

THE MONITOR

A Weekly Newspaper devoted to the civic, social and religious interests of the Colored People of Omaha and vicinity, with the desire to contribute something to the general good and upbuilding of the community.

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SOUND BODIES AND SOUND MINDS.

The fact that Howard Drew has again come into his own and that his nearest competitor was Loomis, another colored American, naturally brings to mind the splendid records that the athletes of our race have made in recent years. In every field of honorable manly sport in which they have been permitted to take part they have made good. It cannot be said of Drew that he holds "the Colored championship," but the championship of the world. He holds the world's record as a runner. Jack Johnson, although he belongs to an entirely different world of sport from that which we are now considering, was not "a Colored champion," but the champion of the world in the pugilistic arena. No championship in any line is worthy of the name unless it is willing to compete with all in that class the world over who challenges the title and are willing to compete for it. Our athletes are making good in every line. Nebraska is not without its college athletes, notably Flippin, Johnson and Ross, of football fame.

Nothing makes more for manliness and clean living than good, clean manly sport. Feats of strength and tests of endurance not only develop the muscles but work off the unrestrained animal spirits which lead so many growing youth into sins of impurity, sins that are sapping the life blood out of our American youth and menace the stability of the home and the perpetuity of the family upon which the fabric of the nation rests.

It is therefore gratifying to note what splendid records athletes of our race are making everywhere. It speaks well. It means that despite restricted opportunities in many places for athletic training our youth are, in increasing numbers, appreciating the fact that sound bodies are a most valuable asset and mean sound minds. Sound bodies mean clean bodies, and clean bodies mean, as a rule, clean minds; and clean minds and bodies mean cleanliness of life. A people who stand for cleanliness of life can never be overcome.

Every reasonable opportunity, therefore, should be given our growing youth for manly sport and athletic training. It is not a waste of time or a needless expenditure of energy. It helps conserve manhood, the chief asset of any race or nation.

It is here where such institutions as the Y. M. C. A. serve a good purpose. And it is to be regretted that the narrow policy of that well-equipped institution bars our youth from its privileges. It is to be regretted that our youth have no well-equipped institution in Omaha for physical culture and athletic training. In school athletics the Colored boys of Omaha have

a brilliant record. More good athletes might be developed if we had an institution that would afford them the necessary facilities, such as obtain in other large cities, for the fullest physical development. We hope the day is not far distant when some of our wealthy and philanthropic citizens will give liberal aid in supplying this need. In the meanwhile we urge our youth to embrace every possible opportunity they have for developing their bodies and keeping them clean and strong. Develop sound bodies and cultivate sound minds.

THE MOHR MURDER CASE.

We are not as a rule interested in murder cases. We wish there were none; but unfortunately there are. Generally we are content with glancing at the headlines of the reports of such cases and letting it go at that; feeling sorry, of course, for all concerned in the tragedy. We have, however, followed the Mohr case in Providence, quite closely for two reasons: because three Colored youths, it was alleged, had been hired to commit the crime by the wife of the victim, and because for the first time to our knowledge two of the brainiest and best-equipped lawyers of our race were pitted against a galaxy of the best legal talent of New England. We were interested in seeing how the trial would issue and what impression Attorneys Lewis and Edwards would make.

Of course, despite the verdict of the jury, people everywhere will have their own opinion. To us, at this distance, the verdict seems a most remarkable one. We do not know all the evidence that was introduced, but we do know that the state endeavored to show that Spellman and Brown shot Dr. Mohr because they were hired to do so by his estranged wife. Heals himself being privy to the plot, saving himself by turning state's evidence. In the light of these facts it impresses us as a strange verdict which finds the principals, or two of the principals, for Heals was one also, guilty and the alleged accessory innocent. It impresses us as a remarkable verdict.

We are particularly pleased, however, with the unstinted praise given the splendid attorneys of our race for their conduct of the case. They were not one whit behind the able attorneys against whom they were pitted, the press freely conceding this fact. Attorney William H. Lewis, ex-deputy United States attorney, whose membership in the American Bar association caused so much trouble a few years ago, was easily the dominating figure at the trial. If the Mohr case brought into the limelight a criminal and weak-willed element of our race,

it also brought into the limelight the higher type of the race and has demonstrated the fact that we have men in the legal profession who can hold their own with the best the other race can produce. Such men are by no means confined to New England. They are to be found in every section of this country. This fact should give us race confidence in the ability of our well-trained professional men.

Bishop Walters' dignified "Open Letter" to President Wilson which we publish elsewhere in this issue, puts the subject of the appointment of Colored Americans who belong to and have worked for the success of the Democratic party, right where it belongs. Let the president appoint and then let the Senate act. He has not shown much temerity of the Senate's attitude or actions in other matters.

Local candidates for office are reminded at this very early stage of the game that the Colored Americans in this vicinity are by no means satisfied with the political recognition they have been receiving. You want our votes, but always find some excuse for giving appointments to every other class of American citizens except us. In the state, county and city the appointments given our people are almost as scarce as hens' teeth. Think it over. We are thinking hard, too, and intend to act. Vague, indefinite promises won't go.

Of course, we'll accept subscriptions as well as advertisements from political candidates of all parties; but neither your subscriptions nor your advertisement, however large it may be, entitles you to our editorial support. Get that fact clearly fixed in your mind, please.

Will you not help The Monitor into every Colored American's home in Nebraska? Show it to your neighbor and if he has not seen it, he will tell you at once that he wants to subscribe.

On the first lap honors are with the ground hog.

Unite.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

The day unfurls its shining banners from the east and down the shadowy meadows of my memory the tendrils of thy valor turn green. He stood on the field of Gettysburg in tears and pressed the hearts of rebel and union soldier slain, to his gentle bosom. Amidst the whirling hosts of Vicksburg and Antietam his spirit soared like a new Christ, and the frenzied foe who struck at his life's blood he called "my children."

"Can'st thou, by searching, find out God?" Yes. This man found God. His life was attuned to the music of Divine Love and out of his great heart flowed God's pity and the tenderness of little children. He was as gentle as a woman. His life as fragrant as a flower.

Here a dark faced mother would give up her boy to her country. There on some blood-stained stretcher, from across the shining seas, would be borne the palsied shadow of a son. Empty hearts! Empty homes! And Oh, the river of tears! But his sweetness took the bitterness out of strife. His justice was tempered with mercy. To those of the lost cause, he said: "Let them come back, we'll treat them as if they had never been away." This was Abraham Lincoln; half dreamer and half seer.

WILL N. JOHNSON.

"POLLY TICKS."

Do you know "Polly Ticks?" She's a coy, elusive and fascinating maiden of rather doubtful age, whom many love to woo. Get your name on her list as one of her ardent wooers.

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