

Growing,
Thank You!

THE MONITOR

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

Lifting
et. Too!

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Peebles Pleased With Army Life

Omaha Man Writes Interesting Letter
From Camp Dix—Compliments
Men at Camp Funston—Has Been
Promoted to Captaincy.

349th Field Artillery,
Camp Dix, N. J.

February 28, 1918.

My Dear Father Williams:

So many interesting items are constantly appearing in The Monitor, that I have been loath to intrude upon your very busy moments and write you a word from the east. Still I cannot divorce from my mind the thought that many Omaha friends would like to have one word from "The Human Plumber," as they call me in the army.

Indeed, I think Omaha should feel very proud of the showing made by the boys at Funston. I do not believe that any other city has a larger representation in the officers' training camp, according to the number sent than Omaha. To men who know a little of the method used by officers in selecting the ones to attend these training schools, there can be no question that merit alone guided them in their selections. I predict that these young men, already having made good, will continue to demonstrate to all that Omaha stands in the vanguard when it is a matter of energetic, efficient young men. The officers in charge of this school, in my humble opinion, are men of exceptional ability. Capt. Milton Dean, an old classmate of mine, quickly rose from the ranks to regimental sergeant-major in the cavalry, and was soon considered one of the ablest to ever hold such rank. Capt. Barber, also an old regular, was one of the best liked and most efficient of all those who took the course at Des Moines. Lieut. Richardson, a young lawyer from Oakland, made one of the best records achieved at the same place. Hence Omahans need have no fear, with these three able judges, but that our boys will get a fair square deal.

I would at this time urge you to continue, through your paper, efforts to get energetic young men of the race to enlist in the Engineer Corps. It is here we need the very best material we can get. A wonderful opportunity is here offered the young men of our race for the first time. Not alone will they be "doing their bit" in a time of great need, but they will receive an industrial and technical training which will be of invaluable benefit after the war.

Camp Dix is an ideally situated camp. We are 34 miles from Philadelphia, and 18 miles from Trenton. We, therefore, have no trouble in getting to the large cities. The men here are from New York state, New Jersey and Delaware. We have two artillery regiments, and the men are doing fine. We imported the Elks band from Philadelphia intact. We also have another band in the making, hence music all the time. Here there is a total absence of embarrassing situations. We have a large theatre with the latest Broadway attractions, many good lectures, and numerous other attractions. There are all kinds of athletic contests between the white and Colored boys, and rest assured our boys are always near the top. We also have many celebrities, Kingdon Gould is one of the enlisted men and I hear he is making good. Spingarn is a major attached to one of the regiments here, and John D. Rockefeller spends much time here in Y. M. C. A. work, so you can see that I do not get lonely for celebrated company.

It may also interest you to know that I am now captain. It makes me the ranking Colored dental surgeon in the army. I am hopeful of attending the army school of plastic surgery at the university of Pennsylvania, thereby obtaining a knowledge which will not only enable me to render the government a more efficient service but at the same time fit me to better serve my Omaha patients when I return to them.

At some future time I shall write you some impressions of the daily occurrences which thoroughly convince me that every spark of loyalty shown by Colored people in this great war is a great factor in bringing about a peaceful and brotherly race adjustment.

Kindly convey to wife and family the very friendly greetings of myself, Mrs. Peebles and Bill.

Your friend,
W. W. PEBLES,
Capt. D. R. C.

SEGREGATION ORDINANCE KILLED IN BALTIMORE

Baltimore, Md.—The local segregation law was given its last rites when the Maryland Court of Appeals handed down a decision Wednesday declaring the ordinance invalid and in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The decision was expected as the United States Court recently declared a similar law valid and Judge John C. Rose, of the United States District Court had subsequently held that the ruling of the highest court in the land applied to the Baltimore ordinance.

DEATHS REPORTED IN STEVEDORE REGIMENT

Washington, D. C., March 1.—General Pershing, in his reports of the deaths occurring in his forces (over there), included in the list the names of Private Thomas Adams, Service Battalion, pneumonia, emergency address Ann Adams, wife, Kelly, La.; Private William Logan, stevedore, pneumonia, emergency address Ella Cash, mother, Arcadia, S. C.

Warned Against False Optimism

Alliance States That the Colored American Must Use "Extreme Caution" and Face Facts Squarely.

Atlantic City, Mar. 7.—The American Negro needs to exercise extreme caution lest he be swept away on a wave of false optimism," says Floyd Delos Francis, secretary-general of the Negro-American Alliance.

