

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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## THE "RACE WAR" IN TULSA AND WHAT CAUSED IT

### TRIFLING INCIDENT INCITES CARNAGE

Colored Youth Accidentally Steps on White Girl's Foot in Elevator. Precipitating a Race War in Which Several Are Killed, Hundreds Wounded, Square Mile of City is Reduced to Ashes and 8,000 Rendered Homeless. Threats of Lynching Lad Starts Trouble.

### RACE MEN DETERMINE TO PREVENT LYNCHING

White Mob Numbering 150 Surround Jail Threatening to Lynch Richard Rowland; Colored Men Arm and Are Led by Returned Overseas Soldier, Determined to Protect Him. Crowds Clash. Charged Whites Fired First. Segregated Business and Residence District Set on Fire.

(Special to The Monitor by Fred C. Williams, Staff Correspondent.)

Tulsa, Okla., June 9.—It was a trifling incident that caused the terrible outbreak in this city last week. The toll in known deaths is reported at 40. I say this advisedly, for there is always means of suppressing facts when certain people in authority do not want them known. The known wounded run way up into the hundreds. It is conservatively placed at 600, but this in my judgment is below the actual figures. Property losses are placed at about \$2,000,000. It is absolutely impossible to conceive of the horrors of the scene or of the hell that broke loose here, but the horror and terror was not all on one side; Negroes were not the cowed, terror-stricken, broken-spirited crowd that press dispatches would have the public believe. Odds were against them, it is true, but determination to protect themselves was not wanting. The losses of our people are heavy and destitution great. The unfortunate feature to my mind is the bitterness of spirit engendered and the waning faith in the minds of our people in the disposition of the white people to deal justly with our group. This to my mind is ominously tragic for both racial groups.

The incident which was apparently the inciting cause was only the superficial one. There had been preparation for this outbreak. It had long been foreseen and long planned, just as the riots in East St. Louis, Washington and Omaha were skillfully planned. The causes leading up to this tragic affair, for which the alleged "assault by a Negro upon a white orphan girl" furnished the excuse were deeper than appear on the surface.

Here are my conclusions covering the causes that in all probability led to the final outbreak which has proved so disastrous. First, it was a well defined plan that has been mapped out by the leading political and civic organizations of Tulsa for the purpose of getting possession of the territory which had been organized by Negroes and known as "Little Africa," and according to the policy of Tulsa was pointed out as a successfully segregated district where the Negro was ever under the eyes of the city fathers and could be easily controlled or subdued as the occasion might demand. And true to custom of the South, this section was divided from the white sections by the ever present railroad tracks and then skirted, as the railroad facilities increased, by other roads. As Tulsa grew in wealth, business and industry, so did the Negro population grow in numbers and spread over and beyond the new and last railroad tracks. The Negroes grew in wealth, developed big and well-paying businesses; also fine and well appointed, as well as richly furnished homes.

As the city's business and industries grew, so did the business of the railroads, and Tulsa became a big distributing point, demanding increased warehouse and wholesale housing facilities; and the real estate board of the Chamber of Commerce, which had charge of the planning of the city, realized that the area now set aside and known as "Little Africa" was the one spot, and only practical location for this new wholesale district. They had sounded the Negroes about selling their holdings and found them unwilling, positively refusing to consider the plan. So they bided their time, and having decided, by hook or crook, to bring about a change of thought among the Negroes, they made a complete plan (which their actions on Wednesday morning proved) and waited for the psychological moment to put it into operation, which came on Tuesday night, May 31.

A young Colored boy entered an elevator operated by a white girl, upon whose foot he tread accidentally and awkwardly stumbled against her. The girl remonstrated loudly and angrily, which exclamations attracted the attention of a loafer, said to be a Greek, loitering in the lobby, who rushed to the elevator threatening the now thoroughly frightened Colored boy, who dodged and ran away. The facts are gathered by a curb reporter on an afternoon sheet known as The Tribune, who plays it up in the most inflammatory manner, which has an instant effect upon the large "rough-neck" population of Tulsa, composed of the workers of the oil fields who bear a reputation as men of the rough and ready type even in peaceful times—something on the order of the miners of the old western gold fields.

