

THE MONITOR

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

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Omaha streets are being paved and improved in sections of the city where they have long been overlooked and neglected. He seems to have made an intelligent survey of the city's needs and is doing his best to adequately meet them. We hope the good work will continue.

FOOTNOTES TO AFRICAN HISTORY

(By the Hamitic League)

Inevitable Africa

Slowly, but ever surely, the sons and daughters of Ham are creeping into the calcium and making a noise like a race once worth while. Old King Toot, for instance, bobbed up at a most inconvenient time. Kliks and Klans had just about persuaded everybody that the Negro never was anything, isn't anything now and never will be anything. Then Carnarvon and Carter busted into the tomb of King S and discovered King Toot. There was plenty of newspaper noise for a moment. Then silence!

Have you ever wondered why? The truth is that folks wanted to know too much. They wanted to know just what Mr. Toots looked like. It would never have done to say that Toot was the color of unbleached coal. Ye white folks couldn't afford it. So out went the high sign to put on the soft pedal, whisper low sweet chariot and lock up brother Toot for a year or so.

But Toot was only one blackbird out of a million. A white face in Toot's time was as scarce as a dimpled daisy in December. Let the truth come out. It won't hurt anybody. It may give a gentle jolt to history, but the old girl can stand it. She has stood worse than that in her sweet young life. In fact, things may seem a little more home-like—maybe. She knows that when it comes to claiming a place in the sun, old Africa staked the first home-site. Hers was the sun god and the moon god and all the little gods. The time is here. Africa is holding a royal flush.

(Next week: "Memmon, the Son of the Sun.")

THINK THIS OVER

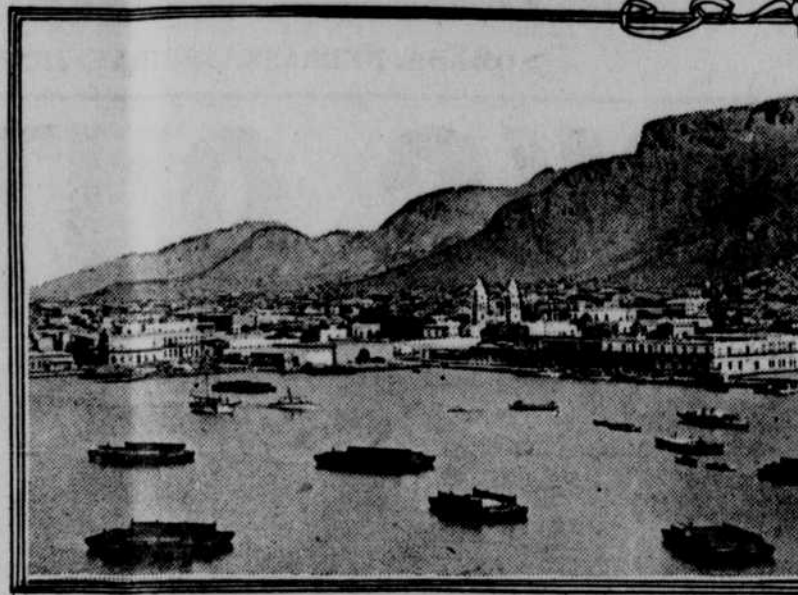
Why Spend Money With Merchants Who Will Spend No Money With Us Either by Advertising Or Giving Our People Employment?

A North Twenty-fourth street merchant said the other day, "Nearly all my trade is colored trade, why then should I not advertise in a colored newspaper? It is the proper thing to do; it is the fair thing to do."

This merchant is absolutely right. But there are several North Twenty-fourth street merchants who decline to advertise in our colored newspapers, saying that they can get the trade without it. If our newspapers are to exist they must sell advertising. This must be sold to merchants who expect our trade. Show your race pride and independence and fairness and justice by patronizing ONLY the merchants who will play fair in this matter of advertising patronage. Think this over and act accordingly.

DEAN NOYES PLACES BARNETT
F. L. Barnett, who was the head janitor at the city jail and was discharged with twenty-six others May 1 when Dan B. Butler became Police Commissioner, has been given a foremanship in the Street Maintenance department by Commissioner Dean Noyes in charge of that department.

GULF of CALIFORNIA



View of Guaymas, Mexico.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

The Gulf of California, one of the great gulfs of the world, is next-door to the United States, yet little known. A recent resolution of the Arizona house of representatives seeking to have the United States acquire a strip of territory between Arizona and the Gulf, whatever its fate, at least centers attention on the potential importance of this great body of water.

If the Gulf of California were stretched out inland over our country from New York harbor, it would swallow up a stretch of country from 30 to 150 miles wide back as far as Detroit and its busy factories. It was shown on the early maps of North America as the Sea of Cortez, since this bold corsair explored it first. Its depth varies from 600 to 6,000 feet, its coast line on both sides is irregular, and in it are many islands, Angel de la Guarda and Tiburon being the largest. The latter island points its rocky crest 7,000 feet above the level of the sea, and is inhabited by a fierce and war-like tribe of Indians, the Seris, who, it is claimed, have cannibalistic instincts.

