

## SEGREGATION AGAIN STRUCK HARD

### Supreme Court Makes Ruling on Louisiana Statute

Washington, March 14—Louisiana and New Orleans segregation ordinances stipulating conditions under which residential property may be occupied by whites and Negroes in communities where the opposite race are in the majority were declared invalid by the supreme court.

Under the ordinances owners of property have been required to obtain the written consent of a majority of persons in a community before renting for residential purposes to persons of the opposite race.

### NEW ORLEANS SEGREGATION ARGUED BEFORE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

New York, N. Y.—The New Orleans segregation case carried through the lower courts by the New Orleans branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was argued on March 8th, before the U. S. Supreme Court, Loys Charbonnet and Frank B. Smith representing the New Orleans N. A. A. C. P. and Walter White, assistant secretary, being present in behalf of the national office.

The N. A. A. C. P. based its opposition to the New Orleans segregation ordinance upon the Louisville case decision of the supreme court (Buchanan vs. Warley) of 1917.

Both Chief Justice Taft and Justice McReynolds pointedly asked the New Orleans city attorney how this case could be separated from the Louisville decision. The reply was that whereas the Louisville ordinance had attempted to legislate segregation, the New Orleans ordinance left segregation to the will of the majority race in any neighborhood. This answer amused Chief Justice Taft.

Mr. Charbonnet showed the prejudice animating the New Orleans city brief which used the word "darkey" and stated that products of mixed marriages were "degenerate." Among the prominent colored people in attendance at the supreme court during argument, were: A. S. Pinkett, secretary of the Washington branch of the N. A. A. C. P.; Dr. Carter G. Woodson; Dean and Mrs. George W. Cook; Dr. T. Price Hurst; Dr. William Wilson; F. E. Miller and others.

### PREACHERS JOIN HANDS ACROSS RACIAL LINES

Two Hundred Louisville Ministers Meet and Formulate Joint Program—Permanent Organization Effected

Louisville, Ky.—Louisville's Second Inter-racial Ministerial Conference within a month was held in the Warren Memorial Presbyterian church, March 7th, with 200 ministers present, white and colored, representing most of the Protestant churches of the city. Laymen present brought the attendance to more than 300.

The meeting was presided over by Dr. Lucas, president of the Louisville Ministerial association, and Bishop George C. Clemens, of the A. M. E. Zion church, read a scripture lesson and offered prayer. Addresses on "The Ministry and Inter-racial Relation" were delivered by Rev. John Lowe Forte and Rev. G. Walker. Rev. R. L. McCready and Rev. G. F. Watson spoke on the "Value of Inter-racial Sunday." Messrs. Britt and Smiley, evangelistic singers, rendered a number of selections, which were greatly enjoyed.

The conference provided for a joint race relations committee, composed of twelve white and nine colored ministers, which will meet in regular semi-annual session and on call of its chairman. The committee was instructed also to arrange for a joint annual conference of all the ministers of the city.

The conference committed itself to the observance of Race Relations Sunday every February and ordered the preparation of a statement on Christian principles as applied to race relations which will be given to the public through the press.

### LEAVES BEQUEST TO FISK UNIVERSITY AND CHICAGO CHURCH

Robert Clay Woods, Former Nebraskan, Who Recently Passed Away Makes Generous Provision in His Will

### SISTER A RESIDENT OF OMAHA

Chicago, Ill.—(Special to The Monitor)—Robert Clay Woods, a Christian gentleman, peacefully passed beyond the veil Sunday evening, March 5th, at 6:30 o'clock, at his residence, 5058 South State street, Chicago, where he had been confined since the first part of January, 1927, suffering from a complication of heart and kidney trouble. Throughout his recent illness he had the personal attention and care of his only sister, Miss Bessie Woods, and other loved ones, who labored faithfully at his bedside day and night to keep him cheerful and comfortable.

### Early Life and Training

Robert Clay Woods was born in Weston, Platte county, Missouri, November 17, 1870. He was the third of the six children of Robert and Georgianna Woods. After completing his elementary training in the public school of Weston, he went to Table Rock, Nebraska, where he later completed his high school work. He possessed sterling qualities of character and high and lofty ideals of education and thrift. In his last will he bequeathed the sum of \$1,000 to Fisk university, also the sum of \$1,000 to his church, St. Mark M. E., and the sum of \$500 to the Phyllis Wheatley Home for Working Girls.

