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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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Laurels for 325th Field Signal Battalion

Only Colored Signal Unit in American Army Shows Rare Courage and Skill Under Fire—Maintaining Connection by Telegraph and Telephone as Dangerous as Work of Combatant Regiments.

CROIX DE GUERRE FOR EIGHTH ILLINOIS

Heroic Work Done by First Platoon—Battalion Composed of Well-Educated Young Men, Whose Knowledge of Radio and Telegraphy Will Equip Them for Civil Life.

(By Ralph W. Tyler, accredited representative of the Committee on Public Information.)

WITH the Army in France, La Mans, Dec. 20.—One of the units of the American army to arrive here on route for embarkation to America that has made good, without having the glamour and spectacular settings of combat, is the 325th, Field Signal Battalion of the 92nd, Army Division, the only Colored signal unit in the American army. While this battalion has not had to occupy front line trenches; make raids for prisoners, or march, in battle formation, into big engagements, it must not be supposed that it did not have a dangerous, and a very dangerous, duty to perform. The boys of this Battalion had to string the wires for telegraphic and telephonic connections at times when the enemy guns were trained upon them; so, in many respects, their duty took them into situations fully as dangerous as combatant units. This Battalion is composed of all young Colored men, save the Lieutenant Colonel, Major and two or three white line officers. They are all, with few exceptions, college or high school boys—not a few of them experts in radio and electric engineering, and those who were not experts in the work when the Battalion was formed, are now most proficient men. Major Spencer, now Lieutenant Colonel, who was responsible for the formation of this unit, was firm in the belief that Colored boys could make good, and he has remained with it long enough to experience his belief becoming a realization. After arriving at Brest June 19th, the Battalion proceeded to Vitrey, and from that town began a four-day hike to Bourbonne-les-Bains, a distance of more than twenty miles. From this point it proceeded, after a few days, to Voisey, and at Voisey the boys got their first taste of what was to be, later, their daily duties. Here the radio company received its quota of the latest type of French instruments, a battery plant was established, and a full supply of telephones and wire was issued to Companies B and C. Here, too, the Infantry Signal Platoons of the Battalion joined the outfit and shared in the training.

First Test of Courage.
The first test of real courage given the men, and their first introduction into real fighting, in addition to stringing wires, and sending and receiving messages, came on the afternoon of September 27th, when a party of liaison men, including the Colonel and Lieutenant Herbert, latter being Colored, advanced beyond the Battalion P. C. and at the suggestion of a French soldier, turned to the left. They soon found themselves beyond their lines, and directly in front of a German machine gun nest. The Colonel divided his men into small groups and advanced on the enemy's position. This sortie resulted in the Signal boys capturing eight German prisoners and two machine guns, but the attack caused the loss of Corporal Charles E. Boykin, who did not return. Two days later, during general advance, Sergeant Henry E. Moody of the Battalion was mortally wounded while at his post. Boykin was killed outright, while Sergeant Moody died in the hospital from wounds received—these being the first two of the Signal Battalion to make the supreme sacrifice.

Take Over Marbache Sector.
On the 10th of October the 92nd Division took over the Marbache sector, relieving the 167th French Division, and here also the 325th Field Signal Battalion took over all existing lines of communications, and in the days following installed new lines, and maintained connections between the various units of the 92nd Division. This was no small duty, when it is remembered that an army "sector" extends over a wide area of many square miles, including in it from 50 to 100

cities and towns. The Marbache sector was an active front, and time and time again did these boys go ahead repairing lines, establishing new communications under shell fire, with no thought of personal danger—inspired only by that ideal of the Signal Corps man—get communication through at any cost, but get it through.

On Hindenburg Line.
On the morning of November 10th, when the Second Army launched its attack on the famous Hindenburg line before Metz, the 92nd Division, with which I was during this big attack, was holding the line of Vandieres-St. Michel-Xon-Norry. During the entire engagement, which lasted from 7 o'clock in the morning of the 10th to 11 a. m. of the 11th, the entire Signal Corps functioned splendidly, and as one man, keeping up communications, installing new lines, repairing those shelled out.

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PLANS FOR ANNUAL TUSKEGEE CONFERENCE

Bishop Gailor, the Hon. Bradford Knapp, Dr. Haynes Emmett J. Scott and Other Prominent Speakers on Programme.

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 24.—Announcement that Bishop Thomas F. Gailor of Memphis, Tenn., whose liberal expressions on race relations have been so heartening to the Colored people, will be one of the principal speakers at the Tuskegee Negro Conference, insures an interesting and helpful discussion of the various problems growing out of the demobilization of the Negro soldiers and their reabsorption into the arteries of industry and farming. Other speakers include Hon. Bradford Knapp of the United States Department of Agriculture; Dr. George E. Haynes of the Department of Labor and Mr. Emmett J. Scott, special assistant to the Secretary of War.

