

THE MONITOR

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

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WHAT OTHER EDITORS SAY

The Arkansas Cases
The colored people of the United States have just won a great legal battle, which lasted into the fourth year. It seems to the writer of this editorial that most of the colored people, as evidenced in newspaper expression, have sensed the tremendousness of this victory. Twelve of their illiterate or otherwise ignorant fellow blacks, from the swamp lands of Arkansas, one of the worst states in the world, had been condemned to death by all the courts of that hideous state for the most of the attempt having consisted in merely running—trying to escape from the mobs.

An organization of colored people and white liberals, located somewhere in New York City, and known as an association for the "advancement" or protection of colored people, or something like that (as Mr. Garvey might say), caught up the fight for these helpless peons right off the bat, fought their battles through all the courts of Arkansas, through a lower federal court and on through the supreme court of the Republic—at a 4-year expense of actually less than \$15,000! It is hardly believable.

In this connection we recall another case of which we have heard, known as "The Bundy Case." That must have cost the colored people many times as much to defend as it cost them to defend these twelve men's cases, plus perhaps the fate of 67 other peons who are confined for life or long terms in the Arkansas penitentiary. We think that this four or five times eight thousand, nine hundred per cent difference in cost, was due to the fact that "The Bundy Case" was handled in a one-man way—by one man who was at one and the same time money-taker and receipt-giver, collector and disburser, secretary and treasurer, manager and beneficiary, hero and victim—all in ONE. That makes things expensive. It always has. It always will. Even liberty and justice are dear by that method of purchase and at that price.

But "The Arkansas Cases" were handled by a responsible organization with well defined official functions, regular accounting and public auditing, so that the cases of nearly 100 colored men might cost the American Negro maybe a third or a fifth as much as the case of only one man, who privately managed his own salvation.

But most of our colored people do not even know that they have done it. —Philadelphia Public Journal, March 24, 1923.

Letters From Our Readers

The Wesley and Mauldron Murder Trial
Omaha, Nebr., April 3, 1923.
Editor Monitor:
On March 15, 1923, after three days trial, a jury in the District Court of Douglas county, Nebraska, returned a verdict of first degree murder and sentenced to the electric chair, in a case tried before them in which Sol Wesley and LeRoy Mauldron were charged with having shot and killed a white man in Omaha, January 20th. I occupied a seat in the court room during all of the trial of those men, and I must say that they were ably defended and proved as clear an alibi as ever presented to a court or jury,

FLOOD OF COLOR IN NEW FABRICS

Printed Materials in Winsome Hues, Strong Feature of Present Fashions.

THE NEW SILKS AND COTTONS

Designers Have Provided Great Array of Clothes Made Up in Many Styles for Spring and Summer Wear.

An outburst of color is the most salient feature of fashions at the moment. It is almost impossible, observes a prominent fashion authority, to realize the far-reaching effect of this outburst. It is far-reaching not only in the effect that it has on women's dress in general, but upon the trades and industries of the world.

Methods of making fabrics and of adorning them, hitherto unused or long since idle, are now in full swing. All sorts of printing and dyeing processes are affected by fashions. Fashion is more than an influence; it is a vital and powerful stimulus to many of the world's most important industries. It is unfortunate that fashions are treated in a disparaging way by those who do not understand their full significance.

Fashions are not trifling and frivolous. Few realize that not only hundreds, but thousands, of people are set to work when a new fashion goes over, or a great demand is created for special types of materials.

A type of placing embroidery on a fabric to give the appearance of printing is seen on a model which consists of a smart robe-manteaux of navy blue serge and royal blue crepe moncol, a silk crepe almost as heavy as a wool serge. The dark serge is covered with deep royal blue silk. The pattern is so executed that the royal blue embroidery stands out almost as a background on certain parts of the dress, while in other parts the ornamentation is so light that it seems to be only a slight interweaving of bright blue on the deep navy background.