When a young lad he became active in the Sunday School and church of his native town. His entire life was one of Christian service. He took delight in assisting all worthwhile and constructive movements of the various communities in which he lived. He found his greatest pleasure in making others happy.

### Moved to Chicago in the Early 90's

Mr. Woods was a man of instinctive freedom of thought, habit and expression. He moved to Chicago in 1893—to him Chicago was the city of greatest opportunity. Shortly after coming to Chicago he secured employment with the Pullman company and remained in this service until his death—a period of over 30 years. On one of his first runs to Los Angeles, California, he met, and loved Miss Lillian Adams, whom he later married in the city of Chicago in the year 1898. He was a faithful and devoted husband and a loving father to his stepson, Frank, whom he assisted in educating, both in academic and musical training, until he completed the same and became one of the best known violinists of this city.

In 1906 Mr. Woods joined the St. Mark M. E. church in this city and contributed largely to its success.

For nearly three years Mr. Woods had been failing in health but would not take the much-needed rest he so richly deserved.

He leaves a sister, Miss Bessie Woods, of Omaha, Nebr.; a nephew, Leon Clendellon of Kansas City, Mo.; a cousin, Mrs. Mamie E. Clark, and her daughter, Mrs. Irene M. Gaines, of Chicago.

### Funeral Services

Last rites were held in the beautiful auditorium of St. Mark's M. E. church, Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock with Rev. Mr. Redmond, presiding, assisted by Rev. J. H. Winters, pastor of the People's Cosmopolitan church. Music was furnished by the choir of St. Mark's church and Mr. Walter E. Gossette, organist. Mr. Stusser was soloist. The many beautiful floral designs evidenced the high esteem in which he was held by his numerous friends. Interment was made in Lincoln cemetery, Chicago.

### ATTENDS BOARD MEETING

Allen Jones, Omaha's oldest race undertaker and a member of the Board of Directors of the Independent National Funeral association, returned Saturday morning from a meeting of the board at St. Louis.

## EDITORIAL

The Metropolitan Utilities District is the department of the city government in charge of water and gas. They give employment to several hundred people. Despite the fact that thousands of Negroes pay thousands of dollars annually for the maintenance of these city-owned utilities our people, as we have pointed out before, are given practically no employment by these concerns. There have been from time to time one or two janitors given work, but even so, this is absolutely NOTHING when compared with our population and the number of persons employed by these concerns. There are scores of clerks, male and female, working in these offices, and despite the fact that we have persons competent for such work, we have not a single employe in this group. There are mechanics, and scores and scores of workers, skilled and unskilled, employed at the various plants, but dark faces, that is, of our racial group, are conspicuous by their absence. There are many swarthy foreigners among those employed but no Negroes. Observe the gangs employed in laying or repairing gas and water mains, or working at any of the plants for verification of this statement.

Now this is all wrong and the remedy lies largely in our own hands. We receive not, because we ask not. We are too timid in making demands. A united demand upon the gentlemen whom we elect to have charge of these public utilities would undoubtedly bring results. Individual effort will get us nowhere. There must be a well-organized mass attack. That is the only way to obtain results. It must be united, intelligent, determined and uncompromising organized effort. Our race in this city, organized and united, can obtain anything within reason that we go after. We ought to have a proportionate number of our people employed by the Public Utilities towards the maintenance of which we so largely contribute, and we do not mean only one or two janitors, watchmen, or day laborers, but also other positions for which our people are qualified.

### ANOTHER VICTORY WON

The United States Supreme Court handed down another decision last Monday which marks one more decided step in the protection of the Negro's rights as a citizen. It is another victory for the N. A. A. C. P. for which we all should be profoundly grateful. The residential segregation ordinance, passed by New Orleans, restricting the residence of Negroes to certain districts has been declared unconstitutional. This great militant organization has carried four important cases to the Supreme Court and won 3, the Louisville, Ky., residential segregation case; the Curtis, (Washington, D. C.), segregation case; the Texas "White Primary" and the New Orleans case. The Curtis case was not really lost, but the petition must be amended. All the other cases have been won. Each has been a decided victory in the safe-guarding of constitutional rights. From the adverse decision of Chief Justice Taney in March, 1857, in which it was declared that under the constitution, Negroes, being chattels, had no rights as persons, to these decisions recognizing us as citizens, entitled to all the rights of other American citizens, is a far cry. The legal battle begun seventy years ago must go on until every right guaranteed to us under the constitution is won. Let us thank God for every victory won and prove ourselves in every way worthy of our citizenship.

