

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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MANAGER FRANKE'S POLICY

We had occasion to go to the Auditorium a few days ago to find out who was responsible for changing tickets which were held by members of our family for the first floor of the Auditorium.

Mr. Green of the Retailer's Association said that it was done without authority from him, and was evidently the work of an officious usher taking unwarranted authority upon himself.

In seeking to locate responsibility it was necessary for us to interview Mr. Franke, who is the manager of the Auditorium and hired by the city commission for that purpose. He disclaimed knowledge or responsibility for the discourtesy offered; but insolently volunteered the information that for any show, or entertainment, that fell under his management he would refuse to sell tickets to Colored people for the arena or first floor. He seemed to be oblivious of the fact that he is a city employee.

He was then in the box office and advised us to try to buy a ticket for the Ballet Russe for the arena to learn how quickly he would refuse. He further stated that if we procured a ticket for the arena from any other source he would throw us out and return our money. Poor fellow, he must have had a brain storm and thought he was again running the Krug theatre and was talking to an habitue of that place.

But we suggested, with due courtesy to the gentleman, because fortunately we were able to keep our temper, that he would evidently find that a much more difficult job than he anticipated. We also advised him that we had no desire or intention of attending the Ballet Russe, but were simply seeking to locate the person responsible for a discourtesy and an invasion of our personal rights which called for an explanation. We said further, that as a citizen and taxpayer of Omaha, we would have a right to any seat in the Auditorium that we could afford, provided that we behaved ourselves, and that if he denied that right he would be held answerable for it. He said loudly and emphatically that his policy was to exclude "your people," meaning, of course, Colored people, from the first floor. "That's my policy and I'm giving it to you straight. You can't sit on the first floor for any show I'm running. You'll have to go upstairs."

Leaving the distinguished manager we went to interview Mayor Dahlman, whom we have always found most courteous. We told him of our interview with Manager Franke. The Mayor promptly said that Mr. Franke had no business to make such a statement or establish such a policy and he referred us to Mr. Withnell under whose direct charge the Auditorium falls. Mr. Withnell was not in his office so we wrote a letter to the Council, which was read Tuesday morning at Council meeting. We also addressed the Council.

Mr. Withnell publicly stated that no discrimination would be tolerated at the public entertainments given at the Auditorium. He assured us that if Mr. Franke should attempt to enforce such a policy his resignation would be forthwith demanded.

The subjoined letter is a copy of the one read at the Council meeting;

December 12, 1916.

To the Hon. James C. Dahlman, Mayor, and Commissioners of the City of Omaha, Gentlemen:

The Auditorium is city property and under your control, and I am therefore very sure that your honorable body will not knowingly countenance or endorse any discrimination against any well-behaved, self-respecting patron of public entertainments held there under the direct control and management of your salaried manager, Mr. Franke. It is for this reason that I desire to call your attention to the fact that in an interview held with Mr. Franke at the Auditorium Monday afternoon, December 11, he volunteered the information that at any show or entertainment held in the Auditorium under his management, he would refuse to sell tickets to Colored people for the arena or first floor.

He said, "You try to buy a ticket from me for the Ballet Russe, next Saturday night, for the first floor and see how I'll turn you down. And if you get one anywhere else and present it here, I'll throw you out and give you your money back. For that's my show and any show that I control your people can't sit on the first floor. That's my policy and I'm giving it to you straight."

This is substantially Mr. Franke's language to me December 11. Indeed, I am quoting him almost verbatim.

I had gone to see him for the purpose of locating the person responsible for refusing to honor tickets held by members of my family at a recent entertainment. Mr. Franke disclaimed responsibility for that, stating that it was not his show, and that he had therefore nothing to do with it. He then volunteered the information as to what his own policy is in entertainments under his management.

I am sure that Mr. Franke's policy cannot have the endorsement either of Mr. Withnell, under whose department the Auditorium falls, or the other commissioners.

I therefore call this matter to your attention and respectfully suggest that your honorable body make it emphatically plain to Mr. Franke that his policy of discrimination against self-respecting, well-behaved citizens and taxpayers, on the simple ground of race or color will not be tolerated.

Respectfully yours,

Jno. Albert Williams.

We have been reading of boycotts, federal investigations and court cases relative to the H. C. of L. but we haven't discovered any difference in the grocery bill.

TELEPHONE COMPANY SHOULD EMPLOY OUR PEOPLE

The Nebraska Telephone company receives for telephone rentals from the Colored people of Omaha by the most conservative estimate, from \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year. We know personally, by actual count, 250 who rent phones and there must be double that number in use. So our estimate is very conservative. This company has about 700 employes and there is not, so far as we have been able to learn, one member of our race employed by this corporation.

