

GROWING,
THANK YOU!

THE MONITOR

A NATIONAL WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS
THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

LIFTING.
LIFT, TOO!

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MONITOR PRESENTS ITS OWN SLATE

PEONAGE IN LOUISIANA FOR TWENTY YEARS

Writer in New York Post, Himself a Native of Louisiana, And Thoroughly F. With Conditions There, Calls Attention to Debt-Bondage, Which Places Unfortunate and Ignorant Negroes in Control of Creditors Under Same Status That Obtains in Georgia.

LOUISIANA SYSTEM MAINTAINS NEAR SLAVERY

The Book-Keeping by the Master Class So Manipulated As To Make It Impossible For the Debtor to Liquidate His Indebtedness. Not Permitted to Remove From Section While in Debt And Therefore Is Compelled To Remain And Be Exploited By The Unscrupulous Land Owners.

(By J. D. Sayers.)
Native of Louisiana.
In New York Evening Post.
That a condition of peonage worse than the old chattel slavery exists to this day in the South is not very well known in the North and is surprisingly ignored in the South itself.
The writer is a native of Louisiana, reared in an outlying agricultural section where the Negro population is three to every one of the whites. Having grown up with the peonage system, I naturally became familiar with it as few men could who might go there from the North or even from Southern cities to study the conditions. Very recent visits and close observation, purposely made, convince me that conditions of peonage are nearly as common and as much condoned in my home State and generally throughout the cotton raising sections of the whole South as during my childhood, over twenty years ago.

How Peonage Starts
Practically all the Negroes either work for wages or work on "shares"—that is, the owner furnishes the land and his family land, animals and tools with which to work and the tenant gives the landlord half his crop for the use of the land work, animals, and tools. As soon as the young Negro marries he begins working for some land owner under these conditions. He never has enough cash ahead to buy everything in the way of food and clothing that he and his family need; therefore he must go to the landlord for these things. The landlord either has a plantation store or has arrangements made with the nearby village or small town store to credit the Negro and charge the account to the landlord. In the majority of cases the Negro is uneducated and unable to keep an accurate account of what he buys. He simply trusts the landlord. Even if he has an education and keeps an account, he is not permitted to compare his books with those kept by the landlord. The account as kept by the latter is the one the settlement is based on at the end of the year when the crop is sold.

If the Negro has bought five bacon middlings for 40 cents a pound he is charged up with fifteen or so, and at a much higher price than the regular store price. He may have brought a barrel of flour, but he must pay for two or three at extortionate prices. He may have ploughed in rocky fields bare footed to save having to buy more than one pair of shoes, but he finds at the end of the year his memory has played a trick and he has really, according to the store account, enjoyed the luxury of two pair or three pairs of healthy priced shoes. His wife may have gone through the year with two cheap calico dresses and find in December that she has, in fact, dressed quite sumptuously during the year—according to the infallible store record.

Purchasing Negro Debts
At the end of the year the Negro

GEORGIA COURT SOON TO PROBE "MURDER FARM" CASES

Atlanta, Ga., April 28.—With evidence in the possession of government officials to the effect that 18 were slain on the John S. Williams "murder farm" and that indications pointed to a death toll of more than 20, it was authoritatively learned on Thursday night that the scope of investigations into peonage conditions in Jasper and several other Georgia counties will be considerably widened by the early entrance of southern federal court officials.

Owing to the fact that Jasper county is in the jurisdiction of the southern district federal court, its grand jury is in a position to return stronger indictments against the elder Williams and his three sons, Marvin, Huiland and LeRoy, according to Hooper Alexander, district attorney of the northern district. The federal grand jury of this district can return indictments against Jasper county violators only for coming to Atlanta and taking Negroes back to the farm to be held in peonage.

MANNING TO FACE JURY IN NEWTON EARLY NEXT MONTH

Monticello, Ga., April 28.—(Special.)—Clyde Manning, "boss" of John S. Williams' "murder farm," will go on trial for his life in Covington early in May.

With the Jasper county grand jury recessing here late Tuesday afternoon to continue its investigation of the Eugene Hamilton lynching and other killings on Wednesday, this announce-

may decide that he could do better in some other locality and want to move. He and the landlord make a settlement. The Negro's part of the crop is worth so much. The good bookkeeping landlord's account against the Negro is always considerably more nevertheless. If some other landlord likes the Negro's style of work well enough to pay the excess account, he can have the Negro starting the latter in with a good sized beginning of debt at the first of the year. Frequently the buying landlord bargains secretly with the selling landlord, securing a sort of split in the excess account charged against the Negro.

