

THE MONITOR

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS
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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.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE'S address to the American Legion was a timely message which the country needs. Its truths will be laid to heart and heeded by all who love America. It is a sagacious, sound and statesmanlike slogan to America to save her soul. That salvation lies along the pathway indicated by Calvin Coolidge in his great charge and challenge to the American Legion and through them to the whole nation.

Recognition of the rights of all, tolerance, righteousness, justice, truth and service are keystones of this great message. His main thesis that diversity is the law of progress and tolerance the inner and true spirit of Americanism, needs frequent repetition in these hectic and hysterical times of fixity of type, after a very narrow pattern, and intolerance, racial and religious. This is the real heart of his message.

That America is composed of various nationalities and race types, all of whom made their contribution to American life, is strikingly emphasized in the address. The president makes it quite plain that no special group has a monopoly on patriotism and that America belongs to all who are true to the law of the land.

He would have America first but he reminds us, which should jar us out of our national self-conceit, that our task is to make America first, before she really can be first among the nations. Well does he say, "We can only make America first in the true sense which means by cultivating a spirit of friendship and goodwill, by the exercise of the virtues of patience and forbearance and by being 'plenteous in mercy' and through progress at home and helpfulness abroad standing as an example of real service to humanity."

His call for a mobilization of conscience and a demobilization of racial antagonisms, fears, hatreds and suspicions not only as a national, but as an international policy, puts emphasis upon the right place for bringing in an era of peace. The speech is a clarion call to America to save her own soul and help save the souls of sister nations throughout the world.

THE LEGION CONVENTION

WELL, the long-expected and loudly heralded American Legion Convention has come and by the time these words shall have reached our readers will have ended. How much good it will have brought to our city may be a subject of debate. It has certainly given Omaha and Nebraska wide publicity and extensive advertising. Not only the city, but the nation, have been wonderfully benefited by the timely words of President Coolidge. Of the serious work of the Legion convention, we are not in a position to speak, but that it has a serious and noble side cannot be doubted and its legislation will have a far-reaching influence. To the man on the street, the horse play and carnival spirit so prevalent, seemed to overshadow and dominate its more earnest and real purpose. Taken as a whole the Legionnaires, due consideration being made for the ebullient incident to the holiday spirit, were quite well behaved. Their noise and

din and harmless fun worried no one but the constitutionally grouchy. There were, however, wilful and inexcusable flaunting of the law in the matter of openly drinking intoxicating liquor on the streets and in public places and gambling, "crap shooting," or "African golf"—generally considered to be an occupation of certain gentlemen of color—in hotel lobbies and on the streets which could not and did not add to the reputation of the American Legion as upholders of law and the Constitution.

SHOULD JOIN THE LEGION

ONE THING that has impressed us in connection with the American Legion convention is the almost negligible representation of our own group. There doubtless is some reason for this. We will not attempt to analyze the cause or causes for the lack of interest taken by Negro ex-service men in the American Legion. We simply note the fact. We believe, however, that inasmuch as the American Legion has high ideals and earnest purposes and is wielding and will wield a tremendous influence in the affairs of the country our ex-service men should get in and do their full share in helping to put the program over. We gain nothing by remaining on the outside and apart from great social movements of this kind. We lose vastly by a spirit of aloofness. We hope therefore that an active campaign will be waged by the broad-visioned ex-service men, who realizing the value of the service that can be rendered by the Legion have allied themselves with it, to enlist their comrades in this great organization which will play such an important part in national affairs.

HOW WAS it that so much liquor got into Omaha before the convention of the American Legion and evidently preparatory for it? Where were the vigilant law-enforcing officers? Somebody was asleep or ajourneing.

FIE UPON THEE, gentleman, it was supposed that the colored brother had a monopoly on the art of "rolling the bones"; but say he is not in it for a minute with the white skins.

OMAHA can be justly proud of the manner in which she took care of the Legion.

Roosevelt Post, the largest colored post in the world, and our own citizens did their part in making our guests welcome.

What is the Mediterranean Race?—H. J. L. Lima, Ohio.

"Mediterranean" is a term applied to those peoples bordering upon the Mediterranean Sea. English and American scientists have tried to claim that these peoples were a branch of the white race, but it is not true. The entire southern and northern coast of the Mediterranean was settled at different times by colonists from Africa and from them came the dark skins and curling hair. Sergi of Italy is the greatest authority upon the Mediterranean race and he proves them of African descent. These races include the Spanish, Italian and Grecian peoples and the peoples of hither Asia.

THE NEGRO'S CONTRIBUTION NOT NEGLIGIBLE

A moment's thought will easily convince open-minded persons that the contribution of the Negro to American nationality as slave, freedman and citizen was far from negligible. No element of American life has so subtly and yet clearly woven itself into warp and woof of our thinking and acting as the American Negro. He came with the first explorers and helped in exploration. His labor was from the first the foundation of the American prosperity and the cause of the rapid growth of the new world in social and economic importance. Modern democracy rests not simply on the striving white men in Europe and America but also on the persistent struggle of the black men in America for two centuries. The military defense of this land has depended upon Negro soldiers from the time of the Colonial wars down to the struggle of the World War. Not only does the Negro appear, reappear and persist in American literature but a Negro American literature has arisen of deep significance, and Negro folk lore and music are among the choicest heritages of this land. Finally the Negro has played a peculiar spiritual role in America as a sort of living, breathing test of our ideals and an example of the faith, hope and tolerance of our religion.—Du Bois, "The Gift of Black Folk."