Dick Rowland, the Colored boy, was arrested and placed in prison by a Colored officer, Henry Pack. The streets were by this time packed with the loafers, hoodlums, the rough men from the oil fields and crowds of curious on-lookers, for the word had gone around that there would be a lynching. Sheriff McCullough, who has always been friendly to the Negroes and seemingly fair, prepared to meet the situation by appointing twenty Colored men as deputies in addition to the two he already possessed. As the mob fury increased after each exhortation to disperse by the sheriff, mayor, and prominent citizens, both Colored and white, the Negro quarter having received its warnings of the happenings around the jail, decided to strengthen the position of the sheriff by offering further assistance, which he refused, declaring that the elevators had been drawn to the top floor where the jail was situated and the stairs heavily charged with electricity and that he and his deputies would die in defense of their prisoner. But some of the Colored citizens remembered Omaha and decided to take up a position near the jail house in the event that the mob attacked. There were no automobile loads. They were soon sighted by the mob and they were on forbidden ground, they were in the white man's territory—to the south of the well defined dead line, the Frisco tracks, and on investigation, finding these men armed they became incensed and rushed the cars. There was a sound of firing and after the first discharge it was discovered that several white men were down and two of the Negroes dead. Then came the retreat of the Negroes back to the segregated district where they were met by others and the battle was on. This was 10:45 P. M. Tuesday night. The crowd immediately broke into all hardware and gun stores, as well as the armory, arming themselves with every conceivable weapon. There was firing between small groups all during the night. While the preparations for the carrying out of that long-delayed well defined plan to gain the territory now possessed by the Negroes to teach the now impudent Negro a lasting lesson by destroying his spirit of independence through the destruction of his property, his business, and even his life; and this was the way it was done:

### EYES OF RACE ON NATIONAL REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

Washington, D. C., June 9.—The National Republican Committee is in session here and some of the members among them R. Beecher Howell of Nebraska, are in favor of reducing the number of delegates from the Southern states to the national republican convention. This means unconditional surrender to the Lily Whites. Prominent leaders here are making it plain to the committee that elimination of the Southern Negro from the republican party will meet resentment in the North and West. Mr. Howell has received telegrams from prominent Colored men of Nebraska making their position very plain and urging him to vote against the proposition.

### Important Notice

The lady who was hurt by an automobile, April 11, on Sixteenth and Howard streets would like to have the lady who paid her gas bill call her at Webster 1171.

First a cordon of armed men in automobiles was drawn around the northern and eastern sections of "Little Africa," then all of the available airplanes, to the number of eight, were called into service. They did scout duty. Then men, presumably members of the American Legion and local militia, armed with bayonets and rifles, accompanied by a large body of special policemen, advanced from the south and west, demanding the surrender at each home of the inmates, taking the men prisoners or shooting them down if showing the least resistance or hesitation, and allowing the women to escape to the south, taking the men

### Monitor Starts Relief Fund for Tulsa Riot Victims

MONITOR RELIEF FUND FOR TULSA RIOT VICTIMS  
That The Monitor's action in starting a relief fund for the victims of the Tulsa riot is approved has been shown by verbal and telephone messages from several persons with the assurance that they would contribute to the fund. The contributions up to the present however have been slow. The first to be received was \$1.00 from Mrs. Alonzo Jackson. The Waiters of the Blackstone Hotel have sent in \$12.50. This makes the total amount in hand \$23.50. We hope to have this substantially increased by our next issue. Don't delay. Send in something, however small. We want the children to send in their pennies too. Due acknowledgement will be made and exact accounting for the Fund. Let everybody help.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.	
The Monitor Publishing Company	\$10.00
Mrs. Alonzo Jackson	1.00
Waiters, Blackstone Hotel	12.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23.50</b>