Some years ago, soon after the enactment of the Federal anti-peonage statute, some land owners in Florida, were convicted under that law, and attention was attracted from all sections of the country. People living in far parts of this country were shocked out of their satisfied state of mind about this being a land wholly free; but they recovered from their shock with the comforting belief that the new slavery had been forever wiped out at one blow by the paternal Federal Government. It was not so and still is not so.

Bought Prison Release

I knew three brothers in my home community in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, who spent thousands of dollars to save themselves from terms in Federal prison about fourteen years ago. Two of them were left in poverty as a result and the son of the third inherited the plantation of his father, and a few years ago—I personally saw and know the exact truth of this statement—he was holding Negroes in practical bondage on the strength of watered accounts in the same old way.

Little less than a year ago a friend of mine was threatened with death at Caldwell, Burleson County, Texas, for daring to raise his voice against the shameful system of peonage along the Brazos River in that section. I lived for several years in Texas and knew that the standard system of peonage as practiced generally in the South is prevalent throughout the cotton sections of Texas wherever Negroes are permitted residence—they are not allowed to live in various portions of the State.

It would seem that what is needed to bring about abolition of great evils in this country is not new laws all ways for we more often have those in sufficient quantity, but a wholesome, indignant public opinion aroused to such a point that slow, unaggressive Federal agents are spurred out of their sleepiness and forced to go aggressively and consistently about their duties of finding infractions of the laws they have sworn to actively enforce. If the Federal officers in the South should use the same initiative in running down violations of the anti-peonage laws as prohibition enforcement officers use in enforcing the Eighteenth Amendment, peonage in this good land would beat John Barleycorn into final oblivion.



J. DEAN RINGER

J. DEAN RINGER, Police Commissioner, Candidate For Election Around Whom an Earnest Political Fight Between The "Ins" and "Outs" Centers. Even his enemies admit his honesty, but question his efficiency. The records of his office disprove the charge of inefficiency.

J. Dean Ringer, despite what those who are opposing him have to say, in the judgment of The Monitor, has striven hard and successfully to render this community honest and faithful service in the extremely difficult position of commissioner of police. Hec-tored and handicapped in many ways he has made good. We admire a manly, plucky and fair fighter and that's what Ringer has proved himself to be. And what of his attitude to our people? He has given us a SQUARE DEAL, which, please bear in mind, should be with our voters THE PARAMOUNT ISSUE. The answer is an unqualified YES. He has appointed FOUR COLORED MEN, as police officers and promoted one to the detective force. These are Ransom, Wright, Dudley and Buford, the last being promoted to the detective force. In addition to these Sergt. Melvin McCaw was also appointed, but declined to serve after a few days' trial. In his one term of three years RINGER HAS APPOINTED AS MANY COLORED MEN TO THE POLICE FORCE OF THIS CITY AS

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Names the Seven Men Whom It Is Supporting For City Commissioners and Gives Cogent Reasons Based Upon Their Attitude Towards Our People For Commending Them For Favorable Consideration.

To Voters Who Seek Information and Guidance. Hundreds of Omaha Voters Look to The Monitor for Help and Guidance as to How They Shall Vote.

We do not mean by this that they slavishly follow our advice, for our people are learning to do a lot of thinking for themselves and to act accordingly. We would not have it otherwise. They seek information and weigh arguments which may help them arrive at a wise decision. Less and less are we, as a people, being swayed by emotion, passion or prejudice. We are reading more, digesting what we read and thinking more. We are looking to our own periodicals to furnish us with reliable information and to guide us in our actions. Monitor readers rely upon our honesty, sincerity and reliability in giving them information and value highly our fearlessness in stating, standing for and advocating those things which we believe to be for the best interest of our people whom we primarily serve and for the community and nation at large. For this reason hundreds of our local readers, and The Monitor is read by practically our entire population, look to us for guidance in helping them determine how they shall vote. It would be cowardly to dodge, sidestep or shirk this responsibility.

We have said that The Monitor is for candidates (1) who have shown a disposition to be fair to our people; or whom we have good reason to believe, will, in the event of their election, be fair to our people. (2) Who have proven themselves to be honest, capable and efficient public officials.