In a statement which the Alliance is sending out from its national headquarters, the Secretary General continues: "It is well to be optimistic and look on the bright side of things, but there is a danger mark that must be carefully avoided. At the present time there is much machine-made opinion finding its way into the public print. The Negro is being assured that all is well. There is much talk about what he has done in the past and how he can be depended upon in the future. He is being lauded as an American citizen who always rises equal to the emergency. While being filled with enthusiasm by hired enthusiasts it is well for him to pause, face the facts squarely and use his common sense.

"We are at war with Austria, yet Austrian alien enemies have more privileges than Negro soldiers in uniform. The fact is that democracy is being made a farce and mockery right here in America. It is time for the Negro to cease fooling himself or when the war is over he will be lost."

PROMINENT EDUCATOR ANSWERS SUMMONS

Dr. Hightower T. Kealing, President of Western University Succumbs to Protracted Illness.

Kansas City, Kan., Mar. 7.—Rev. Dr. Hightower T. Kealing, president of Western University, at Quindaro, died Monday night following a long illness.

Dr. Kealing was born in Austin, Tex., April 1, 1859. He received his preparatory education at Straight University, New Orleans, and subsequently received the degree of bachelor of science from Tabor College, Iowa. He also served as president of Paul Quinn college, Waco, Tex., assistant principal of Prairie View (Tex.) Normal and Industrial School, supervisor of Colored schools in Austin, Texas.

For sixteen years he was editor of the A. M. E. Review, being the first layman in the A. M. E. Church to hold a general office. He succeeded W. T. Vernon as president of Western University in 1910.

Dr. Kealing was widely known, and had been a delegate to every A. M. E. General Conference since 1892. He was a delegate and speaker at the Ecumenical Conference, held in London; was a member of the American Political and Social Science Association, Negro Historical Society and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

GENERAL CONFERENCE GOES TO ST. LOUIS

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 25.—After a lively contest between Chicago, St. Louis and Nashville for the 1920 session of the A. M. E. General Conference, the Commission appointed for that purpose selected St. Louis.

President Wilson Cordially Receives N. Y. Delegation With Clemency Petition

James Weldon Johnson Makes Eloquent Plea For
Mercy in Case of Soldiers Convicted of
Participation in Houston Riot.

NEW YORK.—President Wilson, on the 19th, received a delegation of four members of the New York branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by special appointment. The delegation placed before the President a petition signed by twelve thousand citizens of New York in which the President was asked to extend executive clemency to the five Negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth Infantry now under sentence of death by verdict of the court martial which tried the Houston riot case, and requesting the President to cause to be laid before him a review of the cases of the forty-one soldiers of the same regiment who were sentenced to life imprisonment by the first court martial. The delegation consisted of James Weldon Johnson, Field Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Rev. George Frazier Miller, Rector of St. Augustine's Church, Brooklyn; Rev. Frank M. Hyder, Pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church, New York Branch.

Mr. Johnson, who acted as spokesman of the delegation, said:

"We come as a delegation from the New York Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, representing the twelve thousand signers to this petition which we have the honor to lay before you. And we come not only as the representatives of those who signed this petition, but we come representing the sentiments and aspirations and sorrows, too, of the great mass of the Negro population of the United States.

"We respectfully and earnestly request and urge that you extend executive clemency to the five Negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth Infantry now under sentence of death by court martial. And understanding that the cases of the men of the same regiment who were sentenced to life imprisonment by the first court martial are to be reviewed, we also request and urge that you cause this review to be laid before you and that executive clemency be shown also to them.

"We feel that the history of this particular regiment and the splendid record for bravery and loyalty of our Negro soldiery in every crisis of the nation give us the right to make this request. And we make it not only in the name of their loyalty, but also in the name of the unquestioned loyalty to the nation of twelve million Negroes, a loyalty which today puts them side by side with the original American stocks that landed at Plymouth and Jamestown.

"The hanging of thirteen men without the opportunity of appeal to the commander in chief, the President of the United States, was a punishment so drastic and so unusual in the history of the nation that the execution of additional members of the Twenty-fourth Infantry would to the Colored people of the country savor of vengeance rather than justice.

"It is neither our purpose nor is this the occasion to argue whether this attitude of mind on the part of Colored people is justified or not. As representatives of the race we desire only to testify that it does now exist. This state of mind has been intensi-

GIRL ENTERS CONVENT

Boston, Mass.—Miss Elizabeth Coleman, of this city, has entered the Novitiate of the Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary at Savannah, Ga. Miss Coleman is a convert and is the first Colored Roman Catholic young woman in Boston to enter the religious life.

