

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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THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor and Publisher.
Lucille Skaggs Edwards and William Garnett Haynes, Associate Editors.
George Wells Parker, Contributing Editor. John D. Crawford, Business Manager.
Fred C. Williams, Traveling Representative

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A Prayer for the Flag

By The Rt. Rev. Arthur L. Williams, S. T. D., Bishop of Nebraska.



"Oh, Lord God Almighty, Who alone art the Giver of victory, bless, we pray Thee this Flag, which is the outward and visible symbol of the liberties of our beloved country. We ask that this, our Nation's Flag, wherever it is carried, may never be associated with oppression or tyranny, or unfurled in a base or ignoble cause. May the principles of a free people and a free government, represented by it, be victorious in the world-wide war now raging, and may the day come when Peace shall be forever established and the Righteousness which exalteth a nation prevail upon the earth. These and all other things, for us and the whole world, we ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen."

HAS HE CAUGHT THE VISION?

Has President Wilson in the heavens which has weighed upon his mind and heart in this great world war caught the vision which will exalt him above the blighting miasma of his birth, training and sympathy. Let us hope so, for many of us believed that he was too large a man to be dwarfed by race prejudice and that explains why so many thousands of Colored Americans voted for him when he first became a candidate for the presidency.

His sponsoring and encouraging of segregation in the government services and like disabilities to which our people were subjected were a sore and grievous disappointment to those who looked for better things.

Then came our country's entrance into the war and still we were treated as a thing apart from our national life. And yet we remained loyal and hopeful.

Our loyalty and hopefulness have been rewarded by brightening skies. Now comes the President in his Buffalo speech of November 12 and tersely tells what he believes to be the final test of American democracy. Note these significant words:

"We are all of the same clay and spirit, and we can get together if we desire to get together. Therefore, my counsel to you is this: Let us show ourselves Americans by showing that we do not want to go off in separate camps or groups by ourselves, but that we want to co-operate with all other classes and all other groups in a common enterprise, which is to release the spirit of the world from bondage. I would be willing to set that up as the final test of an American. That is the meaning of democracy."

These are significant words. We do not believe that they are merely high-sounding phrases void of meaning. We believe that in the travail of soul which has come to Woodrow Wilson in these days, he has caught the vision of what true democracy is and in that vision must be included not white men, or black men, or yellow men, but simply MEN, measured not by accident of birth or race or color, but by the fidelity with which they each fulfill their God-appointed task in their appointed sphere or station.

Has President Wilson caught this vision?

"A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER"

The recent great patriotic demonstration at Richmond, Va., in which white and Colored citizens heartily joined, has inspired the following optimistic editorial in the Richmond Planet:

"Some people seem never to tire in saying that the Southern white people are the best friends of the Colored people. This war against the Teutonic allies has brought to these same people the full realization of the fact that the Colored people are the best friends of the Southern white people.

"The semblance of trouble has brought into the limelight the all-pervading devotion of this much maligned race of people and the well-spring of human sympathy flowed uninterruptedly along the streets of this city on Friday and Saturday of last week.

"We thank God that it is so. Thousands of the flower of our race are offering their services to the national government in general and to the Southerners in particular. Men, women and children are inquiring as to what they can do to avert disaster and

to aid the people of this country in the great struggle.

"Colored people are loyal. They do not need emblems or flags to indicate their position upon great questions. A Colored man's face is his flag. We have been deeply touched by the evidences of general esteem and solicitation on the part of the best white people in Virginia.

"We shall never forget it. The people who have had an antipathy towards us are being side-tracked and silenced. We feel like calling to our people who have gone north to seek better wages and more congenial surroundings: 'Come back home. Conditions have changed. The feeling of antipathy towards us has given way to expressions of general sympathy. Colored folks, come back home!'"

RED CROSS CHRISTMAS MEMBERSHIP

We want the Colored people of Omaha and Douglas county to roll up a membership of 1,000 in the American Red Cross by Christmas eve. The Red Cross is asking for a Christmas membership of 15,000,000. Douglas county's quota is 40,000. The membership costs \$1.00. The campaign will be pushed from December 17 to DECEMBER 25. Every church, lodge, society, organization and family is to be canvassed for membership. The Rev. John Albert Williams has been appointed organizing chairman to direct the campaign among the Colored people. By Monday of next week it is planned to have everything in order to push the campaign in co-operation with the general committee, composed of the following well-known business men: Henry Doorley, J. E. Davidson, S. S. Caldwell, W. A. Schall and W. A. Pixley.

James Clark, head waiter of the University Club, has been appointed chairman of committee on hotel and railway men; Nate Hunter is chairman of the committee on fraternal organizations; Dr. L. E. Britt, chairman of committee on business and professional men; Joseph B. LaCour, chairman of committee on churches. Each chairman will appoint such men and women as he deems necessary to reach every one within the group assigned. The drive will be made for one thousand Colored members of the Red Cross.