Every Wardrobe Must Have One.
There is no doubt about the fact that many and various printed silks and cottons will be worn, made up in many and various manners. Everybody has gone wild upon the subject; and unless a collection of clothes contains one or more of these printed costumes then it is not to be noticed in the polite society of clothes. The prints are done very simply. There is not the slightest indication of trimming. But there is every evidence of the attention to design which the character of the printing of the silks calls for. As one looks around at the collection of printed silk dresses which has already appeared upon the market, there seems to be not a single violation of the principles of correct design.

Silk is evidently the thing for the spring months, but there are some tweed and homespun suits and skirts which are certainly worthy of some no-

they stand alone as important elements in the popular demands of the fashionable world.

The Wrapping Coats.
Added to these one-piece frocks there are the wrapping coats that are made in three-quarter length. They are full and ample in their proportions with wide sleeves and wrapping skirt portions. They are made to fold about the figure over the one-piece dresses, so that they form an element of style that is entirely in accordance with the popular conceptions of fashion as it is understood by the smart women who are making the styles of the moment a popular success.

For the South they are wearing not only whole frocks of printed silks and cottons but those that are made up of a combination of a printed and a plain material. This fact is illustrated by a dress that has its lower section made of a print that runs, in stripes, on to the upper section of the costume. The lower portion is made of a print of blue on a white background and the upper section is made of a plain and heavy quality of dark blue crepe on to which the stripes of the printed material run



Frock of Printed and Plain Silk in Dark Blue and White is One of the Predicted Leaders for Spring.

In a succession of decorative stripes. Outlining the sleeve edges there are facings of white, which serve to accentuate the principles of the design of the garment and the whole dress appears as one of the best examples of the art of the American designer as applied to the figure of the American woman.

Around the waist of this frock there is tied a plain and unadorned version of the Deauville scarf. The dress happens to be a combination of dark blue and white and the handkerchief, curiously enough, is made of a square of pure white silk bound with a narrow little edging of dark blue grosgrain ribbon. It serves as just the proper sort of belt for the dress and, at the same time, it happens to be a finish for the dress which is made up of the two colors.

The white, then, is set in at the long armholes, with a slender bit of blue edging to contrast with the finish of the scarf about the lowered waistline and the design of the dress becomes, with the addition, something that is entirely complete in itself, and that is fitted to stand the competition of a whole season with the persistence of a fashionable thing that is destined to outlast the demands of a season, no matter what may be the points that are exhibited to show what that season is up to in the way of style.

Cotton Thread Embroidery.
French dressmakers always have used considerable cotton thread in their embroideries on silk and wool materials. Renee, that clever artist in the details of needlework, uses ordinary white sewing cotton for a very casual appearing embroidery on a silk frock. Other French makers work out what appears to be printed patterns in cotton threads of bright colors, such as blue, rose, green and purple.

Color, as allied to millinery, is important. Several prominent French milliners are continuing this spring the vogue for pink in combination with black, as brought out late last season. This spring, however, the pinks are deeper, nearer the coral tones. Such shades as these are used to face hats of black straw and as trimmings. There is a great demand for ribbon in these shades, both wide and narrow. An unusual use of narrow moire ribbon is seen in upstanding rows which completely cover the brims of hats. Very interesting and daring hats have arrived from Paris in combinations of bright orange and black.

One can predict with more assurance about color than about shapes in spring millinery. In shapes modistes are practically trying out new ideas. At the beginning of each season there is always a varied collection. There is one point in this respect, however, upon which all hat makers appear to agree, and that is the poke bonnet of both medium and small size.

Veils are important for spring. This will be good news to the very feminine type of woman who always finds this little detail of dress particularly becoming. The lacy veil that just falls over the brim of the hat is well liked.

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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.