It can be easily understood that it is solely because of the outlet that there has been a move toward acquiring the strip of northern Mexico south of Arizona, for it is one of the most desolate regions of North America. The map shows that while the southern boundary of the state extends due west for a space from the southwest corner of New Mexico, it then strikes northward at a very slight angle. The resolution sought an arrangement with Mexico by which this bend in the southern boundary of the state would be eliminated so that the line would continue as it started, in a due east and west direction. The triangular area that would be added to the state would be about 240 miles long by about 50 miles wide at the point of greatest breadth.

Arizona Would Be Coast State.

The important consideration is that this long narrow triangle is all that separates Arizona from the sea. Add it to Arizona, and overnight the state would desert the 27 inland commonwealths and join the 21 that border on salt water. With its hundreds of thousands of tons of minerals to ship, the state is now bottled up by a narrow region undeveloped and little likely to be developed by its present owner. It is felt that even the desolate, practically trailless desert, and the lack of natural harbors on the Gulf would not deter Yankee enterprise and Yankee engineering ability from laying down a trail of steel and constructing quays or piers at which ocean steamers would soon be loading, furnishing the cheap transportation that bulky products demand.

The areas of most states are well known, even the parts sparsely populated. It is hard for dwellers in many other portions of the United States to realize, therefore, that not only is this triangle of Mexico a terra incognita, but that the portion of Arizona which adjoins it is almost equally so. Most of the region south of the Southern Pacific railroad may be thought of as a desert on which small broken rocky ranges of mountains have been superimposed. In the valleys between the craggy mountains are numerous patches of fertile soil, but little rain falls and there are practically no running streams—only dry stream-beds which now and then carry water for a few hours until it is lost in the sand, and a very few water holes.

Both north and south of the border, this region is given over almost wholly to a handful of Papago Indians with primitive customs who range as freely as did their remote ancestors, needing to give, in their desolate homeland, little or no thought to border lines or to the governmental machinery of states and nations. The region—both American and Mexican—is known roughly as "Papaguaria," and is seldom traversed by white men.

Through it the international boundary extends, the ultimate in arbitrary lines. Swerving neither to the right nor to the left it extends a straight, geometrical line, running up sheer cliffs and over craggy peaks, hurdling great valleys and tiny arroyos, crossing deserts, lava flows, and sand dunes, until it strikes the Colorado river some fifteen miles below Yuma. And it is imaginary as well as arbitrary. Little monuments from three to five miles apart mark its progress, but these are often obscured; and the Indians and

the occasional white or Mexican travelers, may, and do cross and recross it frequently without knowing its location, and with no guards or officials to question them.

Not a Pleasant Region.

The Mexican triangle of Papaguaria which it is proposed to add to Arizona, is even a more inhospitable country than the border region. In addition to the features of the latter, it embraces a district 30 by 40 miles covered by extinct volcanic craters and an ancient lava flow, and hundreds of square miles of great towering sand dunes that create a landscape like that of parts of the Sahara. On the highest lava peaks of Pinacate, say the old Papago legends, their "Elder Brother" landed from his cask after the deluge and after floating around the world four times. While his solicitude for animals was not so extensive as that of the Hebrew Noah, he at least managed to save a coyote and a beetle. The Papagos formerly were "sand people" living in the sand dune region near the lava fields, with headquarters at the few small water holes. This region is now practically deserted, the Papagos living by dry-farming and stock-raising farther east and north.

On the southern edge of the Bay of St. George is the Salina de St. George, a salt deposit, usually measuring about 325 feet in diameter, but sometimes entirely covered by the sea, which is a favorite with the Papagos. When they need salt, the customary method is to ride to the foothills of Chujubabi, perform a certain ceremonial rite peculiar to the gathering of salt, and then walk the 50 miles to the Salina in about a day and a half. There is no water to be had between the two places. The Pinaate Salt deposit, about fifty miles farther north on the Gulf shore, however, has always furnished the major portion of the salt supply of the Papago Indians. The amount of this heavy commodity that the Indians can carry is astounding. Not only are Papago families in Arizona supplied from this distant source, but in the past the entire salt supply of sizable American towns has been purchased from the Indians.

The proposed boundary line would strike the Gulf of California just north of the Bay of St. George, which has been considered by Mexico as a possible port site. There is no general knowledge of good natural harbors along the portion of the gulf to the north, but probably there would be little difficulty in constructing harbor facilities either along Bahla Adair, which would mark the southern boundary of the addition, or northward toward the head of the gulf. The larger sand dunes are 20 miles from the shore near the gulf head and an equal distance from the Colorado river. The most feasible railroad route probably would be from the neighborhood of Yuma, extending roughly parallel to the river.