### TULSA'S PASTORS DISCUSS OUTBREAK Mob Violence Subject of Pulpit Talks; Various Causes Ascribed to Rioting.

Tulsa, Okla., June 6.—The visit of Dr. Dubois, editor of a Negro magazine, not many weeks ago had a bearing on the race trouble here last week. Bishop E. D. Mounson intimated in a sermon yesterday. Practically all Tulsa ministers devoted at least a part of their sermons to the race riot, its causes and results. "Negroes on the night of the riot found their guns and ammunition in the office of the Star, Negro paper," said the bishop. "I believe that Dubois' visit had much to do with this fact. He is one of the most dangerous Negroes in the country."

**Plans for Disarmament**  
"The mob and the mob spirit are always wrong. It is ruinous to civilization. Axioms can accomplish nothing but harm. Tulsa has been disgraced in the eyes of the world. Civilization broke down here. Everyone of us is partly responsible because we took no more interest in the government and law enforcement."

Rev. Rolfe Pomeroy, C. M. of Trinity Episcopal church used the riot to illustrate how possession of arms leads to warfare. He used the illustration to advocate disarmament for the nation and world. "The events of the past week will stop Tulsa's bragging and set her to doing and thinking," said the Rev. C. W. Kerr of the First Presbyterian. A prevailing spirit of lawlessness combined with mob Negroes started the trouble, he opined.

### HARDING DEPLORES TULSA RACE RIOTS

Lincoln University, Pa., June 6.—In an address before 400 Negro students at Lincoln university today, President Harding deplored the recent race riot at Tulsa, Okla., and all similar outbreaks of race rioting. "God grant," he said, "in referring to the riot, that we may never have another spectacle like it."

The president was shown the granite arch erected in memory of Negro soldiers who died in the World War and in his talk said the colored soldiers earned this honor. The president also spoke of the great benefits of education in furthering the welfare of the Negroes, and contrasted the fine scene presented at the university with those engaged in race disturbances.

The Monitor reaches the Colored people of Omaha and Nebraska and has a wide circulation in every state in the union.

It has taken Six Years to build up this circulation and we are still growing.

Merchants who desire to reach the best buyers in the community use The Monitor.

### PITIFUL TALES OF MISERY ARE TOLD BY BLACKS

Only Handful of Salvage From Burned

### REAL ESTATE MEN BEGIN TO FIX LOSS.

Tulsa, June 3.—The plight of many Negroes today still remained pitiful. The Y. M. C. A. building where the Red Cross has established its identification bureau, was the scene of mingled emotions as hope for lost ones remained unfulfilled or disbanded families were reunited. While there remains no trace of race hatred many Negroes still come to the city hall with fear and trembling for the little white badge inscribed "police protection," which, once donned, immediately restores the Negro's faith and subdues their fear.

### Kept Injury a Secret.

Many pitiful tales of the misery and suffering of the Negro refugees are told. Some venture into the burned district to come away with small hand-dana handkerchief bundles filled with their entire salvage from once excellent homes. In a prominent hotel yesterday the day porter along in the afternoon being passed by the manager, summoned the courage to say "Boss I've gettin' kinda weak." It was found he had been shot through the side at the small of the back and for 24 hours had feared to reveal his injury lest he be taken for one of the rioters and summarily executed.

Two committees from the real estate exchange today were busy in the devastated district fixing the amounts of losses. It was decided for the present that an imaginary fire line would be drawn about the burned district, and that no flimsy structures would be erected thereon.

### Plan \$500,000 Fund.

Intent on restoring the homes of Negroes the committee of seven has not yet definitely decided on just what form that restoration shall take. It has several proposals before it, and it is known that while the segregation plan here was regarded as one of the most effective in the country, it is intended to build a Negro district which will be regarded as peerless is to be in great part an atonement for the harm done, as well as an example for other cities.