INCREASE ITS POWER

THERE should be no doubt in the mind of any right thinking person that the most powerful organization in this country today fighting wisely and effectively for the rights of our group is the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, commonly known as the "N. A. A. C. P." This organization includes in its membership representatives of both races. Some of the foremost white men and women of this country are members of it. This is as it should be. In any fight for justice we must have as our allies the broad minded of the dominant race. While this is true the great bulk of the membership should be found among our own group. "Those who would be free themselves must strike the first blow." The Association is fighting against injustice of all kinds. It is contending for justice in the courts; better educational advantages for our people; equal accommodations on the railroads; for the ballot; for the suppression of lynching and peonage; in a word for our full constitutional rights as American citizens. This campaign is being waged by appeals to enlightened public sentiment. The principles of the association are such as any right minded man or woman, white or colored, can most heartily endorse and its procedure such as commends it to the most conservative. Its fight for the enactment of the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill has been spoken of by its enemies as one of the most effective and intelligent campaigns that has ever been waged in the interest of any special movement. Its victories in the Elaine cases has been a signal victory for law. Its record of achievements for civil rights is a most honorable one. A campaign is now being waged for membership. The N. A. A. C. P. should have a membership of 1,000,000 at the very lowest. Every community should have a large branch. At one time the Omaha branch had 1,000 members. Many have permitted their membership to lapse. All should renew. One dollar a year is a mighty small sum for any self re-

GROWING INDEPENDENCE

THE growing political independence of the race is a most hopeful and encouraging sign. It remains now for this independent spirit to be crystallized into some concerted action. The Monitor is inclined to believe the time is ripe for the formation of our own independent party, to be called by whatever name may subsequently be selected and put our own ticket in the field. When the Prohibition party was organized it was a woefully small body, but its organizers lived to see the day when the principles for which it stood and contended were put into practice. The heaven worked. We would like to know the mind of our contemporaries and readers as to the organization of Colored Americans into an Independent political party. What do you think of it? If you approve of the idea say so and if you are opposed state why.

CLEAN UP

SPRING is here despite the fact that the winds are a little chilly. Clean up your premises. Begin to plan for your garden and flowers. Let us see who will have the prettiest premises and the most attractive block. Clean up and beautify.

The Phi Delta Sorority gave a delightful Dancing Party Wednesday evening, April 4th, at the home of Mrs. William Jackson, 3522 North 29th St. The guests all reported a delightful time.

Nebraska Civil Rights Bill

Chapter Thirteen of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Civil Rights. Enacted in 1898.

Sec. 1. Civil rights of persons. All persons within this state shall be entitled to a full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of inns, restaurants, public conveyances, barber shops, theatres and other places of amusement; subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to every person.

Sec. 2. Penalty for Violation of Preceding Section. Any person who shall violate the foregoing section by denying to any person, except for reasons of law applicable to all persons, the full enjoyment of any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, or privileges enumerated in the foregoing section, or by aiding or inciting such denials, shall for each offense be guilty of a misdemeanor, and be fined in any sum not less than twenty-five dollars, nor more than one hundred dollars, and pay the costs of the prosecution.

"The original act was held valid as to citizens; barber shops can not discriminate against persons on account of color. *Messenger vs State*, 25 Nebr. page 677. N. W. 638."

"A restaurant keeper who refuses to serve a colored person with refreshments in a certain part of his restaurant, for no other reason than that he is colored, is civilly liable, though he offers to serve him by setting a table in amore private part of the house. *Ferguson vs Gies*, 82 Mich. 358; N. W. 718."



Coat Dress of Navy Blue Serge and Royal Blue Crepe With Embroidery Done in the Same Shades of Blue.

tee and consideration. At the moment there is what is called the "natural" colored tweed suit and it is as fashionable as it can be. For instance, a girl will wear a suit of this variety with a striped and brilliantly colored scarf, and she will be able to create, with the addition of a fine sports hat, the effect of the smartest sort of an outdoors person. Then there are the tweed dresses made all in one piece, which are still extremely charming and which carry with them all that feeling of style that the average modern girl demands for her own appearance. They are made quite simply on the one-piece model, but they are so correctly bound about their edges and so finished, according to the standards of perfection, that

and I am as sure as I am alive that the verdict rendered was based on race prejudice, for had they been white men I am sure no such verdict as electrocution would have been returned under such evidence.

These men should have a new trial. If not, an immediate appeal should be taken to the supreme court. The colored people of Omaha owe it to their race to at once enlist themselves in behalf of these two men.—A Spectator at the trial.

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