### SURVEY SHOWS NEGROES HAVE ATTAINED WIDE DISTINCTION

Champagne, Ill.—According to the report of the recent investigations of the inter-racial committee Negroes show genius.

### Distinctive American Music

"In his folk songs the Negro has contributed the only distinctive American music," the report said. The spirit of devotion, of aspiration, of simple truth which breathes through the Negro spirituals is the spirit of a race naturally religious. "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot", "Steal Away to Jesus" were born out of the passion of a music loving race.

"Among the Negroes who have given the world productions of high order are Harry Burleigh, Nathaniel Dett and Samuel Coleridge Taylor. The English government bestowed upon Taylor a pension in appreciation of his work.

### Recognized in Art

"In painting and sculpture the race has found recognition in the works of E. N. Bannister, William E. Scott, Edmonia Lewis, and of Meta Vaux Warwick. Probably the most conspicuous success has been won by Henry O. Tanner, several of whose pictures have been bought by the French government and placed in the Luxembourg gallery.

### Inventors of Merit

"In the field of invention the names of Negroes are very numerous. Recently a Negro, of Newark, N. J., invented a new type of oil burner which is said to produce a large amount of fuel. Another Negro has invented a device to regulate the light of a locomotive so that the headlight will not leave the track when the engine approaches a curve.

A Texas Negro has devised a car rail joint designed to prevent the spreading of rails. A Negro from Grand Rapids, Mich., has invented the "type-o-phone," designed to record at the other end of the wire an exact duplicate of the message which the sender writes on the machine before him. In the field of invention the Negro has won and is still winning large honors.

### Practical Scientific Contributions

"A Negro, Prof. George Carver, has made invaluable contributions to the science of agriculture and there are today sculptors, Negro poets and Negro actors who have won wide distinction. This is a remarkable record for a race only 70 years out of slavery and only a century and a half out of the jungles of Africa. Small wonder that the late Lord Bryce remarked that no other race in history had made an equal amount of progress in an equal length of time.

Although hedged about by great limitations the Negro has shown himself a worthy citizen. He has fought on every battlefield of the republic. Today the Negro does not ask for charity. He wants only justice, a man's chance in the battle of life."

### MARRIED OMAHA GIRL

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bell announce the marriage of their daughter, Margaret Bolivia, to Mr. Herman R. Stewart, Saturday evening, March 12, at 8 p. m. in Chicago, Rev. C. J. Clarke officiated. Reception was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. Williams, 4536 Michigan avenue. The bride and bridegroom may be found at home at 4420 Michigan avenue, Apartment 148, after March 19th. Many beautiful and useful gifts were received. Miss Bell was born, reared and educated in Omaha.

## Negro Pupils Win Honors In Spite of the Handicaps

(By Lester Walton, in N. Y. World)

Three Negro public school pupils during the last semester materially helped to prove that physical disability is not a barrier to the attainment of high scholastic honors.

The young folk to achieve signal success in their studies and turn the handicaps under which they labored from a liability to an asset were Joseph Himes of the mid-year graduating class at East high school, Cleveland, Ohio, and two New York girls—Ruth L. Stevenson, who finished Wadleigh high school in January, and Martha Washington, winner of the Rebecca Elsbeg Memorial Scholarship.

### Himes Is Blind

Himes is blind and his hearing is slightly defective. Miss Stevenson is a cripple. Eight years ago Martha Washington could scarcely see and was stoop-shouldered. Instead of becoming discouraged, their physical plight whetted their ambitions and spurred them to make enviable reputations as honor students.

Joseph Himes cannot see to read, or write, yet the youth, who is eighteen, made the highest average in his class and established the best record in the school's history. At the East high school's graduating exercises he was given a special medal. The only reason he was not made valedictorian was that the conferring of this distinction is based on four years' work.