The Real Estate Exchange has proposed that the burned districts roughly a mile square, be converted into an industrial and wholesale district and a new residence and business district for Negroes be built adjacent to it, on the north and east, and at present this plan is discussed chiefly by the committee of seven.

The committee expects no difficulty in obtaining the \$500,000 it has decided as the amount necessary to rebuild homes which were owned by Negroes.

### Taking Care of Negroes.

Hundreds of Negroes, wearing badges inscribed "Police protection," were on the streets and downtown Tulsa took on a normal appearance. Negroes were at work in hotels and stores and other business places. Employees fed them and provided shelter last night in garages, shops and basements of residences.

More than 1,000 Negroes, those who have not been released from guard, slept last night at the fair grounds.

The Red Cross fully organized for the emergency at a dozen churches. An identification bureau operated by the Red Cross was sifting the names of the refugees and bringing families back together.

Contributions from a number of outside cities were received today by the Red Cross for relief work.

Tulsa, Okla., June 3.—Definite plans for building homes for the thousands of Negroes rendered destitute by the burning of the Negro quarter here in the race war of Tuesday night and Wednesday were being worked out today by a civilian committee of relief.

Business men of the city were pledged to erect as many houses as needed in the shortest time possible and only the details remained to be worked out. One plan was to clear away the debris from the section levelled by fire and erect permanent dwellings costing from \$500 to \$1,000 each. Another scheme under consideration was to form a corporation to buy up land in the northern section of the city and build a new Negro colony.—Muskogee Times-Democrat.

### NOTICE

Adverse working conditions accounts for The Monitor being one day late this week for the first time in our history. We have hope to be out on time next week.

### DIocese of Georgia AGAINST LYNCHING

Bishop Reese of Georgia in His Convention Address Vigorously Condemns Mob Violence and Opposes The Ku Klux Klan As An Unlawful and Dangerous Organization. Declares Decent People Are Horrified at Unspeakable Crime Against Colored People in the South.

### CONVENTION ENDORSES PRELATES POSITION

Unanimously Passes Resolution Approving Bishop Reese's Statement And Recommending That The Specific Portion of His Address Dealing With Law Enforcement And Suppression of Mob Violence Be Read In Every Episcopal Church in the Diocese.

Savannah, Ga., June 9.—The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Georgia took unusual action in its recent annual convention held in this city when not only the Rt. Rev. Frederick F. Reese, D. D., counted one of the most conservative of southern bishops devoted a large portion of his address and charge to the convention in drastic denunciation of the lawlessness and crime of this great state against Negroes, but the convention also heartily endorsed the prelate's position and by resolution ordered that the address should be read by every clergyman of the Episcopal church in Georgia to his congregation. The Bishop spoke strongly against the Ku Klux Klan, maintaining that there is no justification for the existence of such an organization at this time and that it is an unwarranted and dangerous folly which will be used for unlawful and dangerous purposes.

Speaking on the question of law and order and against mob violence, Bishop Reese said in part:

"I am concerned more about the danger and injury done by mob and other forms of violence. These work grave injustice frequently to innocent people and always do grave injury to the dignity and security of our state. I speak of this more immediately in connection with such acts against our Colored people. All decent people are horrified at the charges of unspeakable crime against some of these people which are now the subject of legal investigation. As a Southerner and a white man I know the difficulties of our situation and the irritations that the situation is calculated to excite in us. But no irritations or criminal outrages can justify mob violence or other similar injustices. Many of these people are industrious, respectable and law-abiding. They are entitled to justice. All of them are our brethren in Christ. They are entitled to every opportunity possible to live in peace and security and to work out without unnecessary restriction their individual and racial destiny as they are capable of doing so.

