. Crews said that when Abraham Lincoln uttered those splendid words in which he said "government of the people, for the people and by the people shall not perish from the earth," he gave utterance to a lofty and magnificent sentiment, but when you, Colonel Roosevelt, gave utterance to that stirring sentiment, "All men up and no men down," you forever endeared yourself to every Negro beneath whatever flag he may live in the civilized world.

Mr. Crews then presented Dr. William H. Thomas, the scholarly and eloquent pastor of Allen Chapel, who briefly but eloquently stated the difficulties under which the race has labored, the struggles through which it was passing and the need of encouragement from strong and powerful friends, and in conclusion said: "Mr. Roosevelt, give us a text—a theme—a message of inspiration to carry to our people, and we shall feel that our mission has not been in vain."

Colonel Roosevelt seemed to be deeply affected by the eloquent plea of Dr. Thomas, and though he gave visible evidence of fatigue, having just returned from the memorable banquet extended him by the commercial bodies of the city, yet he entered with the Roosevelt vim and spirit into a brief discussion of the conditions surrounding the Colored people, told how it was his intention if he had been permitted to organize a brigade for service in France, to have had one regiment of Colored men with Colonel Young in command of that regiment and all the officers Colored, and vehemently said: "I would have expected every man from that regiment to have measured up to the highest possible standing, because I knew more would be expected of them than of other elements in my regiment; but as I was not permitted to organize that brigade I can only say to you: Be brave, be not weary in well-doing, be patient but progressive; trust in God and respect your fellows; always remembering that all things which are possible are not always expedient. I thank you, gentlemen, for having paid me this call, and bid you tell your race that justice and right will eventually prevail among men."—Kansas City Sun.

### A SAMPLE OF SOUTHERN "JUSTICE" (?)

Raleigh, N. C.—Reuben Bailey, a white man, who was arrested several weeks ago charged with breaking into a Colored farmer's house and criminally assaulting his wife, in the presence of her children, was tried in the Superior Court last week. He was allowed to plead guilty of forcibly entering the house and the court accepted his plea, saying: "Let the prisoner pay the Colored woman \$25 and cost of court, and you give a bond of \$100 for good behavior until the September term of court."