Three years ago Himes was attending a chemistry class in an Arkansas school. There was an explosion and he lost his sight. A year and a half ago he left the school for the blind in St. Louis and entered East high school, Cleveland.

The Cleveland Board of Education requires 12 points for a year and a half. Joseph Himes had 15. His average on the whole 15 was 95.5.

Commenting on the boy's unusual record, Daniel W. Lothman, principal of East high school writes:

"It is the most remarkable incident in the history of the school, and I question whether Joe's record has been beaten any place in Cleveland or in the United States. The boy is in every sense a genius. People have asked me: 'How did he manage to do it?' My answer invariably is: 'I don't know.' In addition to being a scholar he is a gentleman every inch of him and is entitled to all the credit that is coming to him."

Here is the blind student's explanation of how he managed to make an average of 95.5 for a year and a half:

"Most of the subjects are easy for me. Science and Latin are my favorites. It is just as easy to figure out a problem in physics or mathematics in your head as it is on paper.

"Pupils have been kind enough to read to me at school and my mother reads to me at home. I carry a portable typewriter from class to class on which I write exercises, themes, or examinations. When I take examinations the teachers arrange to have the questions read to me."

### \$100 IN PRIZES FOR HIGH SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS

Inter-racial Commission Wishes Papers on Negro Progress Since Civil War—Correspondence Invited

Atlanta, Ga.—The Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation, with headquarters here, has announced the offer of three cash prizes of \$50, \$30, and \$20, for the three best papers by high school students on Negro progress since the Civil War. According to the announcements, the papers submitted must bear the name, address, school, and grade of the student submitting it and must not exceed one thousand words in length. The contest closes May 1st, and all papers must be handed in or postmarked not later than that date. The Commission has prepared a pamphlet embodying suggestions and data, which will be sent without

charge to teachers and students interested. In announcing the competition the Commission says: "Ambassador James Bryce has said that in an equal length of time no other group has ever made so great progress as the Negroes of America have made since the Civil War. The record is highly creditable to both races, and should be to both a source of pride and of mutual appreciation and good will. The Commission's purpose in offering these prizes is to encourage the study of this subject by high school boys and girls of both races. To this end, the co-operation of principals and teachers of high schools and leaders of high school groups is earnestly requested, in the effort to enlist as many young people as possible."

Any one desiring further information is invited to write to E. B. Eleazer, Educational Director, 409 Palmer Building, Atlanta, Ga.

### Infantile Paralysis

Several years ago Ruth L. Stevenson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Stevenson of No. 865 East 224th street, was a victim of infantile paralysis. When she recovered from her illness she was a cripple. But this did not weaken her in her determination to make good in school.

On Wednesday evening, January 26th, she was awarded the Alfred A. Bossom medal at the graduating exercises of her class in the Wadleigh high school auditorium.

The Observer, published by the pupils of the school, commented on the honor as follows:

"Throughout her course she has given a great deal of service in the English and vocation offices, in hall and traffic duty and in helping the blind. All that she has done has been marked by a most unobtrusive spirit of helpfulness."

Ruth L. Stevenson is very much interested in poetry. One of her original poems is "At Even," and reads:

When sinks the earth to sweet repose,  
The soul from toil is free,  
The peal of the evening bell  
Brings peace and hope to me;  
Upon the clear and starlit night  
Its echo warms the heart  
And gives me strength that I may  
Be brave against the dark.

When Martha Washington, fifteen, of No. 148 West 144th Street, was graduated from P. S. No. 119 shortly after the Christmas holidays she was recommended for the Rebecca Elsbeg Memorial Scholarship of \$150 by Miss Anna E. Lawson, principal. The award is given to the most deserving girl in the graduating classes in the Manhattan elementary schools.

The committee in making the award paid this compliment to Martha:

"She has been the most helpful girl in school, taking all the other children whose eyes needed attention to the clinic each week."

Eight years ago, when Martha Washington entered the sight conservation class at P. S. No. 82, she was entirely blind. Her vision was 5-200. Once a week she faithfully attended the Children's Eye Clinic and her sight became so improved that her vision is now 20-100. She was stoop-shouldered but is not now. The supervisor of physical training marks her posture "A."

She maintained the highest average in scholarship at P. S. No. 119, and her department was always "A."

Martha Washington is a student at the Wadleigh high school. She says she is going to be a school teacher.