NEGRO SCHOOLS TO STUDY IN FRENCH THE STORY OF TOUSSAINT LOUVERTURE

Dr. G. R. Simpson has done the race a great favor in editing for school purposes Gragnon-Lacoste's biography of Toussaint Louverture, the Negro soldier, statesman and martyr of Haiti. Here we have a valuable book subserving a double purpose. It facilitates the study of a foreign language by presenting matter of immediate interest to the Negro student. At the same time it supplies him with valuable information about one of the greatest figures in history regardless of his color. This book, then, meets a long felt need; for what stimulus can there come to a Negro student of French when he reads of the deeds of Louis the XIV, or to the Negro student of history if he is to restrict himself altogether to the study of Caesar, Napoleon and Gladstone?

In this story, however, one will not find propaganda. It is merely the narrative of the unusual deeds of an exceptional man. With little opportunity for development, the hero of the story made himself a leader of men. Against tremendous odds he hurled his ill equipped soldiers at the military force of France, representing the proudest blood of Europe. He humblingly defeated these Frenchmen, and laid the foundation of an independent republic. No story is more fascinating than this. Few writers have written a narrative as gripping as this of Toussaint Louverture, the warrior, the hero, the savior of his country.

To appreciate the worth of this man and the importance of drawing upon his career for impressive lessons to develop the character of the Negro youth, one cannot do better than bear in mind these words of Wendell Phillips: "I would call him Napoleon, but Napoleon made his way to empire over broken oaths and a sea of blood. This man never broke his word. 'No Retaliation' was his great motto and the rule of his life; and the last words uttered to his son in France were these: 'My boy, you will one day go back to San Domingo; forget that France murdered your father.' I would call him Cromwell, but Cromwell was only a soldier, and the state he founded went down with him into his grave; I would call him Washington, but the great Virginian held slaves. This man risked his empire rather than permit the slave trade in the humble villages of his dominions. Fifty years hence, when truth gets a hearing, the muse of history will put Phocion for the Greeks, Brutus for the Romans, Hampton for England, Fayette for France, choose Washington as the bright consummate flower of our earlier civilization, and John Brown as the ripe fruit of our noon-day; then, dipping her pen in the sunlight, will write in the clear blue, above them all, the name of the soldier, the statesman, the martyr, Toussaint Louverture."

The book is well printed and neatly bound. It contains a useful map of Haiti. It has a number of exercises for composition and conversation in French and also a useful vocabulary. It is a handy volume containing 139 pages, sold for \$1.10 by the Associated Publishers, 1538 Ninth St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

COLORFUL NEWS MOVIES

By the Cameramen of Presston News Service.

Move! But Where? How?

If, merely because of prejudice, a black tenant can be made to move out of a city block, upon that same theory he can be made to move out of that city, out of that state, out of that country, leaving naught but debris of that time-honored principle that a man's home is his castle. Visionary though it may seem, this is just exactly what could eventually happen to everyone of us who, like Samuel A. Browne, of Staten Island, N. Y., or Harry T. Pratt, of Baltimore, Md., as well as countless others might seek to establish homes in accordance with the individual tastes and desires of a man's own choice. This type of prejudice, just like the bootlegging game, laughs at both law and all the ethics of intelligent society. Even as we go to press word comes from Detroit of a race riot. "caused," says the United (white) Press, "by the moving of a black family into a white neighborhood." Concurrently, Browne received another notice to "move out" from Castleton Hill, where he sought, with his family, to enjoy the net returns of his honest toil in the public service. But should Browne move, who can say but that he, and you and I might in years hence be asked to quit the only soil we've ever known, in order to appease the sacredness of the white man's world, as prescribed by the bigots and the "bourgeois" of America.

This home problem of the black man, who seeks to select his own homestead, is the "Gettysburg" of the race's social endeavor; and like the Gettysburg of Abraham Lincoln's time goes to the heart of the American question of whether a nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal can long endure. The black man of America has lived and endured too long here amid America's joys and sorrows from Gettysburg to Flanders Field to now be pushed and kicked out of the block, out of the city, out of the state and out of the country. There must be a stopping-off place somewhere, and it might as well be in the block. Otherwise, the Pacific or the Atlantic oceans seem to be the safety zone of our ultimate destination. Hence, it appears to be our move NOT TO MOVE and this GOES FOR STATEN ISLAND, BALTIMORE, DETROIT AND ANY OTHER LOCALITIES whose guardians are too holy to observe the simple sacredness of a man's homestead, selected by himself as a tribute to intelligence and the lessons of civilization. Let us exhaust our resources to uphold Lincoln's Gettysburg philosophies, lest some, instead of all, of the people prescribe the rules of Government and the boundary lines of homes.

Announcement

We are pleased to announce that the Gaebel Flower Shop has changed hands—hereafter it will be known as "The Weis Flower Shop", featuring a fuller line of goods, better quality and better service at moderate prices.

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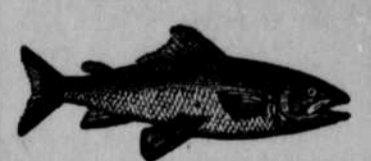
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