

# THE MONITOR

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans.

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## ARTICLE XIV. CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. Citizenship Rights Not to Be Abridged.

1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

### POLITNESS.

POLITNESS always pays. It is a mark of good breeding. Rudeness and boorishness provoke contempt, and there is entirely too much rudeness manifested by young and old and especially by the young. We are exceedingly anxious that our people become honored and respected for their gentility, politeness and good manners, not feigned politeness, but genuine because it comes from the heart.

### ELECT WOOD DELEGATION.

NOT only is it important that Nebraska's preferential vote should be cast for Leonard Wood at the primary April 20, but it is equally important that a delegation pledged to stand uncompromisingly for Wood's nomination be elected to go to the national republican convention which meets in Chicago in June. Sixteen delegates are to be elected; four being delegates at large, and two from each of the six congressional districts. Be sure to register and vote for Leonard Wood and a Wood delegation at the primaries April 20.

### ELECT TOWLE DELEGATE-AT-LARGE.

THE Monitor's choice for delegate-at-large from this district is John W. Towle. He was formen of the grand jury which brought in several true bills in connection with the September riots. In that position, a most trying one, he demonstrated most conscientious anxiety to probe matters to the bottom and ascertain the truth that justice be done. He is a high-class Christian gentleman, an upright business man, broad-minded and fair and a warm personal friend and loyal supporter of General Leonard B. Wood. We urge our people to cast their vote unitedly for John W. Towle for delegate-at-large from this district. He is a man in every way worthy of our enthusiastic support.

### OUR DISTRICT DELEGATES.

TWO district delegates to the national republican convention are to be chosen. Seven have filed. Three are avowed Pershing delegates. Four are Wood delegates. One of these four is John Albert Williams, editor of The Monitor, which was one of the first newspapers in the country to launch the Wood-for-president boom. Because of this fact and because of his wide acquaintance with members of southern delegations and the salutary effect it would have upon the race at large, his candidacy has been urged and is being vigorously advocated. His supporters contend that it is up to the republican leaders of this district, who have hitherto received the loyal support of colored voters, to prove their willingness to give as well as take, by helping to nominate John Albert Williams by a handsome majority, as one of the two delegates from this district.

### ENTERING BUSINESS.

A commendable spirit, which should be encouraged by all who have the best interests of our people at heart, is manifesting itself among us for launching out into the business and commercial world. Year after year we have been sacrificing to give our boys and girls advantages of education, only to find that no matter how well-equipped they might be, no opportunities were open to them in the business and commercial world, such as were offered to their classmates of other groups. For example, young men have graduated in pharmacy and no place could be found for them and so they would have to become railroad porters or janitors or something of this kind, all honorable

work but not that which these young people had qualified themselves for. The imperative need, therefore, of opening drug stores of our own and other lines of business has been forced upon us. We are venturing into business and learning to do business. Of course mistakes will be made, but the only way to learn to do this is by doing them. It is up to us to support our business enterprises and develop them to the highest power.

### YOUR INTEREST—YOUR DUTY.

This is the year. Strange things will happen that will influence the course of events for the next four years. Glad-to-see-you smiles will soon be cheap and plentiful and the howdy-you-do hand-shake will carry a fervent squeeze that will remind you it might be a good investment to carry an accident policy against injury from the many good and kind office-seekers.

Every citizen has two phases of political activity to keep constantly before him in selecting men for office. It is your duty as a citizen to vote. There can be no excuse for failure on the part of any man or woman who neglects to qualify for performance of these acts. Your right to enjoy the fruits of your efforts and promote your security as an American citizen, can only be maintained by your taking absolute interest in the affairs of the community and nation, and securing the same by voting for men who will uphold such right. Rights can never remain secure unless duties are properly performed. To grant one the enjoyment of certain privileges does not necessarily give one the rights of those privileges; for the occasion is only a tolerated circumstance which does not necessarily qualify with any special duty on your part, other than exercising a reasonable degree of decorum. It is your interest to see that every right is guaranteed by law, and it is your duty to see that law protects you in the enjoyment of the same.

So often we hear arguments—that rights and privileges are denied us. That may be true. If true, it is because we are lacking in some power sufficient to maintain them. This force may be physical, mental, moral, political, spiritual, financial or mechanical—the trouble is with us. When the matter is thoroughly studied, you must conclude: there was failure to perform your duty, which caused your interests to become subordinated. In a community where majority rule is based on superior force—interest, individual or collective—decides the plan of action necessary to maintain that status. Rights qualify only as duties performed maintain them, and it is wasted energy to argue; it is the act of cowardice to enumerate and dwell on them. It requires determination on your part to know your interests; and duty performed—only—can secure and maintain every right.

You have an interest in every election and every man or woman elected to office—more serious than any people in the country. You should become thoroughly posted so that you can follow the course of events intelligently, for the exercise of the ballot should be an intelligent—serious duty. If there is one person of voting age who has not registered, you should not delay longer. See that you are properly qualified. Guard your interest by performing your duty, for your interests can only be secured through men whom you select and place in power.—Portland Times.

