

GROWING,
THANK YOU!

THE MONITOR

A NATIONAL WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS.

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

\$2.00 a Year. 5c a Copy

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, JANUARY 11, 1919

Vol. IV. No. 26 (Total No. 183)

French Deputy to Champion Our Cause

Monsieur Blaise Diagne, Black Deputy From Senegal, Appeals to Premier Clemenceau to Champion Race at Peace Table.

AMERICAN PREJUDICE FAILS

Treatment of Colored Soldiers in France Arouses the Ire of Frenchmen and Something to Be Said About It.

Ralph W. Tyler.

WITH the American Army in France, Nancy—Monsieur Blaise Diagne is the deputy commissioner general of France in charge of the effective or fighting Colored troops of France's colonies, and is a close friend of Premier Clemenceau. Monsieur Diagne is a black man, but color does not count in France—France has no color problem. The deputy commissioner has an intimate knowledge of the surroundings of the Colored man in America. He sympathizes with them, as do all France's Colored subjects. When in Nancy last week, he stated that he had requested Premier Clemenceau to make some helpful reference to the Colored troops from America at the peace table that Colored Frenchmen had requested that an audience, at the peace gathering be given to a delegation of France's Colored subjects to give voice to sentiments that might be helpful to their kinsmen over in America. The discriminations to which Colored officers and soldiers have been subjected to at the hands of many American white officers and soldiers has been noticeable to Colored Frenchmen, and they have felt it keenly. It has been observed even by white French officers, to all whom color-prejudice is unknown and they have been at a loss to understand why such brave, enduring fighting men of the race the United States sent to help win world democracy should be subjected to embarrassing and retarding discrimination and segregation. Monsieur Diagne, also told of certain American white officers writing to French high officials urging that the treatment accorded Colored men from America in France, by French officers, be the same as the treatment accorded our race in America by certain white people; that Colored Americans were an inferior race and should not be accorded the treatment that French officers and civilians had been in the habit of according Colored soldiers. This request for discriminating against Colored soldiers and officers on the part of Frenchmen was referred to Monsieur Blaise Diagne, a Colored man genuinely black in complexion, who is "depute commissaire general, charge du controle des ecetifs Colonioux," with the request that he tear it up, such destruction of the paper to constitute the French officials' only reply to the impertinent and unreasonable request from the certain American white army officers. Commissaire Monsieur Diagne is keeping the torn bits of that request as a souvenir.

There have been some American white officers over here—not a few but many—who have, ever since being here, prosecuted propaganda against the Colored soldiers; who have done their utmost, without avail, to taint France with America's prejudice against the states' loyal fighting Colored soldiers. There have been a few American white officers—not many—over here who have treated the Colored soldiers as American soldiers, as brothers in world democracy's cause, notable among these being General H. H. Barnum and Brigadier General Sherburne. In spite of unjustifiable discrimination and handicaps at the hands of certain American white officers over here, Colored soldiers, officers and men, have given the best in them for their country; have as patiently endured discrimination because of their color as they have heroically endured the expected hardships of soldier life, and as heroically fought against the Hun. Had it only been the boche Colored soldiers had had to fight and endure against he would return to the states without a single complaint, but in not a few instances I regret to admit, he has had to fight the Huns whites at the same time he was enduring an enfilading attack from those whom he supposed were here to fight for the same thing he came over the seas to fight for—world democracy. But with it all, the Colored soldier is proud that he had an opportunity to again prove that which the country had never an

occasion to doubt—his loyalty to country. Thousands of them are now busy preparing for the overseas return.

They are impatiently counting the days, even the hours and moments, that must intervene before they can again see the face of the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor—before they can greet relatives and friends. Many of them who came hence on American troop ships in the fullness of manhood and patriotism, will not return, for they are lying where they will forever lie, in a soldier's grave, rudely marked, up around Verdun, Chateau-Thierry, Soissons, Champagne in the Argonne woods and in the valley of Mousson. France has been magnanimous towards the American Colored soldier; she—her men and women—has voiced her praise of their fighting qualities; of their soldierly bearing, and of their faultless behavior, France would welcome them as permanent residents of France, but they—those who have survived this awful decimating, frightful war, are going to return to the states to help secure, through peaceful means, for themselves and their people, that which their arms, their blood and their lives helped to achieve on the battlefields for the alien countries over here—"democracy." The 92d division has orders to prepare to move for a port of embarkation. I hope to move with them.

