

Growing,
Thank You!

THE MONITOR

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

Lifting
Lift, Too!

\$1.50 a Year. 5c a Copy

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, DECEMBER 8, 1917

Vol. III. No. 23 (File No. 126)

Fair Treatment For Soldiers

Secretary Baker Writes Open Letter
to Scott to Correct Certain False
Impressions.

THE SERVICE BATTALIONS

Thousands of White Draftees Have
Been Assigned to This Important
Arm of the Service.

(Special to The Monitor.)
Washington, D. C., Dec. 7.—Some
eighty-three thousand, six hundred
(83,600) Negroes have been drafted
for service in the National Army to be
sent overseas.

Secretary of War Newton D. Baker,
in working out his plans for the training
of these men, has met with many
difficulties. First of all, he has had
to contend with those friends of the
Negro who have felt that it was Secretary
Baker's special duty at this time
to attempt to solve or settle the so-called
race question in America. Second, Negro
leaders from all parts of the country
have importuned the War Department
in various and sundry directions, while
the peculiar southern situation, where the
masses of the Negroes live, has had to be
taken into account.

Because of these difficulties, the
Secretary of War called to his aid, on
October 1st, 1917, as Special Assistant
in the War Department, a representative
of the Negro Race, Emmett J. Scott, who,
for eighteen years, was Secretary to the
late Booker T. Washington, and also
Secretary of the Tuskegee Normal and
Industrial Institute, in Alabama. Mr. Scott
has a wide acquaintance among members
of his own race, and with leading
members of the white race in the South,
as well as with other leaders of thought
and public opinion in the North. He has
sought to relieve the Secretary of War,
as much as possible, of the burdensome
details growing out of controversies,
involving racial relationships, caused or
occasioned by the presence of white and
Colored draftees together in many of the
cantonnments.

Lately, there has been a certain
amount of misgiving and unrest among
the Colored people of the country who
have been led to feel, by reason of reports
of alleged mistreatment of Colored men
in cantonnments, that there is a disposition
on the part of the War Department to
deal unfairly with Colored draftees in
National Army cantonnments and in
National Guard camps. For the purpose
of allaying these suspicions and correcting
certain false impressions which have
been made and circulated, the Secretary
of War has addressed an open letter to
his Colored Aide, stating his attitude
and the policy of the War Department
with reference to these Colored soldiers.
The letter, dated November 30th, 1917,
follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT

Washington, November 30, 1917.
Memorandum For Mr. Emmet J. Scott,
Special Assistant,
War Department.

Referring to various telegrams and
letters of protest received at the Department,
to which you have called my attention,
concerning certain alleged discriminations
against Colored draftees, I wish to say
that a full investigation of the matters
complained of has been ordered.

As you know, it has been my policy
to discourage discrimination against any
person by reason of their race. This policy
has been adopted not merely as an act
of justice to all races that go to make
up the American people, but also to
safeguard the very institutions which we
are now at the greatest sacrifice, engaged
in defending, and which any racial disorders
must endanger.

At the same time, there is no intention
on the part of the War Department to
undertake at this time to settle the so-called
Race Question. In this hour of national
emergency and need, white and Colored
men alike are being called to defend
Our Country's honor. In the very nature
of the case, some must fight in the
trenches, while others must serve in
other capacities behind the firing line.

I very much regret what seems to be
a certain amount of overworked hysteria
on the part of some of the complainants
who seem to think that only Colored
draftees are being assigned to duty in
Service Battalions, whereas thousands
of white draftees already have been,
and many of them necessarily will be,
assigned to duty in such Service Battalions.

Some of the complaints or charges

of discrimination seem all the more
unwarranted, in view of the fact that
there is far less hazard to the life of
the soldier connected with the Service
Battalion than is true in the case of
the soldier who faces shot and shell
on the firing line. Furthermore, the
attitude of the War Department toward
Colored soldiers is clearly shown by
the following facts: More than 626
of the 1250 Colored men who completed
the course at the Reserve Officers' Training
Camp, at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, have
been commissioned as officers in the
United States Army; nearly 100 Colored
physicians and surgeons have received
commissions as officers in the Medical
Reserve Corps, and a full fighting force
of 30,000 Colored soldiers, including
representatives in practically every branch
of military service, will constitute the
92nd Division, to be detailed for duty
in France under General Pershing.

