

Colored Veterans of Union Pacific

The Union Pacific Railroad, which is strictly speaking an Omaha institution, counts among its most faithful employees quite a number of Colored employees, the majority of whom are local citizens and have been during the many years of their employment. The Headquarters Building and the Commissary Department claim most of these men, but of course there are other departments, not counted as strictly local ones in which Colored men are employed. The Pullman company, for instance, operates through Omaha every day over the line of the Union Pacific scores of cars both of the Standard and Tourist class, each car in charge of a porter and without recourse to actual figures, it is fair to estimate that several hundred of these men headquarter in Omaha.

Just recently have come to special notice a few men who stand out from among the others by means of more than ordinary service with the Union Pacific Railroad, and it is of these that particular mention is made.

Charles Robinson is perhaps more deserving that any other of credit for faithful service. Until four years ago he was porter and chef for various officials, which places he had faithfully filled since entering the service in 1878. In recognition of his continuous service, the company pensioned him in 1912 and he now carries the distinction of being the only Colored pensioner among the more than three hundred that the Union Pacific carries upon its pension list.

Back in 1888 Charley was in charge of private car of T. J. Potter, then vice president and general manager of the Union Pacific and it was in that year that he acted as special attendant upon Mr. Potter during his last illness. From then on to the time of his retirement, Robinson was a favorite around the headquarters, not only for his faithful services but partly by reason of his interesting past life, during his early career with the company and even before. He is a veteran of the Civil War, having acted as gunner on one of the lower Mississippi gun boats. While thus engaged, he had many thrilling escapades, having at one time, together with a number of companions, been cut off from communication with his boat. After wandering about in the wilderness for four or five days and without food, he was again joined to his company, but not until the most of his comrades had died of hunger and exposure.

Although well past seventy years of age, Robinson is still very active, having settled down to a quiet life although such a thing is not easy for a man who has been continuously engaged in activities connected with private car work.

Wm. J. Costen, private car porter, and W. W. Spenser, private car chef, enjoy the distinction of being attendants upon the last surviving general of the Civil War in his last railroad journey. These two men accompanied General Greenville M. Dodge on his final trip which was from New York City to Council Bluffs late in the year 1914. Both men have been in the service of the Union Pacific for upwards of twenty-five years, and while still comparatively young in years, have few ahead of them in length of service.

In the dining car department are also a number of men who have been connected with the company for many years. Tom Riggs, chef, and Ed. Covington, waiter, are among the oldest in service but would space allow, others might be mentioned.

The Union Pacific Railroad has always looked with pride upon its Colored employees and is endeavoring to show its appreciation by pensioning them upon reaching the age limit and placing them in as easy circumstances as possible and affording them every privilege of the pensioners' club rooms which are located in the Headquarters Building.

EPIGRAMS

Darrow Hits the Nail Off Times on the Head.

By Clarence Darrow.

You can vote a town dry but not the people.

Poverty, not drink, is the cause of crime in the world.

If drink causes poverty every Prohibitionist should be a rich man.

The Prohibitionist sets out to govern something else and not himself.

If you could vote a people dry you wouldn't need to vote the town dry.

Drinking is one of the personal habits each man must settle for himself.

You can't change human nature at the polls, and you can't vote in happiness.

If you want to cure a man of crime you must feed him and give him a chance.

Three presidents of the United States were murdered by cranks—who were dry.

Travis for District Judge.—Adv.

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