

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.

UP TO THE MINUTE

THE MONITOR demonstrated last week a feat of up-to-the-minute journalism of which we feel rather proud. We were the only race weekly which published the news that the Sweet jury was unable to reach a verdict and was discharged. Circumstances favored us. Because Thursday was a holiday we were unable to get ready for press until Friday noon. We had our story of the deadlocked jury when we secured the information that the jury was discharged. We had the up-to-the-minute flash and were able to give this information to our readers as quickly as the dailies which published it in their evening editions.

A PATHETIC INCIDENT

TO US ONE of the most pathetic aspects of the Rhinelander case was the brutal and apparently unnecessary revelation of an alleged indiscretion upon the part of the mother of Alice Rhinelander thirty-five years ago. She was a servant girl in an English home. Like many other trusting girls she was seduced, it is said by one of the wealthy class. A child was born, but died. She was honorably married to Robert Jones, afterwards and for more than thirty years she lived honorably rearing her family. Why in heaven's name was it necessary to wring from the lips of this white-haired mother and publish to the world this acknowledgment of misstep in which, in our judgment, she was more sinned against than sinning? Was it to show that a wealthy English "lord" had betrayed and thrown off an English servant girl; and that now a wealthy American "lord" had sought to betray and discard a colored servant girl, who proved too sharp for him? Whatever the purpose, it was a most pathetic incident in a sordid, sensual and sensational trial.

UNIONIZING THE PULLMAN PORTERS

JUST now there is much discussion and agitation concerning the efforts to unionize the Pullman porters. We have not discussed the question, nor do we intend to now, more than to say, we have an open mind in the case. We are studying the question from both sides. When we have reached our conclusion we will follow our usual custom of taking our stand on the side which seems to us to be best for the Pullman porters. We will not straddle the fence. We have some strong convictions concerning the necessity of paying living wages to porters as to conductors and the abolishment of the tipping system, which we believe, as we have frequently stated before, to be fundamentally wrong in principle. Whether unionization and affiliation with the American Federation of Labor, whose sincerity concerning black labor we have always questioned and its shortsightedness deplored will be the most advantageous method to pursue, is still with us a subject of de-

bate. This, however, can and should be said, personal denunciation of those who may be for or against the plan is not argument and will have little weight with thoughtful people. It is an important matter which should be decided upon its merits. Cogent reasons for organization by the Pullman porters, which are at present the most poorly paid of all railway employees, must be answered by cogent reasons against organization upon the part of opponents of the plan. Facts, not detraction, must determine the issue.

WASTEFULNESS

IT TAKES no Sherlock Holmes to discover at least one of the reasons for hard times and the business depression that the country at large is feeling at this time and that is the wastefulness and extravagance of the American people, black and white, rich and poor alike. Compared with other countries we do not know what thrift is. Most of us live beyond our income, traceable largely to wastefulness.

THE SWEET CASE

THAT the jury was deadlocked for more than forty hours with the majority standing for acquittal in the Sweet case shows the ability with which the defense presented its evidence. Although the jury disagreed it was a virtual victory. The defense had to break down a hostile public sentiment for it must be admitted that, even in northern communities, there are those who believe and act upon the principle that "the Negro has no rights which a white man is bound to respect" and that juries are, perhaps unconsciously, swayed by prejudice where the question of diverse races are concerned. Those who followed the evidence believed that the state had not proved its charge of conspiracy to murder and that the defendants would have been acquitted. They were not and another trial has been ordered. The wisdom of securing this best legal talent in this case is obvious. The battle must go on until victory is complete. We have no doubt of the ultimate outcome of this case but it is going to take money to pay for the trial and our people everywhere must take pleasure in contributing the necessary funds.

THE BEST ANSWER

The question that all men who work should receive a living wage is not debatable. How best to secure this is the only debatable question. By organization and collective bargaining has been the answer that most trades and occupations have given.

Jealousy is indicative of littleness of soul. Strive to be whole-souled and broad-minded and there will be no room in your nature for petty jealousy.

Why not start a Christmas Savings account for next year? Many

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."

persons had cash for Christmas because they saved. Join now. Banks are organizing Christmas Savings Clubs.

WE MUST FIGHT IF WE WOULD SURVIVE

From N. Y. Amsterdam News, Nov. 18, 1925.

Possibly the most important court case the Negro has ever figured in in all the history of the United States is being heard out in Detroit, Mich., where Dr. Ossian Sweet, his wife and nine other defendants are on trial for their lives, because they dared to protect themselves and their property against mob violence. TO GET A TRUE PICTURE of what is going on, turn the matter around and imagine that a mob of Negroes has resented a white family's moving into a colored neighborhood; and, in defending themselves, the besieged family had shot and killed a colored man. What grand jury in the United States would indict the white family for murder in the first degree? Why, then, should Negroes be charged with murder who dare to defend themselves and their property.

THE OUTCOME of the Sweet case means everything that is dear to the Negro in America. If a colored man is not secure in his own home, in a Northern community, where there is a semblance of civilization, where under Heaven in the United States is he secure? Dr. Sweet's battle in Detroit is our battle; just as much so as if we had been in the besieged dwelling. He and the other brave defendants could easily have avoided the many discomforts they must bear as prisoners charged with murder by not moving into the house after he purchased it. He could have sold it, possibly at a higher price than he paid for it.

BUT, THANK GOD, Dr. Sweet moved in! Thank God that his noble wife moved in with him! And, thank God, nine of their relatives and friends came with them! Wisdom dictated that they should not go in empty handed. They determined to fight fire with fire, and, according to reports, had ten separate firearms in the house. Not one of them knew whether he would come out of the house alive, once he went in, but fear of death did not deter them.

THIS is the spirit of unity the Negro must more and more evidence if he is to survive. He must face death if he would live! He must be willing to die fighting when he is right! When police authorities fail to protect him and his

family; when courts of law desert him; when his own government fails to take a stand in his behalf, he faces death anyway, and might just as well die fighting!

JOIN IN THE FIGHT by subscribing to the fund necessary for the defense of Dr. Sweet, his noble wife and the other defendants in this case. Send your contributions to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, or to the Editor of the Amsterdam News, who will see that the Association gets it. ACT AT ONCE.

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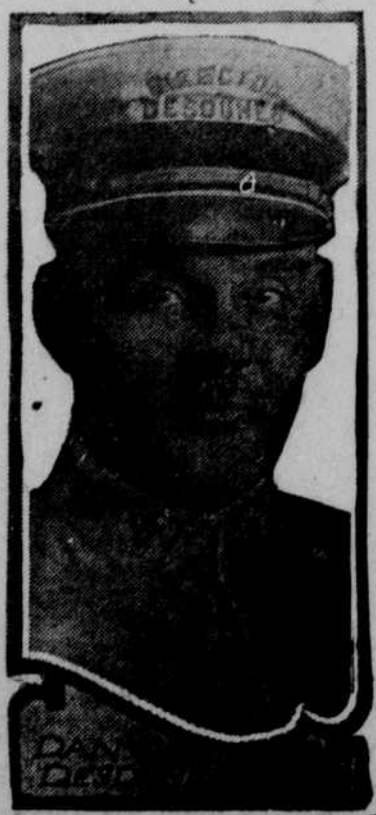
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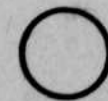
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