CHAIRMAN ASKS FOR FAIR WAGE SCHEDULE

Washington, D. C., Mar. 7.—During the course of testimony before the Railroad Wage Commission S. E. Padgett, general chairman of the Colored Association of Railroad Employees,

urged that the pay of the colored employees should be equalized with that of white men when the work performed was the same. He charged that colored men rated as train porters were compelled to do work as brakemen and conductors, while receiving porter's wages.

Somewhere in France.—At the invitation of the entente allies two prominent African chiefs are now making a tour of the front. It is the first time that official representatives of the great African tribes have been so honored.

By the significant fact that although white persons were involved in the Houston affair and the regiment to which the Colored men belonged was officered entirely by white men none but Colored men, so far as we have been able to learn, have been prosecuted or condemned.

"We desire also respectfully to call your attention to the fact that there were mitigating circumstances for the action of these men of the Twenty-fourth Infantry. Not by any premeditated design and without cause did these men do what they did at Houston, but by a long series of humiliating actions by the citizens, culminating in the brutal assault on Corporal Baltimore, they were goaded to sudden and frenzied action. This is borne out by the long record for orderly and soldierly conduct on the part of the regiment throughout its whole history up to that time.

"And to the end that you extend the clemency which we ask, we lay before you this petition signed by white as well as Colored citizens of New York; one of the signers being a white man, president of a New York bank, 72 years of age and a native of Lexington, Ky.

"And now, Mr. President, we would not let this opportunity pass without mentioning the terrible outrages against our people that have taken place in the last three-quarters of a year; outrages that are not only unspeakable wrongs against them, but blot upon the fair name of our common country. We mention the riots at East St. Louis, in which the Colored people bore the brunt of both the cruelty of the mob and the processes of law. And we especially mention the savage burnings that have taken place in the single state of Tennessee within nine months; the burnings at Memphis, Tenn., at Dyersburg, Tenn., and only last week at Estill Springs, Tenn., where a Negro charged with the killing of two men was tortured with red-hot irons, then saturated with oil and burned to death before a crowd of American men, women and children. And we ask that you, who have spoken so nobly to the whole world for the cause of humanity, speak against these specific wrongs. We realize that your high position and the tremendous moral influence which you wield in the world will give a word from you greater force than could come from any other source. Our people are intently listening and praying that you may find it in your heart to speak that word."

The President received the delegation very cordially and granted them an audience lasting half an hour. He assured them, in effect, that he would carefully examine the record in the case of the condemned men and would give the whole matter his sympathetic attention. A surprising incident of the interview was that the President declared he had not heard anything about the Estill Springs burning. He asked the committee to state the facts for him which the committee did. The President expressed the opinion that he could hardly believe it true that such a thing had happened. The delegation assured him that not only was it true in the case at Estill Springs but that similar incidents had happened at Memphis, Tenn., and Dyersburg, Tenn., also.

AFRICAN CHIEFS ON FRENCH FRONT TOUR

Somewhere in France.—At the invitation of the entente allies two prominent African chiefs are now making a tour of the front. It is the first time that official representatives of the great African tribes have been so honored.

BRAVE SHERIFF SAVES PRISONER FROM MOB

Athens, Tenn., Feb. 3.—After holding off all night an angry mob of citizens, who were yelling for Arthur Renfro, colored, accused of having criminally assaulted a four-year-old white girl, Sheriff Lawson and a heavily armed guard of deputies put the man on the Memphis special at 6 o'clock this morning and sent him to the jail at Knoxville to await trial.

The mob gathered around the Athens jail early in the evening, and several times during the night it looked as if the jail would be stormed. Sheriff Lawson and his men threatened to shoot, and shoot to kill, if any attempt was made to take the prisoner by force.

MEMBERSHIP NEARING TEN THOUSAND

New York City.—The membership statement given out by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People shows an enrollment of 9282 under date of December 31, 1917.

Boston Bars "Birth of a Nation"

Great City's Honor Redeemed by
Mayor Petrs.

(Special to The Monitor)
Boston, Mass., March 4, 1918.

Last week was a great week for the race in Boston. The disgrace of permitting the nefarious "Birth of a Nation" in 1915 was wiped out by the newly-elected Mayor, Andrew J. Peters.