The relations between the Colored
and white men, in the camps containing
both, have been worked out on a very
satisfactory basis, and little or no
trouble seems likely to arise. All of
my reports indicate that the Colored
men are accepting this as an opportunity
to serve and not an occasion for
creating discord or trouble, and white
men and officers are passing over the
question of race difference in a helpful
spirit. What we need in this emergency
is the help of right-thinking people
in the cities and towns around the
camps, and we are getting that co-operation
so generally that our course seems free
from embarrassment, if German propagandists,
who want to make discord by stirring
up sensitive feelings, are simply not
allowed to do their work.

As a matter of fact, the Colored
people and the white people in this
country have lived together now for a
good many years and have established
relationships in the several parts of
the country which are more or less well
recognized and acquiesced in. Gradually
the Colored people are acquiring education
in the industrial arts, and are rendering
themselves more and more useful in our
civilization, and more and more entitled
to our respect. On the other hand, the
white people are coming more generally
to realize the value of the good citizens
among the Colored people through their
industrial importance and their eager
desire to learn and qualify themselves
for usefulness in the country, and this
has brought about a growth of good
feeling marred, it is true, here and there,
by such incidents as that at Houston
and that at East St. Louis, which grew
out of sad misunderstandings, and were
perhaps contributed to, in at least one
of these instances, by the malicious
activities of people who would rejoice
to see any embarrassment come to us
as a sign of weakness against our
enemy. Therefore unrest among the
Colored people and suspicion of the
Government on their part are, by all
means, to be discouraged at a time like
this.

We are bending all our energies to
the building up of an army to defeat
the enemy of democracy and freedom,
and the army we are building contains
both white and Colored men. We are
expecting that they will all do their
duty, and when they have done it they
will be alike entitled to the gratitude
of their Country.

(Signed) NEWTON D. BAKER,
Secretary of War.

SOUTHERN TROOPS TO FORM MACHINE GUN SQUAD

Camp Upton, N. Y.—Another increment
of troops arrived, consisting of 500
Colored recruits, sent here from the
South, to be assigned to the machine
gun battalion of the 134th Colored
Brigade, which has its headquarters
at Camp Upton.

CUDAHY PACKING COMPANY EMPLOYS COLORED WOMEN

The Cudahy Packing Company is
trying the experiment of employing
Colored women in departments of
their extensive plant where formerly
men, or white women have been
exclusively employed. A large number
of women were put to work this week.

MRS. MARY CHURCH TERRELL TEACHES FRENCH

Washington, D. C.—Mrs. Mary
Church Terrell, wife of Judge Robert
H. Terrell, is teaching French at
Howard University. Howard lost
seven of its teaching force recently,
due to the war, among them being
the French teacher and Mrs. Terrell
was prevailed upon to take the French
classes.

A Wee Voice from Dixie

Mrs. J. H. Hutten Gives Monitor Readers an
Interesting Account of Impressions on
Southern Trip.

Rome, Ga., Dec. 6.—Nature has
given a hue of gold to its fields, its
forests and its gardens at the closing
of its autumnal year. One catches a
glimpse of such beauty and likens it
unto the shifting scenes of a kaleidoscope
when passing through the South at
this time.

Dame Nature makes us wonder if in
making such beautiful transformation
in plant life, what must have prompted
her to transform the human coloring
and come into it to such an extent
as in the man of color?

"There are voices in Dixie too faint to
hear,

There are flowers that bloom unseen;

Far away in a land filled with prejudice
and air

Dwell many with happy day-dreams."

The Journey Starts.

I left my home in Omaha on October
17 to visit some points South and
East. Dr. L. E. Britt took my companion,
his colleague and me to the station
there in his car. At 5:30 the train
arrived that started this journey to
Sumter, S. C., which was made in
three days.

The mode of travel was the same
until we reached the Queen City—Cincinnati.
There the Negro is forced to
acknowledge the color of his skin. A
coach named and attached is provided
for his special use. Name compounded,
perhaps, from "Jim," Uncle Sam's
soldier-boy, and Crow, from his lovely
bird of flight—"Jim Crow." It travels,
however, and nearest the strongest
power that conveys.