HAYS AIMS TO BREAK THE SOLID SOUTH

Washington, Jan. 24.—Will H. Hays, chairman of the Republican National committee, is about to tackle the solid South in a serious effort to upheave the Democratic foundation. He will establish southern headquarters at Asheville, N. C.; Knoxville, Tenn., or Atlanta, Ga., and campaign for electoral votes for 1920.

He has stated to friends here that he would like to gather in some of the southern states, and in furtherance of that desire will foster Republican organizations in North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky and Louisiana with the expectation of winning congressional and presidential votes.

Republican leaders say that before the Roosevelt-Taft controversy split the Republican party, protective tariff sentiment was growing in the manufacturing centers of the South.

Chairman Hays will find plenty of Republican sentiment in the South in spite of protective tariff sentiment there. Let him support and back up leaders like R. R. Church and his Republican league.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
Death tiptoed in and gently kissed his brow,
Straightway a noble spirit took its flight;
Back to the great Omnipotent, where It stands transformed by heaven's wondrous light.

Grief walks the earth—'twould seem from end to end,
Yea, mankind mourns the passing of a friend;
A man who never faltered in the fight,
A soldier for humanity and right.
—Andrea Razafkeriefo.

DR. MOTON TO RETURN NEXT MONTH
Washington, D. C., Jan. 24.—Unless plans are changed, it is expected that Dr. Robert R. Moton, on a special mission among the colored soldiers at the front in France, will return to "the States" early in February. Dr. Moton has just concluded a thousand-mile motor trip through the sectors in which the Colored troops are located, including a tour of Alsace-Lorraine, and he has reported to the American authorities that the condition of these soldiers is quite satisfactory. This corroborates many private letters coming from our men in the camps visited by Dr. Moton.

For moving, expressing and hauling call Douglas 7952. Penn and Sibley.—Adv.



HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Virgin Islanders Resent Lawlessness

United States Soldiers and Marines Run Riot in City Streets of Danish West Indies, Imperiling Lives of Peaceful Citizens and Destroying Property.

PROMINENT CITIZENS ADDRESS PROTEST TO GOVERNOR

Send Dignified Letter and Warn That Continuance of Acts of Violence Which May Be Practiced and Tolerated in Certain Sections of the Mainland Will Produce Regrettable Results on the Island.

(Special to The Monitor.)

Port-of-Spain, St. Thomas, Jan. 24.—An unfortunate and regrettable carousal on the part of American sailors and marines on Christmas night has highly incensed the people of the island. Peaceful and law-abiding citizens were insulted, beaten and mistreated. Homes were stoned, property destroyed and the Mayor of the city treated with contempt. Apparently no effort was made by the officers in command to restrain the marauders. The citizens here begin to appreciate something of the indignities which their brethren in certain sections of the mainland have to endure. They feel that this outrage was instigated purely out of race hatred which is so rampant on the mainland, but which cannot and will not be tolerated here without leading to most regrettable results. A committee of citizens has addressed the following open letter to the American Governor of the Virgin Islands, which voices the unanimous sentiment of the islanders:

Sir: Your attention is herein called to an outrage on our defenseless people hitherto unknown in this island and which was done by men in the United States Navy (Sailors and Marines) on Christmas night last—an outrage that cries aloud for redress and punishment.

Batches of these men paraded our streets armed with automatic revolvers, bottles, knives, sticks and stones, yelling like Indians, and when not doing so, using language the most vulgar—their actions resembled those of savages—to speak the truth, the people whom we hold as being despicable (the Germans) would not have done as much.

Civilians were chased off the streets, some beaten, some searched, while others were fired at when they refused to obey the requests of these marauders to stand still—the bulbs of public lights in several streets were broken—our homes stoned, our furniture and jalousies therein destroyed or damaged and other intrusions too numerous to mention.

The municipal policemen—our only guardians and protectors—were rendered powerless, being armed only with clubs; they were attacked by these sailors and marines and thus situated they were utterly unable to defend themselves or to tender any assistance to the defenseless inhabitants according to police regulation, the existence whereof we hold you to have knowledge thereof—the Mayor of the town was also treated with contempt on several occasions when in the lawful exercise of his official duty.

What are we to understand? Is there no protection for the taxes that we pay? Are you not held responsible to some department in Washington for the safeguarding of our lives and property? Is this the way the "Organic Act" (our Magna Charta) is being observed? Sir, you are the possessor of unlimited civil, military and judicial powers in these Islands and

COLORED OFFICERS MAKE NEW RECORD

Camp Pike, Ark., Jan. 23.—The last group of Colored officers to graduate from the Camp Pike Training School have made the highest record on psychological examinations known to national military history. The highest mark is A and a recent examination of 2,000 white officers of the Quartermaster's Department produced only three A's. Out of the Colored graduating class of 29, eight made the mark A, thus showing a higher percentage than any made heretofore.

Among the eight making the A grade were two Omaha boys, Lt. Lawrence A. Parker and Lt. Cunningham Wilson. Lt. L. A. Parker was the youngest officer receiving a commission, having recently passed his twenty-first birthday.