This is a condition that should certainly be remedied. Casper E. Yost and the other gentlemen in charge of this company are liberal and fair-minded men and it seems to us that by courteously calling their attention to this matter they will readily recognize the justice of our contention that employment should be given to some of our young men and women in some of their departments or various exchanges.

It may be that no one has made application to the company for employment for fear of being turned down; for there is a good deal of timidity upon the part of our people when it comes to seeking employment. Persistence brings its reward. We should not be afraid to apply for work even to public service corporations.

We believe that our people should make application to the Nebraska Telephone company for employment and that that company which is so largely patronized by our people should see to it that some positions are opened by them for some of our deserving young men and women.

SETS A BELATED, BUT APPRECIATED EXAMPLE

We are delighted to be able to report that the Omaha Electric Light company has given employment to several Colored men and also to state that Mr. Holdrege advises us that there is a willingness on the part of his company to give further employment to our people as soon as it is practical to do so. We hope that it may soon become "practicable" for the company to give us a few positions among their office and mechanical forces, as well as among their force of laborers.

We hope that the Omaha Gas company, the Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway company and the Nebraska Telephone company; yes and the Metropolitan Water District, our municipal plant, will follow the belated but none-the-less appreciated example of the Electric Light and Power company.

THE MATTER OF CREDIT

Credit is the keystone in the arch that supports the world. If tomorrow the financial world should decide to place business on a cash basis only, the arch would crash and a terrible panic would sweep the earth. Behind credit is honor and behind that honor is the finest trait of human life and human existence—FAITH.

One of the things our race needs most is honor and the ability to demand credit. Among us there are many whose word is their bond, but the majority take credit lightly. They assume debts, some which they intend to pay and never do and some which they do not even intend to pay. It is not only harmful to themselves but harmful to the race. These people do not seem to realize that a good credit is a tremendous asset. All of us do not have ready money, but a good credit is the same thing. It is one of the ways to fortune.

So establish a credit for your name. When you promise a man to pay a certain sum, pay it at the time promised and if you cannot, be honorable enough to tell him so before or at the time. A good credit is something to be proud of and some thing worth having. Get a good credit.

SONGS OF SOLOMON

The Man Who Came Back

1. Hearken, O my dearly beloved Son, whilst I murmur to thee some music measures of the man who came back after the world thought that fate had slipped to him the nifty knockout.

2. In the days gone by there lived a man named Villa who stood ace high with the demo duma, till it tied a tin can to his political post mortem.

8. Then this duma sent tin soldiers across the border to pickle and preserve his carcass, but the bandit played the kid game of hide and seek and tangled them up in the deserts of Shiwawa.

4. To save their reputations the soldiers wired that Villa was non est and had passed in his comp to the bony reaper.

5. The duma shook hands with itself and said that everything was peaches and that the old Carranzy chap had landed safe in the harbor of peaceful pickings.

6. But O my Son, no man is surely dead until the undertaker fixeth him and crosseth his hands over an Easter lily. Villa was not planted. He was only spending a week end siesta with his black eyed senorita.

7. Again he sallied forth with his trusty troopers and handed the Carranzy cohorts a sad sample of the rough and ready.

8. Now he hath taken Shiwawa, the big burg below the Rio Grande, and chuckleth the merry ha ha as he journeyeth northward.

9. Old Carranzy now pulleth his whiskers and the American eagle scratcheth his bean with his talons.

10. The moral of this tale, O my Son, is never to feel blue over the down and out certificate. Thou art never dead until the insurance company payeth thy claim, and sometimes not even then.

OBVIOUS OBSERVATIONS

The right arm of the observation scribbler is so sore from receiving congratulations upon his marriage that he cannot manipulate the typewriter. May the lino-man forgive his copy.

The press is now crying, "Poor Little Roumania," but when a nation, no matter how little, jumps into a scrap on one side because she figures she can gain more booty than on the other, she deserves to get the dickens licked out of her.

If any subscribers are thinking seriously of giving The Monitor an Xmas present, kindly let it be the little one-fifty for the year's sub. Santa could not please us any better.

Burr-r-r! Go heavy on the coal, mister; go heavy on the coal.

When it comes to fighting we have just got to take off our hats to Germany. It looks to us that Der Kaiser has found his place in the sun and is going to stick around awhile.

The publicity bureau over the People's Drug Store is contemplating engaging a stenographer to take notes of the daily meetings and discussions held by Omaha's eminent political cabinet.