RICHMOND PLANS FOR DAILY RACE PAPER

Richmond, Va., Jan. 6.—The starting of a Colored daily newspaper in Richmond, now under consideration, will be fully discussed in the near future at a special meeting for that purpose. Among a list of Colored men who will be at the meeting are: Jas. W. Poe, Rev. C. C. Gill, H. H. Price, Revs. Andrew J. Bowler, Arthur M. Nichols, John J. Liggins, O. G. Jenkins, Peter Wilkins and S. M. Garnett, C. M. Taylor, C. Alexander Puryear and others. The gathering will be addressed by a prominent white man, who will urge the organization of a publishing company, and who, with a number of his white friends, will assist in the matter. Puryear is president of a fraternal organization. Garnett and Price are printers, Bowler is a teacher and pastor. Those who have been talking the subject up have been looking up a newspaper plant that can print the paper if started, and this and the cost will be discussed at the conference to be held and of seeking the patronage of the Richmond business houses and the Richmond industries will also be considered. A non-sectarian and non-partisan paper will be urged.

GOVERNOR BILBO REFUSES INVESTIGATION

Jackson, Miss., Jan. 6.—Governor Bilbo went on record as being opposed to punishing the men who participated in the lynching of two men and women at Shubuta when he stated to a representative of a local paper that he had not answered the communication sent him by the N. A. A. C. P., through its secretary John R. Shillady (white). When asked if he had reached any definite decision concerning the lynching and what kind of a reply he was going to make the governor said: "No, not tonight, but I might give out a little advance information to the effect that I will tell them, in effect, to go to hell."

NEGRO SOLDIERS WANT NO MORE OF THE SOUTH

Chicago, Jan. 6.—A great racial shift will follow the war, according to Mark L. Crawford, federal director of Employment here today. "Army life gives energy and self-respect to men formerly indolent," he said. "Southern Negroes will hesitate to return to their former homes. Reports from demobilization centers everywhere indicate our Colored troops almost to a man plan to live in the north.

"These men have worked and fought for their country. They feel they deserve a bigger chance than the south offers. Migration to the north looks like their opportunity."

FRANCE MAY CEDE MARTINIQUE TO U. S.

Washington, Jan. 6.—Martinique, largest island of the French West Indies, may come into possession of the United States as the result of negotiations at the peace conference, it was reported today in diplomatic circles.



NEBRASKA TELEPHONE COMPANY'S HANDSOME NEW BUILDING

Negro Artillery Supports Infantry

Made a Brilliant Record in Toul Sector Where Famous 92d Division Covered Itself With Glory.

INDIVIDUAL DEEDS OF HEROISM

A Belated Letter From Captain Peebles of 389th Field Artillery Gives Interesting Facts of Men at Front.

UNDER date of November 5th, Captain William W. Peebles who, by the way, has made an enviable record in the dental reserve corps, which his friends hope may win him a Majority, wrote the following interesting letter to the editor telling of the work of the Negro artillerymen and relating other matters of interest: "Of course you are interested in our infantry regiments, for most of those dear to you and Nebraska friends are to be found there, so it is but natural and yet it seems almost a waste of words to reiterate what you undoubtedly hear so very often, "They have made good." Was there any fair-minded person who knew the race, who could have a different thought? Just last night in a raid on the German lines they brought back over 700 boches, and pleasing to know our casualties have not been very large. But these infantry regiments are now being backed by their own black artillery. How often did I hear it said, only a few months ago, "They will never make good artillerymen."

I always felt that the statement was father to the wish. Have they ever failed in anything where they have been given half a chance?

Colonel Is Pleased.

My colonel told me two days ago, as he was about to leave the regiment, "I am now satisfied. I have seen them in action and they have stood the strain and gone over a hundred per cent true blue, every man of them." Then he told me of two lucky lads who, at their own behest, went over into "No Man's Land" under a rain of shells and repaired a telephone line which had been cut, thus keeping open our lines of communication. This they did when their commanding officer refused to order them to do it, because we deemed it too dangerous.

