

THE MONITOR

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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.

CIVIC SPIRIT AND CIVIC PRIDE

WHAT is it that makes a village, a town or a city progressive and prosperous? The answer is a civic consciousness which awakens a civic spirit and a civic pride. To make our meaning quite clear let us define the terms used. Civic is one of those expressive words which comes from the Latin language, as so many of our most suggestive words do, and means pertaining to the city, its inhabitants, its government, its customs, hence that which pertains to citizenship. It emphasizes collectiveness rather than individualism; corporate action, team work, rather than isolated individual effort. It thinks and acts in terms of the whole community. This is precisely what civic means: pertaining to the city, and all the inhabitants thereof.

Consciousness means the awareness of one's existence or condition. The knowledge, if you please, of one's personality and individuality. This may impress you as being rather abstract and high brow, as we say, but just think it over and you will be sure to get it.

Now civic consciousness means simply the recognition of the existence of the city and the cheerful and willing acceptance upon the part of every citizen of his obligations and responsibilities for the fullest and highest development of the community of which he is an integral part and a participant in its privileges and advantages, or disadvantages, as the case may be. Civic consciousness begets a civic spirit and civic pride. Absence of these essentials spells decadence. Where there is no civic consciousness and consequently no civic spirit or pride there can be no progress. We are not sure where the fault lies but we believe that Omaha's apparent inability to put over successful big civic enterprises is due to the absence of a keen civic consciousness, an alert civic spirit and an impelling civic pride. Some few outstanding business and professional men have caught the vision, but the majority have not and have become so absorbed in their own selfish business and commercial enterprises that, like blind Sampson, they are foolishly pulling down the temple upon their own heads. For a prosperous, growing progressive city means success for all, while a slothful, sleepy and decadent city means disaster for all. Where the civic spirit is dormant or dead there can be but little growth. As a dangerous symptom, and only one of several, indicative of Omaha's lack of civic spirit and civic pride may be mentioned our failure to raise the amount needed for the Community Chest. While other cities have in most instances not only raised but over-subscribed their quotas, Omaha after a month's campaign, has secured only about eighty per cent of her quota, or is \$100,000 short of the required sum. Omaha has just as much ability as Des Moines, Denver, Kansas City or Minneapolis. What is the

trouble? Those cities have civic spirit and civic pride, which Omaha lacks. Who is to blame for it? Well, in the humble judgment of The Monitor, much of the blame lies at the door of that most delightful mutual admiration society, the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, which says in effect, "I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing", and knowest not that it is wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked when it comes to the manifestation of a whole-hearted and sincere civic spirit. Has not commercialism impaired its vision?

As we see it one of the big tasks before all the people of Omaha for the New Year is the awakening of a civic consciousness, a civic spirit and civic pride. This movement to be successful must embrace all classes of our citizenship and not be confined to select coteries or groups.

NOT TOO RELIGIOUS

CLARENCE DARROW in addressing a mass meeting of our people in New York last Sunday is reported as saying in effect that Negroes are too religious. He advised, so the report said, less dependence upon Moses and the Lord and more dependence upon ourselves. If he meant, as he probably did, that too many of our people expect the Lord to do for them what the Lord wants them to do for themselves, then, of course, he is right. But if he meant that we should recognize our sufficiency of ourselves to help ourselves without reliance upon God, of course, he is absolutely wrong. Those who leave God out of the count of human affairs build on sand. Unhappy indeed will be our lot, if the day should ever come, when the almost childlike faith of our people in a just and righteous God shall waver. This childlike faith has been the power that has sustained us in our darkest hour and brought us thus far on our way. Much of our religion has been more emotional, than balanced by the intellect and will, and yet at that it has been the sheet anchor which has held us true and steady and the light which has guided us to the right haven. We need among us the increase of true religion, which emphasizes the fact that we are fellow WORKERS with God, doing our full duty in the light of this relationship. James Weldon Johnson has beautifully stated the need and aspiration of our race in the closing stanza of the national hymn for the colored people of America:

"God of our weary years,
 God of our silent tears,
 Thou Who hast brought us thus far on our way;
 Thou Who has by Thy might
 Led us into the light,
 Keep us forever in the path, we pray,
 Lest our feet stray from the places,
 our God, where we met Thee;
 Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine
 of the world, we forget Thee.
 Shadowed beneath Thy hand

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."

May we forever stand
 True to our God, true to our Native
 Land."

No, not too religious, but more consistently religious, is our need today and if the Negro can in some measure at least make this contribution to America it will prove a gift of priceless worth.

COUNCIL BLUFFS NOTES

Mrs. Paul L. Giles, Jr., and Mrs. Lester S. Blackburn of Chicago are spending a month visiting their mother and sister, Mrs. E. H. and Miss Erma Blackburn.

Mr. Charles Hopkins died December 9th and was buried Saturday. He is survived by his widow.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Harris are the proud parents of a nine-pound baby girl.

Mrs. Anna Crumpton had as dinner and home guest Mr. and Mrs. Brewster of Chattanooga who are on their way to Norfolk, Neb., to make their home.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Means entertained Mr. and Mrs. Brewster at dinner Wednesday.

Mr. Leonard Jones is able to be around again; also Mrs. Helen Lyons. Mr. Fin Lyons is on the sick list and so is Mrs. C. Neely and Mr. Ashby.

Rev. C. A. Moore returned from Chicago Saturday evening and reported a wonderful time.

The supper at Bethel A. M. E. church was a success.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Paine entertained Rev. C. A. Moore at dinner Sunday.

The Iowa-Minnesota and Dakota executive board which was scheduled to meet December 8th was postponed to meet December 15th at Tabernacle church was well attended.

Rev. J. P. Jackson received word that his brother, B. G. Jackson of Parson, Kan., is very ill.

Mr. James Kenard had a very serious accident last week, a wrench split his lip and he is ill at his home.

Mrs. J. Fountain is expected home at any time from Harrodsburg, Kentucky.

NEW ELECTRIC SHOP DRAWS LARGE CROWDS

The new "Electric Shop" of the Nebraska Power Company, located in the new Electric Building at the southeast corner of Seventeenth and Harney streets, was formally opened to the public last week.

Hundreds of Omaha people were at the doors when they were thrown open for the first time. The new shop is considered one of the best equipped for customer convenience in this part of the country, according to many merchandising men who have visited the shop since its opening.

"We are very happy with the reception given to our new "Electric Shop" by the people of Omaha," said K. P. Goewey, sales manager of the Nebraska Power Company. "Since the opening, many folks have called to tell us they consider this shop the most beautiful store in Omaha—and that it is so comfortable to shop here on account of the convenient arrangement."

Everything in electrical merchandise is on display in this shop. Among the departments are: washing machines, vacuum cleaners, lamps, radio, health department, electric trains and toys, miscellaneous appliances, Edison Mazda lamps, cashiers, adjustments, applications for service, and electric cooking.

This new shop will be the main shop of the Nebraska Power Company after January first. At this time, the shop at Fifteenth and Farnam streets will be closed. The other two shops, Forty-third and Leavenworth streets and 2314 "M" will be continued as in the past.

AT HYMEN'S ALTAR

Wade-Allen

Tuesday night at 8 o'clock at the residence of the groom, 1703 North Thirty-third street, Mrs. Allie Allen of Richmond, Mo., widow of the late Frank Allen, was united in marriage to William P. Wade, one of Omaha's substantial citizens. The marriage was performed by the Rev. T. W. Kidd, pastor of the Bethel A.M.E. church. A large number of friends were present to extend their felicitations.

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