Interesting Scenes.

Each state through which we passed
presented sights new and interesting.
The most unusual for me were those
at Hot Springs, N. C., where a view of
the interned German soldiers was
obtained, and that at Columbia, S. C.,
where the boys of color and his white
comrade at Camp Jackson shouldered
arms under training with an army
road as the only dividing line.

Many cities showed signs of advancement,
made noticeable through the
homes of the Negroes, his farm
lands, his business enterprises and,

Red Cross Christmas Membership Drive

The Red Cross wants 15,000,000
members in the United States.

A national campaign or drive to
secure these members will be made
during the period from December 17
to 25, inclusive.

Douglas county's quota is 40,000.
We must get this many members during
the period above mentioned.

The cost of membership is \$1.00.
With Red Cross monthly magazine for
one year, the fee is \$2.00.

The membership issued during this
drive will be termed a Christmas
membership and will be good for
1918.

Heretofore Red Cross membership
drives have been carried on at different
times in the year in different sections
of the country. Practically all of
the members in Douglas county joined
for one year, since May or June, 1917.
In view of the fact that the Red Cross
has decided to hereafter make
membership campaigns only at Christmas
time each year, these members will
be asked to allow the unexpired portion
of their membership to lapse and buy
a Christmas membership good for 1918.
Hence, every man, woman and child
in Douglas county is a prospect for a
new membership.

A special Christmas button will be
given each new member joining for
1918.

A service flag, with a large red
cross in the center, will be given with
each membership, so that it may be
hung in the window at home or in the
member's place of business. Small
crosses will be furnished for additional
members in the same family or same
business, so that they may be pasted
on the flag, and in that way the total
number of members in the family or
firm indicated. It is expected that
this flag will be conspicuously displayed
in the windows of each home or place
of business and on

above all, the hearty co-operation of
his white neighbor.

Historic Sumter Reached.

Sumter reached, I spent three weeks
there among my relatives and friends,
after which a few days in the old
school at Orangeburg, S. C. There at
Clafin were a few landmarks remaining
from the devastation made by fire
prior to my visit. An associate teacher
here and there to recall auld lang syne
and the many days of an attempted
impairing to the young shoots within
those walls.

Homes of Culture.

Sumter and Orangeburg are alike in
their possession of citizens of color
owning property of value, and with
culture and refinement visible in their
homes; a business air of many and a
little of that Northern grit manifested.
"What will this war mean to us?"
seemed the silent thought engraven
upon each face.

The fleeting Time warned that to
Georgia there must be haste made, for
Thanksgiving is near. November 19 I
left for Rome, Ga., and reached this
city the following morning at 8:30,
and thence to the home of Mr. and
Mrs. J. C. Hutten.

This home of beauty, with its surroundings,
showed early savings and the
commingling of an aesthetic taste
common to both its inmates there.

The city is drained by the Coosa
river and its three branches, making
its scenery grand. On an elevation
overlooking the city is Myrtle Hill
cemetery, where the remains of Mrs.
Wilson, the President's former wife,
rest.

Making Progress.

The Negro here is progressing, yet
their business enterprises are of slow
growth.

The societies among the women have
combined pleasure and work in such a
way one does not exist without the
other. Embroidery, intricate, plain
and neat, is a result.

Schools are good, with an average
salary of \$45 to each.

I shall say some more about Rome
on the return trip which must bring
out the South as a field for future
development and the cause of the exodus
and the remedy.

Christmas eve, a candle or electric
light placed behind it so as to illuminate
it to the outside world.

The head of each house is asked to
buy a \$2.00 membership for himself
so that the magazine may be received
in each home during 1918, and he will
be asked to buy a \$1.00 membership
for each member of his household.

This campaign is not being carried
on so much for the money as it is for
the moral support that will come from
a membership of 15,000,000 in the
United States. It is not only the dollar
that the Red Cross wants, but it is
the moral and other support that it
will get from these new members.