Wounded, But Eager to Fight.

I have seen these men come back from their positions at the front wounded and begging not to be detained too long. Guts! (excuse the term, father) but they have them even in their teeth. Tell your friends that Colored artillery men have made good and tell black men and women that their very own are being supported and backed and protected by their own

black brothers who can fire a soixante quinze and a cent en quatre cinque as well as the best of them.

Field Hospital Wonderful.

The other day I visited our field hospital and it was wonderful! Most of our doctors there are Colored men and you can rest assured that our sick are getting the very best of treatment. Every convenience is afforded for giving the sick and wounded every consideration. Uncle Sam has not neglected his boys over here. I met many of my friends on the staff there and a walk through the wards thoroughly convinced me that there was nothing that could be desired. Indeed, these Colored doctors deserve much praise for their gentleness and efficiency with which they handle their cases.

Given Seven Days' Leave.

Our men are now being given seven days leave, not including the time consumed in traveling. Again I want to tell you of the attention Uncle Sam pays to his soldiers. A certain per cent of each organization is given permission to go on this seven days leave. Certain resorts in France are the places where they are permitted to go. Each soldier is given \$10, plenty of fresh clothes and started on his journey. Each is given a room in a nice hotel, and I mean a real palatial hotel, and his board during his seven days' rest. All military restrictions are completely lifted and he can travel around the neighboring villages with all costs paid by Uncle Sam.

Visiting a French Resort a Treat.

Now to have the privilege of visiting a real French resort is in itself a wonderful treat, but to have all your expenses paid is great. Why should men not fight for such a generous country? The men have plenty to eat and though we have many discomforts, yet on a whole I feel we are very well treated and taken care of.

Missed Seeing Omaha Men.

I had a real fine hike the other day into some recently evacuated cities. The places have been held by the Germans a long time, but now you can see our soldiers there in numbers. I missed seeing Madison, Pinkett, Turner, Johnson, etc., by a few minutes. I was accompanying my commander, looking over our aid stations which are located in the front lines to prevent the wounded from too long trips before first aid is given them. So we had a jolly good time before us. We found the place where said Omaha men were stationed and went through two very beautiful cities where the houses and churches were completely demolished. We explored everything and took notes of what we saw. We finally reached one of the outposts farthest advanced and here we had a nice meal of soup, cabbage, beef, toast, coffee and real jelly roll. Also a bottle of real beer! which in some mysterious way invariably gets mixed

up in the soldiers' meals. We were told it was dangerous to go further, but we went and finally came to our aiming point. Here we saw two cots and about a dozen soldiers. It seemed as though the boches had just left, as food was still on the tables and beer in the steins. We had gone quite a distance now and the guns were firing over our heads and we were having it hot for a time. When we came back more dead than alive, we were not able to travel very rapidly. Ubiquitous Black Americans Singing.

On reaching a certain city we began looking through the ruined houses and I heard some very familiar singing. I called the major's attention to it and an investigation showed a Colored soldier with a German officer's boots on, another had on a silk hat and another curiously examining a boche gun, all of them singing. You see the black boys all over France and singing all the time. I saw them when I first landed and have seen them everywhere since, fighting, working and drilling. Have they not the right to exact something in return for what they are doing? I believe generous America, the home of real liberty, cannot longer withhold from these willing and loyal brave singing black Americans, those things for which we are fighting.

All's well with our men and our dear old country is ever watchful of their interest. All is not as it might be, but we can rest secure in the final triumph of right. We are a part of this great war and we are bound to reap some benefits in the final judgment.

DE PRIEST TO MAKE RACE AGAIN FOR COUNCIL

Chicago, Jan. 6.—Oscar De Priest, former Negro alderman of the Second Ward, who was tried and acquitted on charges of graft, accepted the aldermanic nomination of the ward yesterday at a meeting at Unity Clubhouse, 3140 Indiana avenue. Among the speakers were Patrick O'Donnell and Alfred Goodman, who promised to "put De Priest over" and to "wipe George Harding off the map." Senator Harding was named by De Priest following the graft charges as also being interested. Harding denied the charge.

ARKANSAS OFFICIAL TO TEST CASE ON JIM CROW LAW

Objects to Negro Soldiers Riding in Pullman.

Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 6.—Herbert Wilson, a member of the Arkansas Railroad Commission, announced today that he will file proceedings against the Missouri Pacific for permitting Colored people to ride in Pullman cars with white passengers.

"On train No. 5, which is the St. Louis-El Paso train," said Mr. Wilson. "I saw last Saturday, between Little Rock and Hope, nine Negro soldiers in a Pullman, which also was nearly full of white passengers. I am going to make a test case of the matter. I think that I am doing right in laying the issue before Prosecutor Dunaway. The law is strict in the matter of providing separate coaches for white and black in this state."

COL. ROSCOE SIMMONS OFF FOR EUROPE

January 6.—Col. Roscoe C. Simmons, the nationally known Negro orator, has left for Europe, where he goes as the correspondent for the Chicago Defender. Mr. Simmons will visit the peace conference and later many other points in Europe in order to get first hand account of the activities of the Negro in the great world war.



Captain W. W. Peebles.

American Negro Academy Meets

President Grimke Delivers Annual Address in Which He Stresses Demands to Be Made in Reconstruction Period.

ARE NOT SINGLE HANDED

Many Leading White Men Lending Aid in Campaign for Securing Justice.

By Walter J. Singleton. Special to The Monitor.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Archibald H. Grimke, president of the American Negro Academy, at the opening of the twenty-second annual meeting of the organization at the 12th street branch of the Y. M. C. A., asserted that his race would demand equality of opportunity with the whites of America. Mr. Grimke said the Negroes had fought to help make the world safe for democracy and now it is the duty of the whites to make America safe for the Negro.

Mr. Grimke criticized President Wilson, saying that the executive had not specifically denounced lynching of Negroes. He declared that Mr. Wilson evidently regarded America as an exclusively white democracy and was unwilling to recognize the Colored man's equality before the law.

Demands in Capital.

"I repeat," said Mr. Grimke, "we are now going to demand all that is coming to us. We are going to demand that the rules prevailing in the national capital which excludes our race from hotels and eating houses be set aside. We are good enough to fight, to shed our blood and give our money and other material resources, but we are not good enough to eat in a public restaurant or sleep in a public hotel.

"To travel in the south it is necessary for us to ride in the most wretched of cars. But we pay the same price that the white man pays for his luxurious accommodation. They treat us like cattle while collecting from us the price for carrying men and women. It is an outrage, and I am glad to say that associated with us in this campaign for justice are a number of leading white men. We do not have to fight this battle alone.

"In his letter denouncing lynching Mr. Wilson never had the slightest idea of including the Negro. He referred to the Germans and their sympathizers. But the German can travel in a Pullman car, he can eat in a first class hotel, and he can enjoy all other luxuries for which he is able and willing to pay, while we who shed our blood for democracy are treated worse than dogs. We ought to at least be treated as well as Germans."

Part in Reconstruction.

Mr. Grimke said the Negro would insist upon taking his part in reconstruction, but the first act in reconstruction he would insist upon would be a just recognition of his rights before the law.

"Reconstruction for the Negro does not mean any favors, but it does mean the end of lynching and the end of cruel discrimination," said Mr. Grimke. "You take the departments here. Negroes are kept back while incompetent whites are promoted over their heads. Then they are segregated in the various offices. They are considered good enough to work in the same office with whites, and yet they are cultured and refined men and women."

Members of the Academy were in attendance from all parts of the country.

BRITISH COMMISSIONERS VISIT HAMPTON

Hampton, Va., Jan. 4.—Among the distinguished visitors who have recently studied Hampton's educational aims and methods have been three members of the British Educational Mission: Sir Henry Miers, vice chancellor of the University of Manchester; Dr. John Joly, well-known authority in radio experimentation and member of the teaching staff in Trinity College, Dublin; Rev. Edward M. Walker, librarian of Queen's College, Oxford University.

TOGOLAND MAY GO TO CZECHO-SLOVAKS

Prague, Jan. 6.—According to the report here the entente powers have decided to give to Czecho-Slovakia the former German colony of Togoland, in West Africa, and a portion of Hungary, so that the boundaries will conform with the historical frontier of Slavic territory.