A SQUARE DEAL FOR OUR PEOPLE IS WITH US THE FIRST CONSIDERATION.

This, from our viewpoint, is the Paramount Issue.

By a square deal for our people we mean that when we have helped elect candidates to office, and men and women are being given employment by these successful candidates our own people, where they are competent to do the work required, should be given a fair and reasonable share of these appointments. This is SIMPLE JUSTICE, nothing else. This is our reasonable demand and no man with any sense of honor or justice can deny that this is only reasonable and fair. It is not right to give employment to every other group of citizens and insistently and persistently overlook our people and expect us to take it patiently and continually elect men who ignore our just claims. And we are entitled to something besides porters' and laborers' jobs. We want a fair share in these, but no monopoly of them, and we want clerkships, typists and other positions also, not based upon the fact that we are colored people, merely or chiefly, but upon our competency and citizenship.

This, then, is the rule that has guided The Monitor in selecting and commending to its readers the following ticket:

J. DEAN RINGER, Republican, Present Police Commissioner,
W. G. URE, Republican, Present Commissioner, Department of finance;

HARRY B. ZIMMAN, Republican, Present Commissioner, fire department;

ROY N. TOWL, Republican, Present Commissioner, public improvements;

JOSEPH B. HUMMELL, Republican, Former Commissioner, parks and boulevards;

DAN B. BUTLER, Democrat, Present Commissioner, street maintenance department;

JAMES C. DAHLMAN, Democrat, ex-mayor, Present United States Marshal.

PROMINENT BUSINESS WOMAN WEDS ST. LOUIS PHYSICIAN

Cards are out announcing the marriage of Miss Madres Penn, daughter of Mrs. Mattie E. Penn of Omaha, Nebraska to Dr. James E. White of St. Louis, Missouri.



Miss Madres Penn who is well known to Monitor readers was formerly Associate-editor and office manager of The Monitor and is now President of The Kaffir Chemical Laboratories, in whose interest she has been traveling for the past several months. She is a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Alpha Chapter.



Dr. James E. White, at the time of his call for a service in the recent world-war was practicing medicine in Sedalia, Missouri, of which place he was City Physician. Shortly after the demobilization of the army he re-entered the practice of his profession, locating at St. Louis, Missouri, where he enjoys a lucrative practice and is a prominent factor in the civic and fraternal affairs of his city and state. Dr. White is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and is one of the few physicians of our group who is a member of the National Society of Eugenic Research.

The couple first met in 1910 at Howard University, Washington, D. C., where they were both students.

The marriage was a quiet affair and took place September 4, 1920 at Clayton, Missouri, and did not interrupt the itinerary of the bride who for the past several months has been traveling in the interest of the Kaffir Chemical Laboratories whose interests she will continue to promote from her new home. Dr. and Mrs. White take up their residence in St. Louis and are holding an "at home" for their friends on May 15th.

Helen Singleton is quite sick at the residence of her maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Goff, 907 Forrest avenue.



CIVIL RIGHTS BILL KILLED IN SENATE

Harrisburg, Pa., April, 1921.—The Civil Rights Bill was killed in the Senate Committee by a vote of 8 to 6. There were six men who were willing to have the Senate vote on the bill. There were eight who were unwilling to have the bill come before the Senate body.

Senator Barr of Allegheny county was bitter in his attack upon Negroes and Negro leaders. His words were the words of a Georgia cracker. His feeling ran high, and he characterized some of the Negro delegates as liars. The eight who voted against us are: Snyder, DeWitt, Hackett, Baldwin, McConnell, Miller, J. Summerfield, Clark and Whitten.

The six who voted to report the bill out are: Calus, Vare, Eyre, Service, McClintock and Schantz. A resolution to take the bill from the committee was lost 39 to 9 and the fight for civil rights ended for this session.

CREATE BUREAU FOR THE HANDLING OF NEGRO LABOR

Washington, April 28.—Negro labor difficulties and collection of statistics bearing upon Negro employment generally will be dealt with through a single labor department office, as a result of re-organization and consolidation effective Wednesday, announced by Secretary Davis. The former bureau of Negro economics has been made an adjunct of the general conciliation division, under direction of Phil H. Brown of Kentucky. He succeeds Dr. George Y. Haines, and in addition becomes commissioner of conciliation charged especially with the duty of negotiating with Negro labor in case of disputes requiring federal intervention.