MADAM S. J. WALKER COM- PLETES \$250,000 MANSION AT IRVINGTON, NEW YORK

Madam Sarah J. Walker, accredited
the world's wealthiest Negress, and
formerly a resident of Denver, Colorado,
has just completed a home on the
banks of the Hudson, at Irvington,
costing her \$250,000, exclusive of
furniture and fixtures. She is now
moving from her New York City home
which cost \$50,000, having given same
to her daughter as a present, to her
mansion. This palace completed after
eight months of work by a large gang
of men, contains many wonders that
vie with the residences of many of
the nation's financiers, and is the
finest building of its kind in the
neighborhood. The beautiful edifice is
a three-story structure and basement
with roof of red tile in the Italian
Renaissance style of architecture,
being 113 feet long and sixty feet
wide and standing in the center of a
four and one-half acre plot. It is
fire-proof and has thirty-four rooms.

In the basement are gymnasiums,
baths, kitchen and pantry, servants'
dining room, power room for an
organ and storage vaults for valuables.

The main entrance on the north
side leads to a marble room, whence
a marble stairway leads to the floor
above. On the first floor are the
library and conservatory. A living

room twenty-one by thirty-two feet,
furnished in Italian style, a Louis XV
dining room with a hand-painted ceiling.

Adjoining two drawing rooms is an
\$8,000 organ which may be played
automatically or by hand. The second
floor contains bedrooms, bathrooms,
showers, dressing rooms, sleeping
porches and rest rooms. On the third
floor are servants' quarters to accommodate
eight servants. Plans for furnishing
the house add many thousands of
dollars to the quarter of a million
expended in building this mansion.

From humble circumstances and
poor surroundings, with a mental
depth that time has proven what this
wonderful woman possesses, another
lesson is given to the world that
Nature's claim to the climbing of
Ambition's ladder knows no racial
discrimination: and THE COLORADO
STATESMAN, out of the fullness
of its admiration for such a member
of our race offers its congratulations
over such an achievement, and its
best wishes for long life and happiness
with greater business success for
Madam Walker.—The Colorado
Statesman.

STRAUSS ENTERTAINED COLORED SOLDIERS

New York.—Nathan Strauss, who is
campaigning to raise \$1,000,000 in this
country for welfare work among the
Jews in national service, entertained
fifty Colored soldiers from Camp Upton
at his home here on Thanksgiving.

Some days ago Mr. Strauss received
an invitation from the Rocky Mountain
Club to be host at one of forty
tables for ten soldiers each for
Thanksgiving dinner at the club. He
went to the club and handed the following
letter to Herbert Wall, the secretary:

"Already before receipt of your
communication I had made up my
mind to entertain some of 'our boys'
in my home at Thanksgiving. And, as
I suspect, that the Colored soldiers
and sailors may not be so well remembered
for this occasion, I choose them as
my preferred guests.

"The bravery and patriotism they
displayed whenever our democracy
was imperiled entitles them to the
highest degree of respect and admiration.

"Will you assign to me not more
than fifty, nor less than forty, for
this, our national Thanksgiving Day,
to be at my residence, No. 27 West
Seventy-second street, at 1 o'clock."

When seen at his home recently,
Mr. Strauss said:

"I felt the Colored men are fighting
just the same as the white men.
It occurred to me they might be
overlooked. I always am on the side
of the under dog, and I am going to
have these boys as my guests and will
be glad to entertain them."

DELAWARE AND NEW YORK TROOPS TO FORM ARTILLERY

Camp Dix, Wrightstown, N. J.—Colored
troops from New York and Delaware,
who are now assembled here to be
formed into the 349th Artillery and
those from New Jersey will be
formed into the 350th. The boys are
being well cared for.

NIAGARA FALLS SENDS FIVE DRAFTEES TO DIX

Niagara Falls, N. Y.—The Colored
population here is comparatively
small, but there is no lack of patriotism.
Five young Colored men, James
Marsh, Allen Curtis, Wilson Gibson,
Eugene Ellis and Ray Montgomery,
have gone as the first contingent from
here to Camp Dix. On the night
before their departure a reception was
tendered them by their friends in
Brown's hall artistically decorated for
the occasion. The committee in charge
of the function included Mr. and Mrs.
Charles A. Brown, Mrs. Arthur A.
Johnson, Miss S. M. Brown, and Mrs.
James Notes. Patriotic addresses,
music and a banquet were important
features. The boys left in the best
of spirits, taking as their motto the
words of Sergeant Carney, hero of
Fort Wagner, "Boys, the old flag
never touched the ground."

