

THE MONITOR

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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.

AWAKENING TO THE TRUTH

A meeting of prominent white women was recently held at Louisville, Ky. One of the subjects considered by them was the ever-present race question. They were apparently anxious to get a better understanding of it. This was due to the fact that some of these women had had their souls touched and their intellect enlightened by the intelligent, thoughtful and scholarly addresses of four of their colored sisters at Memphis. The contact with these women had given them a new vision. At the Louisville meeting a woman voiced the new vision in these words, "The trouble with us is that while we have 'feelings' about the Negro, we have very little information about him. The conference showed us not only what he is doing for himself, but what he is thinking of our way of dealing with him." It was indicated that the only way this information can be secured is by sympathetic contact and not by isolation. This looks to us as though there is a gradual awakening to the truth.

WHO'LL WIN?

An important election in which all citizens of Omaha should be deeply interested is to be held May 3rd. Just who the lucky seven will be depends upon how the people turn out to vote—and vote! Some one has wisely said, "Let not him boast who puts his armour on, as he who puts it off the battle done." The vote of our people will be quite a decisive factor in the campaign and they are doing a lot of quiet thinking.

"NOT JOBS BUT RIGHTS"

ROBERT R. Church, modest, but resourceful and competent political leader of Tennessee is spending considerable time in Washington. The warm personal friendship which exists between him and Will Hays and his recognized influence and ability would land any reasonable political plum that Bob might ask from the administration. But Bob has wisely said what he wants are rights for his people and the enforcement of law, not jobs. Here speaks the virile, far-sighted young leadership of the race. "Not jobs, but rights," the slogan.

THE MESSAGE

President Harding's first message to Congress is a frank and unequivocal statement of what the mass of American people will consider a wise governmental policy. In conformity to the will of the people as expressed at the polls last autumn it pronounces against the league covenant. There can be no misunderstanding of the statement that "in the existing league of nations, world-governing with its super-power this republic will have no part." Friendliness and helpfulness with all nations without involving military entanglements is the correct policy. Domestic matters are given deserved attention all looking towards the improvement of our citizenship. The President's clear declaration that "Congress ought to wipe the stain of barbaric lynching from the banners of a free and orderly representative democracy," should result in needed congressional action to effect this reform. While we are grateful for this statement. The Monitor wishes that the President could have seen his way clear to have directly recommended to Congress that lynching be made a federal offense. The message will commend itself generally to the American people and to the nations of the world whose eyes are upon this country.

LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS

FROM the darkness of Georgia come welcome light. There is evidence that the conscience of the Christian people of that great commonwealth has at last been touched. Evidence of this is found in the strong resolutions passed by the influential religious leaders of Atlanta and by the speedy

conviction of John S. Williams for the murder of a black American. The conviction of a white man for the murder of a black man in any southern state and especially one with the traditions of Georgia is a phenomenon. That the jurors were disposed to mitigate the heinousness of Williams' crime is indicated by their recommendation for mercy in his case, but the fact that he was convicted at all shows that a sense of justice for the Negro is awakening in Georgia. May these beams of light amid the darkness grow rapidly into the full flood of day.

NOW OR NEVER—

PULL TOGETHER

WE ARE OFF TO A GRAND START. We must all pull together and we will get somewhere. This means all, and it means the immediate cessation of petty bickerings, personal faultfindings, and internal strife.

Georgia and Mississippi peonage and wholesale murders, lynchings and vandalism; Texas, Arkansas and Tennessee atrocities; wholesale disfranchisement, Chicago house bombings; segregations, industrial intolerance, educational crimping and gratuitous social injustice are common enemies that require mass opposition.

The masses of our people are right in temper and spirit. Dr. W. E. B. Dubois, and others who have but recently finished nation-wide tours attest this truth. From one end of the country to the other, Colored Americans are thinking in terms of absolute justice.

Therefore it behooves the active and accepted leadership, regardless of vehicle of action, to pull together. The sentiment of right thinking white people favor us in a square deal. We must not, ourselves, explode the opportunity.

