

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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HUGHES' SPEECH TO NASHVILLE STUDENTS

In his address to the students of Fisk University, which we publish in full in this issue, Mr. Hughes gives most excellent advice and enunciates truths and principles for which we hope he stands and will put into practice in the event of his election.

We are reminded, however, that Woodrow Wilson made substantially the same pre-election statements to a delegation of distinguished and intelligent gentlemen who waited upon him to ascertain how the race would be treated in the event that he was given their support and should be elected. The distinguished Virginian gave assurance, couched in the most classical English, lucid and limpid, that the race might expect fair and just treatment at his hands. He had noted "with sympathetic interest the marvelous progress of the race" and believed that every encouragement should be held out to all the members thereof to rise to the pinnacle of American citizenship, etc., etc. The eagle screamed. The distinguished delegation departed delighted. If we are not mistaken Mr. Wilson was not imprudent enough to make these statements in his public speeches.

There is, however, this difference between Mr. Hughes and Mr. Wilson. Mr. Hughes' birth, training, tradition and political association would naturally lead him to regard the Negro as a man entitled, with minor limitations, perhaps, to the rights and privileges of a man; while Mr. Wilson's birth, tradition, training and political affiliation would lead him to regard the Negro as a dark-skinned animal, ranking only a little above his horse or his dog and contemptuously called a "niggah."

Moreover, granting that in the case of Mr. Wilson, "the Ethiopian (changed) his spots"—speaking metaphorically, of course, and he was disposed to be just and fair to our people, it must be borne in mind that the reactionary South, represented by Blease, Tillman, Hoke Smith and Vardaman, is in the saddle and would seek to render abortive his most charitable and justice-seeking desires; while in the case of Mr. Hughes he has back of him a political party which is at least traditionally friendly to the race, which tradition—now somewhat weakened by the lapse of time—must have its influence in strengthening his resolution to make his actions fit his words.

We have reason therefore to believe that Mr. Hughes can be trusted to make his post-election practice—of course assuming his election—accord with his pre-election utterances, so far as our race, in common with other American citizens, is concerned.

His speech is a notable one. The advice given to the Fisk students and the race in general most admirable. His declaration that he stands "for exact justice to all" and "for the maintenance of the rights of all citizens regardless of race or color;" will

win him friends among all lovers of justice and right.

He is absolutely right when he says of our race "You want what is right and fair." We ask for nothing else but that which is right and fair.

We wish he might have supplemented the statement: "I desire to see such fair and decent and just treatment, as will make you proud of your manhood and womanhood," by another pledging himself to do all in his power to make his desire effectual.

"RED CAPS" DISMISSED.

The dismissal of the Colored "Red Caps" who have been employed at the Union Depot for the last six years is to be regretted and should not be permitted to pass unchallenged. The men have evidently given satisfaction for they have been retained all this time with very little change in the corps. In other words, most of the men who went to work in this capacity some six years ago have remained up until the time of their summary dismissal Monday. This fact would indicate that they have given satisfaction.

It has been rumored that President Calvin of the Union Pacific, unlike his predecessor, is unfriendly to Colored employes. The fact that Colored janitors were replaced by Japanese a few weeks ago, and now the dismissal of the "Red Caps" would seem to lend color to this rumor. The Japanese janitors did not last long and it is to be hoped that the displacement of the "Red Caps" is only temporary.

Messrs. Ray, Moore, Rountree, Wheeler, White, Wynn, Smallwood and others who have been employed as "Red Caps" are all excellent men and we hope they may soon be reinstated. The number of positions open to Colored people is limited and therefore it is a matter of most serious concern when places which they have striven to fill with credit and acceptability are taken away from them without warning.

OUR BUSINESS MANAGER GOES TO COLLEGE.

The Monitor on its business side owes its success to Joseph B. LaCour, our youthful, prepossessing, energetic, gentlemanly business manager and advertising solicitor. Joseph LaCour knows how to get advertising. The business public like a manly, gentlemanly energetic youth. This Joseph LaCour is. He leaves us reluctantly to enter the University of Nebraska at Lincoln; but his education is the paramount thing. Indeed, we were glad that The Monitor was able to furnish him with employment while in High school. As The Monitor grows, it hopes to give employment to other boys and girls. He will do some work for The Monitor while at Lincoln. Mr. George W. Parker, another bright and courteous young man, will be Joseph LaCour's successor, and we

bespeak for him the same courtesy and patronage given Mr. La Cour, whom all our readers will wish success in his university career.

SILAS ROBBINS

To those who knew his sunny, jovial disposition Silas Robbins was the last man on earth who would send himself unbidden and unshriven into the presence of his Maker if he were in his right mind. His physical infirmity doubtless unseated his reason. The

manner of his death shocked the community as well it might. But let us be charitable in our judgement of him and commend his soul into the hands of a faithful Creator and Most Merciful Judge.

Various plans have been put into operation by local banks to encourage thrift and the saving habit. Many are giving pocket savings banks in which one can save his dimes. A good plan. Our people should cultivate the saving habit.

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