(Mrs. Charles A. Brown, chairman
of the committee, is a sister of Mrs.
R. T. Walker, of Omaha.)

Mr. Bryant Peebles, an ex-slave,
seventy-seven years old, living in Barlow
Bend, Ala., owns four thousand
acres of land which he recently
refused to sell for \$100,000, even though
he is illiterate. He has eighty head
of horses and mules, one hundred head
of cattle, and a gin and grist mill.—
The Crisis.

Promotion of Negro Thrift

Report by Chairman of Committee on
the Work Shows Large Aggregate
of Holdings of Colored
Race in United States.

Atlantic City, N. J.—"The time is
rapidly approaching, if not actually
at hand, when the Negro, ever friendly
and never militant toward his
friends, always faithful and never
traitorous toward the Government, be
it Democratic or Republican, will be
valued at his true worth, not only by
the South, but by the North, not only
by the East, but by the West," asserts
John Mitchell, Jr., chairman of the
special thrift committee for work
among Colored people in his report
to the savings bank section of the
bankers' convention. According to the
United States census reports for 1910,
there were 9,827,763 Negroes in this
country, of whom 1,912,431 reside in
the northern and western states, the
others in the South.

"Granting that the exodus north-
ward and westward assumed huge proportions," the report says, "it is safe
to say that the difference will not
exceed 100,000. The bulk of the population
will remain where it is. Far-seeing
southerners are already diplomatically
making changes industrially and
commercially in the southland,
both as to wages and living conditions,
in order to check this immigration.

"They have been calling into consultation
some of the ablest Colored leaders
in that section of the country with
the view of finding a remedy to
cause cessation of the unrest. The
value of the property of the Colored
people in this country has been estimated
to be \$700,000,000. Add to it the
deposits in the banks of the country
and it will be found to be much more
than that. The value of the farm
products, such as corn, wheat, oats,
rye, rice, hay, potatoes, sweet potatoes,
cotton, cottonseed, etc., will total
\$600,000,000 per annum.

"If the present acreage owned by
the Colored people were divided up,
it would give each man, woman and
child two and one-half acres. It
seems then that the wisdom of extending
the blessing of this thrift
movement directly to the Colored
people is apparent.

"Meetings have been held and an
interest awakened, to the end that
millions of dollars are being saved
through the savings department of
banking institutions, and through the
medium of savings clubs. Southern
white people have for many years
encouraged the saving habit among
the Colored people in their respective
localities. They have sold them
homesteads on long-time payments
and extended the time for settlement,
when the pressure of home expenses
became too great. They have also
encouraged the education of the
Colored children in progressive
communities, realizing that no one
thing, not even the family tie,
steadies a Colored man so much as
the saving habit. The wealth of
the Colored people is in the
southland. How to make him a
more thrifty citizen—how to reach
the demands of the thousands of
thrifless 'ne'er do wells' is the
great problem."

WILBERFORCE IS THE RECIPIENT OF LARGE GIFT

Wilberforce, O.—It is announced
that Wilberforce University has
come into possession of \$30,000 from
the Avery estate of Pittsburgh, for
endowment purposes. This generous
benefaction came through the efforts
of Dr. Scarborough, president of
the university, who expects to make
the endowment fund \$100,000 before
stopping.

PAYING FOR LIBERTY BONDS

On November 15, which was the
date on which the first installment
on Liberty Loan Bonds was due,
approximately \$2,400,000,000 was
paid in, although less than a third
of that amount was due.

In other words, nearly two-thirds
of the aggregate subscriptions to
the Second Liberty Loan have been
paid in full, the purchasers not
availing themselves of the right to
wait until December 15 and
January 15 to make their payments.

GROWTH OF FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Between the dates, November 1st
and November 16th, 1917, State
banks and trust companies, whose
aggregate total resources are \$845,796,400,
were admitted to the Federal Reserve
System.