The statistical work begun by the bureau will be continued under the new incumbent.

Mr. Walter Stephens of 2720 Corby returned from Topeka, Kansas, having been called there to attend the funeral of his aunt, Mrs. Mary Parks, who died suddenly.

FORMER GOVERNOR PLEADS FOR JUSTICE

Thomas W. Bickett, Ex-Governor of North Carolina, Who Bravely And Fearlessly Upheld the Law In His State Using Military Force To Suppress Mobs And Prevent Lynchings Delivers Notable Address at Anniversary Exercises of Great Educational Institution.

RINGING MESSAGE AT HAMPTON EXERCISE

Contents That Black American Must Be Accorded Justice If Anglo-Saxon Traditions and Civilization Are to Endure. Counsels Race to Adhere to Christian Principles. Strikes at Ku Klux. Diplomas Presented to Large Class.—Optimism, and Co-operation Dominant Factors in Progress.

Hampton, Va.—That the Negro is entitled to equal and exact justice before the law and that the white man must accord him that justice or be false to all Anglo-Saxon traditions was the opinion expressed by the Hon. Thomas W. Bickett, former Governor of North Carolina, in his address delivered at the closing session of the fifty-third anniversary of Hampton Institute, over which Principal J. E. Gregg presided.

Governor Bickett said: "Though only fifty-three years old, Hampton Institute has achieved the unique and noble distinction of becoming at once a fountain and a shrine. From it are constantly flowing streams that make waste places glad, and from every quarter of the continent weary pilgrims come to Hampton Institute for a new birth of courage, faith and love.

"The Negro who has to get an order from a white man before he can buy a sack of meal or a side of meat is almost as much a slave as the man who had to get a permit before he could leave his master's land. The Negro as a race will not travel far until his credit in store or in bank is as good as that of the white man.

"All during my administration the hand of executive clemency knew no color line. I opened the prison doors to more than four hundred Negroes. During my administration I preached against lynching and I fought lynching. I rushed troops to protect prisoners, I rushed of mobs were indicted and convicted, and I personally walked into a mob and persuaded men to abandon their purpose.

Strikes at Ku-Klux
"In this free country the message that cannot be proclaimed from the house-top ought not to be heard by a loyal American citizen. The Ku Klux Klan believes in the reasons why, and that is one of the reasons why, when the strong man from Texas tried to establish the Ku Klux Klan in North Carolina, I rose up and hit it with all my might and drove it from our borders. Listen to your leaders who proclaim their message from the pulpit and through the local press. When the whispering agi-

ANITA PATTI BROWN SINGS TO LARGE AUDIENCE

Zion Baptist church was packed to the doors last Monday night to hear the renowned prima donna, Anita Patti Brown. It was this distinguished artist's second visit to Omaha and she captivated her audience from the start. She presented a well-balanced and well-chosen program, consisting of such numbers as Oberon, aria, by Weber; Norwegian Love Song, by Saar; La Traviata; and other classical and popular selections. Miss Nathalie Doxey, her accompanist, is also a talented elocutionist and recited Mad Marie. Mrs. Stella Craig also recited. The U. B. F. Band played a selection.

THE FREITA SHAW RECITAL.

The recital given by Miss Freita Shaw last Friday night at St. Paul's Presbyterian church was an artistic success. The audience was well pleased by Miss Shaw's rendition of several classical numbers and Negro spirituals, which she interpreted with great depth of feeling. She was ably assisted by Miss Teressa Livrpool, who contributed an instrumental number; Mrs. Fannie Russell, who recited "The Leper," and Miss Otis Watson who was Miss Shaw's accompanist.

RETURNS FROM TRIP ON MASONIC BUSINESS

Nat Hunter, W. G. M., returned Sunday from an official visit to the Masonic lodges in the state. He visited Alliance, Grand Island and Lincoln. He reports the lodges prosperous and his visit pleasant.

Sardinia's Wheel Windows.

Many of the medieval Sardinian churches had fine wheel windows in their west fronts, writes A. R. Giles in the Journal of the American Institute of Architects. But the greater number of these have had their tracery ruined by being walled up in order to put a kitchen glass window in the middle.

SLOGAN: "The Monitor In Every Home And I'll Help Put It There"