"The race question is too compli-

cated and too serious to be disposed of by any offhand judgment of ignorance and prejudice. It is not only the future of the Negro which is at stake, but the future of our own peace and security. For the violence and the domination of force of one race over another cannot produce anything but loss and disaster to both races. It is a question of how we shall maintain it—the loss of that I have no fears. It is a question of how we shall maintain it—whether we do so by force or by just administration of law and by the inevitable working out of natural law. Every exhibition of threat breeds violence after its kind and the end is destruction and a scarcely concealed anarchy.

"I hereby protest most solemnly and earnestly against such methods. I protest against the misguided, if not criminal folly, of those who have disturbed the situation and created distrust and apprehension among the better Negroes by organizing a secret society under a name which can only recall the lawless violence of those who perverted the purpose of the original society so named a generation ago. No patriotic or sensible man could for one moment consider it anything but folly to organize a Ku Klux Klan at this day. The name condemns it. It is not necessary. It can only be at the least a serious error. It cannot fail to be perverted, even if in its origin, not unlawful, to unlawful and dangerous purposes.

"I think Christian people and good citizens should utter their minds and express their convictions about matters. It should condemn evil and evil customs. It should stand for law and order against secret or open violence. It should take its stand to protect the weak. And I believe that at this time of serious issues it should proclaim its moral judgment against wrong and injustice. I therefore ask this convention to adopt and to publish its condemnation of all mob violence, of all acts of injustice against the Negro and to declare its opinion that the organization of this secret society is more than a mistake. It is an unwarranted and dangerous folly."

### SOME SELF-EXPLANATORY TELEGRAMS

Colored Americans Watching Intently Movements at National Capital and Demanding that Their Loyalty to the Republican Party be not Required by Betrayal of Brethren in South to the Lily Whites. Robert Church Fearless Champion of His People, and Other Leaders Right on the Job.

Vigilant watch is being kept at the National capital concerning legislation and proposals which affect our particular group of Americans. Strong, sane and fearless leaders are there right on the job. The National Republican Committee is meeting there now. Forecasting their attitude on certain vital questions telegraphic information is given whenever concerted action is imperative.

The following telegrams are self-explanatory:

Washington, D. C., June 7, 1921. Rev. John Albert Williams, Editor Monitor, Omaha, Neb.

Have positive information that Mr. Howell is making determined effort to reduce delegated representation of the Southern states in Republican National Convention and wants to turn the organization of South Carolina and other Southern states over to the Lily Whites. Suggest that you and other leaders there send him strong telegrams urging that he oppose the reduction. Address him care Republican National Committee, Munsey Building. This is vitally important so please act quick. Advise me collect, Whitelaw Hotel.

R. R. CHURCH. The editor of The Monitor im-

mediately communicated with several of our active citizens here who telegraphed their views to R. Beecher Howell, whose attitude on this question is wrong. Mr. Howell, who has announced his candidacy for United States senator from Nebraska, is going at affairs decidedly in the wrong way if he expects the support of the Colored voters of Nebraska.

### THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ACTIVE MINISTRY

Saturday June 11, St. Barnabas' Day is the thirtieth anniversary ordination of the Rev. John Albert Williams to the ministry and Sunday of his taking charge of the Church of St. Philip the Deacon. He was ordained deacon in St. Barnabas' Church, Omaha, Thursday, June 11, 1891 by the Rt. Rev. George Worthington, D. D. Bishop of Nebraska. The ordination sermon was preached by the Rev. John Williams, then rector of St. Barnabas Church and priest-in-charge of St. Philip's for several years. The candidate was presented for ordination by the Very Rev. Charles H. Gardner, dean of Trinity Cathedral, Omaha. He was immediately appointed deacon-in-charge of St. Philip's, under Rev. John Williams, until his advancement to the priest hood which took place in St. Matthias' Church, Omaha four months later, when he entered upon his full priestly duties. St. Barnabas' Holy Communion will be celebrated at 7 a. m., and Sunday services will be held at the usual hours.

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