Alley W. Lewis, attorney, has opened his law office in The Monitor office, 304 Crouse block, and will look after Monitor collections in connection with his legal business.

### LEADERSHIP.

(Article 1 To Be Continued.)  
To the Editor of the Monitor:

The most serious problem which the American Negro has to do with today is competent leadership. False and ignorant leaders are a menace to any people; truly great leaders are those who work up from rank and file of the common people, who will execute the will of the people regardless of their personal views, and who are willing to serve and sacrifice, to give all of themselves to the cause. Ignorance and superstition, which have so long played a part in the social and spiritual life of the colored people, must give way to intelligence and righteousness.

As a race we have very few efficient leaders; there are shoals of self-appointed men and women who call themselves representatives of the people, but they are false lights along a treacherous shore, they do more harm in their ignorant blundering than good. They would sell out the principles of right, equality and justice on which the Negro must stand unmovable as the eternal rock, if they would attain their constitutional rights in the United States; they would sell everything which they have contended for more than a half century for a little cheap notoriety, to shine for one intoxicating moment in the lime light of publicity. The stupidity of the so-called Negro leaders is, in a great measure, responsible for the increasing dissension and strife spreading over this western country between the races. Most of us know that the condition of the Negro in some parts of this country is deplorable and should not exist under a democratic government, but the man or woman who would exaggerate these conditions, who would stoop to lies and deception to keep up strife and unrest in the hearts of the people for the sake of self-aggrandizement, is as great a menace as the white man's prejudice. Authority is a multi-edged instrument, which it is unwise to place in the hand of the simple. He who speaks of these atrocities in moderation without the spirit of revenge is the true benefactor of the race. I have often heard the remark that the Negro discriminates against himself. The truth of this statement was forced upon me last November when our city was to celebrate Armistice day by giving the soldiers and friends a banquet and reception. Imagine my chagrin when some of our leading citizens went to the Commercial club and asked that colored soldiers and their friends be put off to themselves because of the riot which previously occurred in Omaha. Now these men who asked the segregation of our colored soldiers were not one of them, had never been to war and many of them were either too young or too old for any draft age, but they were self-appointed race leaders. As one soldier so wisely put it: "To think that we boys went over there to fight for a world democracy and come home to find our own people asking the white folks to segregate us." This is another instance of misplaced leadership.

In one of our western cities where there are located several state institutions for the unfortunate there lived a woman who made her livelihood by soliciting the colored orphans from the institution and caring for them in her own home. Her argument was that colored people could care better for their own because they understood them and that the children would have the advantage of attending Sunday school and church conducted by their own people. Of

course the attendants were only too glad for an excuse to be rid of these children, so if the colored citizens had no objection to their being out of the home it was glory for them. The state paid this woman a good sum per month for the care of each child so you see it was a big thing for her from a business standpoint. She drew more than \$100 per month from the public treasury besides the help she got from the older children; they not only did the housework, helped with the laundry after school hours, which she "took in" but had practically all the care of the smaller orphans. She posed before the community as a good Samaritan, was looked upon as a great race leader and uplifter of fallen humanity. There weren't a dozen colored people in that town but thought she was doing this charitable work for her great love for the cause. To fortify herself against suspicion and criticism she became a chronic agitator for permanent segregation of the colored orphans from these institutions. She told of inhuman treatment these poor little children had suffered at the hands of the attendants; how they were being forcibly put out of these places because they weren't wanted; how she had been compelled to turn her home into a refuge for them, but not a word did she say about the money she was receiving each month for their care. On one occasion she had us all in tears when she told of a poor, thin, little girl whose hair had been shaved off because the white attendants didn't understand combing it. Of course most colored folks know what a tragedy it is to cut off the little top knot which is all nature permitted to grow on most colored children's heads so why shouldn't we weep? She finally got the colored women so stirred up until they decided to organize a club for the purpose of buying a house to be used as an Old Folks' Home and Orphanage. Here is my deduction and conclusion.

The colored people of that town are paying taxes for the maintenance of these institutions. The state pays this woman to take these colored children in her home and care for them at her own solicitation. She, finding her home too small to care for so many, yet not willing to let a dollar get by, she asked the Negroes to buy a home for these children. That will, of course, relieve here of the burden of having them in her own home so they are paying double taxes, one to the state to keep up these large, modern, well equipped, steam-heated buildings for white children, and one to the Woman's club to maintain this little hut down in the bottoms for Negro children.

We may regard these facts as insignificant, as immaterial, but there is more to them than our likes or dislikes; our petty ambitions and lust of power. Equal rights for every American citizen is the principle on which our future in the United States rests. It is the solid rock on which this government must build or go down to oblivion. Whatever smacks of segregation should meet with no encouragement from us and whoever tries to force it upon us should be considered a traitor to the race; it is southern propaganda. Its only object is to keep the Negro down, to discredit his manhood, to rob him of his personal liberty.

MRS. ROBERT GRANGER.

Of course Perkin's orchestra is playing for St. Benedict's Colored Catholic society's dance Tuesday evening, April 13, at Columbia hall.—Adv.

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