There will be a meeting in connection with the Red Cross campaign tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock at the U. B. F. Hall, Twenty-fourth and Charles streets, to which the public is invited.

MEN WHO WERE AND THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN

(Special to The Monitor, by Fred C. Williams.)

Someone once said "Over night makes a change." I agree with them. Finding myself in Kansas City, wandering idly along popular East 18th street, I stopped at a corner, why, I don't know. Just out of curiosity, I guess. After standing a while I attempted to move on yet my progress is arrested by some strange force and I return to my old position against the wall and find that I now have a company, another idler like myself. He is talking, yes, this is 18th and — street, in answer to my question, where the Old A—L—Club once was. Instantly everything around me seems to be alive. I find myself looking up at the windows waiting for the once innumerable bright lights to flash out, the well trained orchestra to strike up, to hear the voices of one

the singers in the cab... automobile load after automobile load of pleasure seekers get out and enter the wide open doorway along the brightly illuminated hall up the stairs to the floors above where only so-called pleasure, is dispensed and vice reigns supreme. Out of that dense crowd my eyes followed the form of a man, tall, well built, of a strong and attractive personality, one who could be singled out of a crowd anywhere. As he moved along among the crowd, giving a smile here and a nod over there, a hand shake to another, his quick and intelligent eye seemingly taking notice of everything that came in the range of his vision as he passed along.

I studied his face and remembered him as the man who had once made a great intelligent, impressive, and forceful plea for the rights of his people in the city where he was an acknowledged factor in things political. Some one said, "Mr. Blank, the proprietor, would you care to meet him?"

A car rumbled heavily along 18th street and the noise of its passing created a ghostly and hollow sound against the rattling windows of the empty building, and as I turned my ear to catch the echo as it sounded against the doorway, my companion was saying "yes, he is gone."

Gone.—It brought me back to earth and I remembered that I was listening to a story, the answer to a question I had asked, the whereabouts of the proprietor of this once famous resort. Gone: It seemed to tell so much. Gone, the glimmer and glory of this once brilliant palace of pleasure. Gone—this once paying and lucrative business. Gone—all of his wealth, power, prestige, both political and business. Gone, all of his friends and associates. Gone—also this once strong, forceful and aggressive leader and politician to a quiet and benevolent institution provided by the state for men who, in the crisis of their career suddenly straighten! bend! snap! relax and fail to straighten again, then sit idly day by day, counting their fingers or drumming with their finger tips upon their front teeth and gazing idly through the barred windows or doorways into space beyond, seemingly not seeing or noting anything or anyone immediately surrounding them.

Yes, gone—and all because a little minister began a crusade and reared his banner upon which was written the motto: "Right only shall prevail." The multitude, or rather the citizens of the immediate vicinity who are decent, respectable and church-going people, arose en masse and demanded that the law take cognizance, and it did. The exise board by a negative vote to an application for the renewal of a license to this famous resort and its strong aggressive and one time resourceful leader, politician and proprietor, to the career of both spell fins.

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THE NEED OF ECONOMY AND SAVING

The United States is now at war. A large part of our country's human energy is taken away from the farms, factories and industries of peace, and until the war ends all their energies will be devoted to fighting.

A great portion of our productive energy is being turned into the creation of implements of destruction. Many of our products are now being devoted to purposes of war. Destruction instead of construction is the object of a great portion of the country's energy.

As much of the human energy and productive capacity of the Nation are now being devoted to the purposes of war, so should the proper amount of the money of the United States be so devoted. He who offers his life for his country is offering the greatest possible sacrifice, but the American men and women who support the Government with their money are doing their part.

This war is going to be financed largely out of the savings of the American people during the war. It is not too great a sacrifice to make for one's country in time of war to deny one's self luxuries, to cut down unnecessary expenses, to lead quieter and busier lives. Not only will the money thus saved and used to buy Liberty Loan Bonds help the United States but the diminished consumption of food and other articles will do much to relieve the country from the strain of war.

The less the people use the less strain there is upon the productive capacity of the Nation and the more can be devoted to winning the war; the more the people save the more liberal financial support can they give the Government. This is the people's war, and it is to be financed by the American people, not by the rich and not by the poor, but by the rich and the poor, the capitalist and the wage earner, the miner and the farmer and the manufacturer.

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Church of St. Philip the Deacon will hold a sale of useful and fancy articles in the Guild Rooms Thursday, December 13th, afternoon and evening. The articles offered for sale will be of good value and at reasonable prices, and will be very suitable for Christmas presents. The ladies in charge will be pleased to wait on all patrons who come, but there will be no importuning, urging or nagging people to buy. The liberal patronage of the public is respectfully invited.

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Preaching, 11 a. m., 8 p. m.
League, 6:30 p. m.
Florence P. Leavitt Club, Monday afternoon.
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday Evening.
W. H. M. S. Thursday Afternoon Ladies' Aid, Friday Afternoon.

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