NEXT YEAR'S SMARTER SET SHOW

Omaha, Neb., Jan. 24.—Messrs. Salem Tutt Whitney and J. Homer Tutt, well known proprietors of the Smarter Set Company, have announced through The Freeman that the name of their next year's show will be "The Children of the Sun."

While playing in Omaha, these gentlemen met several of the members of The Hamitic League of the World, and were presented with a copy of "The Children of the Sun," the official publication of the League. After reading the book, the Smarter Set brothers declared that they had found nothing that better meets the growing demand of the race for historical fact, and requested that they be permitted to use the title for their forthcoming show.

The request was readily granted and the author of the book has promised Messrs. Whitney and Tutt to furnish all data and archeological matter to make the new Smarter Set show one of the greatest performances yet offered to the race in America.

ROOSEVELT CARRIED HEAVY LIFE INSURANCE

New York, Jan. 22.—Col. Theodore Roosevelt carried \$85,000 life insurance, according to a statement in the Weekly Underwriter, a New York insurance publication, in its issue today. The amount was divided among four companies, which waived proof of death and sent their checks at once in payment.

STRUCK NEGRO SOLDIERS AND IS DISCHARGED

Washington, D. C., Jan. 24.—First Lieut. Ulus C. Miller, 60th Pioneer Infantry, has been dismissed from the army by order of the president. Lieutenant Miller was convicted by a court martial at Camp Wadsworth, S. C., of the charges of striking two Colored soldiers on their hands with a club, and with striking another Colored soldier on the head with his fist.

PROTEST JAPANESE ANNEXATION OF KOREA

Washington, D. C., Jan. 25.—Resolutions protesting against the annexation of Korea by Japan and asking President Wilson and the American peace delegates to apply the principle of self-determination to that country have been sent by the New Korea association to the president and members of the foreign relations committee of Congress.

The League of Darker People

Villa Lewaro-on-the-Hudson, the Birthplace of a New League of Deep Significance.

MADAME WALKER STARTS IDEA

A New World Movement Emerging Out of the Great International Debate, Impressive Because of Its Practicality and Interesting Because of Its Personnel.

New York, Jan. 26.—At Villa Lewaro-on-the-Hudson, the palatial home of Mme. C. J. Walker, a conference composed of persons of distinction, position and prestige from all parts of the country was held recently. At the invitation of the above well known race woman and race champion, more than a score of people gathered for the purpose of organizing a movement of aims and purposes and visions which would leap across the bounds of narrow nationalism and embrace all darker peoples into a league that would command the respect and consideration of the world.

A permanent program of large proportions was suggested, in broad outlines, by Madam J. C. Walker, and is now in process of definite formulation, by the executive board—a program which will continue to engage world opinion even after the peace conference shall have ended. An immediate program was mapped out for the purpose of cementing the influence of the darker peoples and delegates to the Peace Conference, while the larger and more permanent program proposed is as follows:

1. The League proposes to maintain a permanent international council of darker peoples, which shall confer with similar international bodies upon the negotiation of loans, economic spheres of influence, political suzerainty, extra-territoriality, treaties, agreements, concessions, compacts, with a view to preventing the expropriation of the darker peoples of their natural resources and labor. The council shall seek to review, publish and discuss for the enlightenment of world opinion all documents relating to the interests of the darker peoples. It shall be composed of Africans, Japanese, Chinese, Haitians, American and West Indian Negroes.
2. The League shall also maintain a publicity bureau which shall collect, collate and publish all data presenting the aims, achievements and the international and national, social, economic and political disabilities of darker peoples, in their struggles for freedom, for justice, under all flags and in all lands.
3. It shall establish international leagues wherever darker peoples are found. These leagues shall function as subsidiary bodies to the larger, super-national organization—The International League of Darker Peoples.
4. The League has entered upon a campaign to raise one hundred thousand (\$100,000) dollars to be used for the purpose of promoting the aforementioned aims.
5. It shall retain sociologists, linguists, economists, experts in engineering, etc., to travel in Africa, India, Persia, China, Japan, the South Americas, the Pacific Islands, who shall study the tribal organizations and higher social forms, customs, languages, natural wealth and commercial opportunities of the darker peoples, in order that a true and scientific history of the various peoples of Color may be compiled. This will serve to enlighten the posterity of all peoples of the social potentialities of the peoples of color. It will also tend to stimulate the ambition of the youth of the darker peoples to succeed in all fields of human endeavor.
6. The League shall also hold race congresses. The congresses shall be designed to create and crystallize a spirit of harmony and good-will; to exchange ideas, opinions and views for the purpose of preventing misunderstandings, which, too frequently, occasion race conflicts. The representatives of all races shall present papers on ethnological and anthropological question.

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MERE BOY HAS THREE WIVES

Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 24.—A trio of "better halves" is too much of a monopoly for 17-year-old youths. Judge T. A. R. Nelson, in criminal court here, thought so anyway, so he gave Edward Freeman, hauled into criminal court on a charge of bigamy, four years in the State Agricultural and Industrial School at Nashville. Freeman confessed.