Through the sole activity of the Boston branch of the National Equal Rights league, the Dixon play was barred by the mayor. It was being advertised at the movie houses to be given today at the Globe theatre. Secretary Trotter of the National Equal Rights league was informed of this on Wednesday and that afternoon sent a protest to Mayor Peters. On Thursday at the close of the court session where U. S. Commissioner W. A. Haynes rendered John Johnson of West Virginia, a free man, a case started and promoted by the league, a delegation waited on the mayor. Those present were Pres. E. T. Morris, Mrs. Jane Posey, William D. Bingham, our white friend, Dr. A. B. Lattimore, Prof. Allen W. Whaley, Dr. J. Silas Taylor and William Monroe Trotter, secretary. Mayor Peters said he had on receiving the league's protest sent for the manager of the Globe theatre and was having the law examined and would do his utmost to prevent the play which he characterized as most objectionable.

Friday morning's daily papers announced that the manager of the theatre had been to see Mayor Peters and had acceded to his request not to produce the play.

Now Boston, instead of being used as our indorser of this "Birth of a Nation" can be used against it. All honor to Hon. Andrew J. Peters.

ASK WILSON TO PROTEST BURNING

New York.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People recently sent a telegram to President Wilson asking him to speak out about the torturing and slow burning of the Negro, Jim McIlherrion, at Estill Springs, Tenn.

"THE UNITED STATES IS JUST US"

The United States is just US—United States—you and I and the folks next door and the people across the way—just US.

All the government does is our doing. Its strength is our striving; its resources are our savings.

What we do counts to make or break the power of the United States—every minute, every act—to save or destroy US. In all we do, all we spend, all we eat—we must have care.

Team play—you and I and the folks next door and the people across the way—will do all that needs to be done. Let's help.

**BUY
ANOTHER
WAR SAVINGS
STAMP**

Wilson Grants Soldiers Respite

Appeals for Clemency From Every
Section of the Country Causes Pres-
ident to Act in Case of Men of
Twenty-fourth Infantry.

Washington, March 6.—Acting on the number and character of appeals for clemency coming from all parts of the country, from individuals as well as organizations, President Wilson has granted an indefinite respite to the five Colored soldiers of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, sentenced to death by court martial for participation in the Houston riot.

The president has notified the War Department that he will suspend all action in these cases until the entire record of the court martial proceedings in the cases of the thirty other members now on trial at San Antonio are in his hands.

Thirteen of the alleged rioters have already been hanged and forty or more are now serving heavy prison terms. The trials of others began last week.

The secret hanging of the thirteen men caused a wave of protest, many influential newspapers joining therein. The protest was largely because the men were hanged before any public notice was given. There was also a strong opinion that white civilians, of Houston, Texas, with the police, had goaded them on to forget that they were soldiers, and commit murder.

Protests poured into Washington and President Wilson and Secretary Baker, it is said announced that they had no previous knowledge of the conviction and hanging. The president directed, however, that no further executions take place until he could review the evidence.

SOLDIER IS FINED UNDER "JIM CROW" LAW

Chickasha, Okla., March 4.—Charles Tribbett, a colored first lieutenant in the 367th infantry, national army, was taken from a passenger train here and fined \$5 and costs for violating the state "Jim Crow" law. In police court he pleaded guilty and promised to ride in coaches provided for Negroes the remainder of the journey.

HEADED FOR WEST POINT

Dayton, O.—Byron Alexander, 17, of this city, has been named by Congressman Warren Gard as the appointee from this Congressional district to West Point (N. Y.) Military academy. Young Alexander, who graduated last year, from Stivers high school, passed the preliminary test for a cadetship held here with the highest honor, outstripping all the young white men who were examined and anxious for the appointment.

DRIVE FOR COMMUNITY HOUSE TO BE MADE MARCH 21-APRIL 2

Headquarters of the local committee for the campaign for funds for the Community House for Colored Soldiers at Camp Funston have been established at the office of the Western Real Estate Company in the Karbach Block. The drive for Omaha's contribution to this fund will be made March 21 to April 2. Names of the committee and full particulars will be published in next week's Monitor.

AUDITORIUM OF 367TH IN- FANTRY DEDICATED AT UPTON

Camp Upton, L. I.—The auditorium bought and largely built by the 367th Infantry the Colored unit, at this camp, was dedicated. The ceremonies were of an inspiring nature, the chief addresses being delivered by General Biddle, acting chief of the General Staff, U. S. A., Generals Johnson and Hay and Assistant Secretaries of War Scott and Crowell. The building is the largest at the camp.

TWO MEMBERS OF THE RACE NOMINATED FOR CONGRESS

New York City.—At a mass meeting held under the auspices of the United Civic League last week, Rev. Reverdy C. Ransom, editor of the A. M. E. Review, and John C. Hawkins, an attorney at law, were nominated for Congress to fill vacancies in the 22nd Congressional district. If the colored voters of this district (Harlem) stand as a unit both will be elected, as the district has a colored population of 120,000.