Paradise for Fishermen.

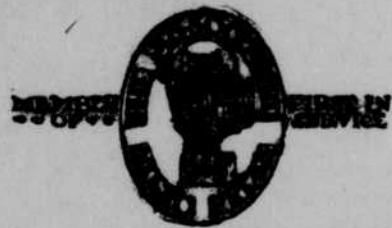
The placing of a portion of the Gulf of California under the jurisdiction of the United States would open up another fishermen's paradise. Even now a few super-adventurous Americans venture to this unknown region on hunting and fishing trips, but in an alien land where only the law of the frontier prevails, it is a somewhat risky procedure. There is a multitudinous variety of fish in the gulf's waters—a sufficient supply to justify the erection of huge canneries. Today they are serving as food for innumerable pelicans and other fish-eating birds. The natives and Mexicans of the region are without skill and the facilities for catching them. They usually "still-fish" at great depths for the Jewish and tortuana and kill their catches by pounding them on the head when they get them to the surface.

At present Guaymas, about half way down the gulf, is the farthest north port of any consequence. Under the strong, centralized, though somewhat despotic regime of Diaz, Guaymas was a bustling port of consequence; but the products of the hinterland fell off under revolution and insecurity, and for years the bay has been silted up. But it still hints of the possibilities in Lower California across the gulf. Now and then a schooner from that mysterious shore will put into Guaymas and yield up its cargo of dates in rawhide-covered bales, sewed up in the form and size of flour barrels, as the friars taught the Lower Californians to do two centuries ago.

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.



GOVERNOR BRYAN KNOCKS OUT BOXING RULING

GOVERNOR BRYAN has rescinded the ruling of the Nebraska boxing commission which forbade boxing and sparring contests between colored and white contestants in Nebraska. The ruling as The Monitor contended from the outset, was purely arbitrary, based solely upon unjustifiable prejudice and was in direct violation of the constitution of the United States and the state of Nebraska. These facts were formally presented to Governor McKelvie, together with a petition of more than 5,000 names from all classes of Omaha citizens for the removal of the bar to mixed bouts, by a delegation of colored citizens headed by Henry W. Black, president of the Omaha branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, but the Republican governor adroitly side-stepped, with all the consummate skill of an artful dodger, and declined to act. Upon Mr. Bryan's election it was decided to renew the effort to have this ruling set aside. A delegation waited upon Governor Bryan some three months ago. It was again headed by Mr. Black. The report of the delegation's favorable interview with Governor Bryan was reported in full in The Monitor. There was no side-stepping upon the part of the democratic governor. He frankly stated that he believed the ruling unconstitutional but desired time to give the subject consideration, and he gave assurance that he would take action on the matter. Last Friday he rescinded the ruling as being unconstitutional. By this action, Nebraska takes her place where she rightly belongs in that galaxy of states which recognizes the constitutional rights of all her citizens. Discriminatory laws, practices, customs or rulings against any class of citizens, which are not applicable alike to all citizens, are entirely out of place in an enlightened or progressive commonwealth. Laws, rulings or practices aimed against colored citizens as such with the sole purpose of placing the brand of inferiority upon such citizens must be and will be vigorously opposed. The ruling against

mixed bouts in Nebraska belonged to this category and Governor Bryan has done the right thing in setting it aside.

KEEPING UP OUR HOMES

IT is gratifying to note the pride so many of our citizens are showing in the upkeep of their homes. No matter how humble our dwellings may be, let us all see to it that the premises and dwellings are made as attractive as possible. Where there are lawns, keep them well trimmed, and make the grounds attractive with flowers. Let those sections of the cities and towns where our people reside in large numbers be made real show districts in cleanliness and beauty. In cities like Omaha, where there are so many home owners and attractive homes this can easily be done. If your neighbor, who may be a tenant only and not an owner, seems careless of his surroundings, try to encourage him to spruce up.

PERHAPS ANOTHER CRAFT

LAST week we published a thought-provoking article, as all his articles are, from Kelly Miller, of Howard university on the Harding administration. Dean Miller's conclusion was that while colored Americans will not be enthusiastic over Mr. Harding's renomination, most of them will remain on the Republican ship, because the Democratic ship makes no provision for their passage. This, however, overlooks the significant fact that overtures are being made by the Socialists for the colored vote and many of the young men, and especially women, are looking with favor upon these overtures. The Republican ship may not be heavily freighted with colored voters. Increasing numbers of them are now ready to take passage upon some other craft. What that craft will be remains to be seen. Many things may happen between now and 1924. Other political crafts may be launched.

STREET IMPROVEMENT COMMISSIONER

Dean Noyes, in charge of the department of Street Maintenance and Improvement, is certainly the right man for the job.

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 some private part of the house. Ferguson vs Gleason, 82 Mich. 353; N. W. 718."

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