President Harding is going to be fair to all. There is no question about that. No influence, within or without, will swerve him from the righteous path of duty.

Congress is in action. Certain laws of great significance are proposed and certain corrections of unjust practices are demanded. Salvation in economic opportunity rests with governmental backing.

Great agencies are at work. Their wedding point is concentrated in Washington until something breaks or gives away.

The National Association of Colored People, the National Equal Rights League, the Committee on Race Relations, headed by Johnson, Church, Cottrill, Cohen, Howard and others, together with The Associated Negro Press, are among the National forces driving against the Washington wedding point with directness and effectiveness. Each must be for all, and all must be for each. Each has an unquestioned and loyal following. Each has one banner under which all are advancing; that banner bears one word: JUSTICE.

We call upon the people to exercise the highest and most unselfish standard of co-operation in this gigantic struggle for definite advancement and progress. Our faith in the people justifies the belief that the people will not fail if the leaders do not fail. Our faith in the sincerity of purpose of the leaders justifies the hope that as we have a big job it will be carried on in a big way.

Ladies and gentlemen, fellow-citizens and friends: NOW OR NEVER—PULL TOGETHER!

The above ringing message is from the Associated Negro Press and is carried to nearly 4,000,000 readers of our race. This is about the number emancipated by Lincoln's proclamation and represents about one-third of our present population. The Monitor endorses this message as our own and sends it on to its thousands of readers.

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"Free" Bridge Facts

The Omaha & Council Bluffs Street Railway Company, operating the present toll bridge across the Missouri River between Omaha and Council Bluffs, addresses, through this medium, a few statements of fact to the voters of Omaha on the proposition of voting bonds for a so-called "free" bridge between the two cities.

Talk No. 1--"Is a 'Free' Bridge Free?"

It must be obvious to everybody that bridges cost money to build, that they cost money to maintain and to paint and to police, and to light, and to keep free from snow and ice in winter, and to sweep and sprinkle in summer, therefore **Somebody Has to Pay.**

Under the "toll" plan only those who use the bridge pay. And they pay in proportion to the amount of use they make of the bridge. Those who do not use the bridge at all pay nothing; those who use it occasionally pay only a little; those who use it daily pay more, while those who cross it many times a day with automobiles and trucks hauling merchandise pay still more. This is as it should be, just as we pay for our Water, Gas, Electric Light, Street Car or Railroad Transportation or anything else we use.

Under the so-called "free" plan EVERY TAX PAYER in Omaha would pay, regardless of whether he ever uses the bridge or not and regardless of how seldom he may have occasion to cross it on foot or in his automobile. And the tax payers, collectively, would have to pay a larger amount annually for interest on investment, sinking fund, maintenance and operation of a so-called "free" bridge than they now pay in bridge tolls as we shall show.

The preliminary estimate of the bridge engineer, retained by the city of Omaha, is that the proposed bridge will cost One Million, Four Hundred Thou-

sand Dollars. Now everyone who has ever built anything knows that the final cost is invariably much in excess of the preliminary estimate. This is particularly true in all public works. For instance in the case of a so-called "free" bridge built at St. Louis, the preliminary estimate was Three and One-half Million Dollars and the bridge when completed cost over Seven Millions, or DOUBLE the ORIGINAL ESTIMATE.

Assuming the actual cost of the proposed bridge at Omaha to be only \$2,000,000.00 and that bonds could be sold bearing 5 1/2 per cent interest, the annual interest charge alone would be \$110,000.00. Depreciation or sinking fund would amount to \$60,000.00 annually. Maintenance, lighting, policing, etc., would easily amount to \$40,000.00 more annually, making a total of at least \$200,000.00 to be paid in the form of increased taxes solely by the tax payers of Omaha and Council Bluffs. Not a dollar of this large sum would be contributed by the non-resident tourist.

The man or woman who owns only a small home in Omaha, or personal property of any kind upon which they pay taxes, and who never go to Council Bluffs in an automobile, would receive no benefit whatever from a so-called "free" bridge, but they would have to pay their share of the burden through increased taxes just the same.

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Watch for Further "Free" Bridge Facts