

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS

(Editorial in The Pittsburg Courier.)

President Wilson delivered his theme on preparedness, and added a few remarks about hyphenated Americans and their recent activity against the best interests of the government. His phraseology is up to the usual standard, and the feeling exhibited between the lines is something new for our ex-school master.

Of course, the Negro has to view everything said and done by his country from his own peculiar angle. This ought not to be, but the practices of the government make it so. We must see everything from the angle of our own particular group. If we were all white, then we could place the common construction upon everything that is done by the leaders of our country.

What is of especial interest to the Negro is the position in which he finds himself with respect to the preparedness program. We take it that the "men" referred to in the message mean all citizens able to carry arms in the event of war. The Negro has always been included in this category. Now, the provision of the system proposed is to train men a certain number of months in the year; to provide certain training for men, and to equip them for duty. Appropriations will be made for this very work.

The Negro cannot forget that a democratic congress is again in session; that heretofore some fire eating southerner has attempted to abolish the fifteenth amendment, or to pass some iniquitous law calculated to oppress the black citizen. The Negro cannot forget that the president sanctioned Jim Crowism in the departments at Washington; that he refused to remedy the situation upon petition of the Negroes of the country; that he has suffered democratic activity to rob the Negro of federal employment and has sanctioned southern sentiment as expressed at Washington. The Negro has little confidence in the present administration. He has less confidence in many of the representatives in congress. He listens to the program of the president with some misgivings.

If preparedness is to be the slogan of this country for the next five years; if men are to be trained in the use of arms, if all men are to be made ready to defend the flag, let our good president, with words well chosen, tell these southern fire eaters that for the sake of "preparedness" give the Negro his rightful place in the government which he may soon be called upon to defend. We would remind our president that men must be prepared in their hearts as well as in the use of arms. Kind words turn away wrath. A square deal to all men will do the same thing.

ANOTHER COLORED AMERICAN INVENTOR

(Continued from first page.)

vice, although they refused to give out a statement for the public. Their report has been forwarded to Washington.

In perfecting the device Jones had a difficult task raising money to further his idea. At first he sold shares to his colored friends at 10 cents each, but they soon became discouraged and refused to advance more money. Three years ago he went to Adolph

Kreutzer, a butcher he had known for years, and interested him in the invention. Then Kreutzer bought out the other stockholders.

Jones has a wife and five children, and says when he gets his money he will buy a farm and move to the country.

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