

THE MONITOR

A National Weekly

Devoted to the Interests of the Colored
People of Nebraska and the West

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Pledge Loyalty On Part of Negro

National Equal Rights League Issues
a Praiseworthy Memorial to the
American People.

ASKS SIMPLY FOR FAIR PLAY

Pleads That Negroes Be Treated As
All Other Classes of Citizens,
According to Merit.

Boston, Mass., April 19.—The National Equal Rights League has issued a memorial to the American people pledging loyalty on the part of the Negro and asking justice and fair play for the race. The memorial reads:

"When this European war began the world involuntarily speculated whether the Irish would be loyal and the Russian Jews, because of the denial of home rule by England and of civil and political rights by Russia. As the United States of America enters this awful war the world speculates whether Americans of color will be loyal because of the denial of rights to a majority of them.

"Since Colored Americans in the past have offered their lives in every way for the country, if Germany is seeking to induce them to revolt it but proves how notorious is their proscription. If this nation, knowing the active loyalty of the Colored Americans in the past, believes this alleged plotting could succeed, it shows that the government and people believe that Colored Americans are most unjustly treated.

"The Boston Branch of the National Equal Rights League, meeting when the country is at war, realizing its responsibility as a branch of the only nation-wide organization formed by and of and led by Colored citizens to oppose race and color discrimination, declares false all charges of disloyalty.

"Colored Americans would be less than human if they did not feel bitterly every bar from employment, from public accommodation, because of our race and color. Deep is the resentment against enforced segregation by city, state or the federal government, whether in the civil or military service. But we have no thought of taking up arms against this, our country.

"Let neither white nor Colored Americans seek to deny the truths of human nature. Soldiers of democracies fight better than soldiers of autocracies. The same men fight better if in time of peace they can sell their labor in the open market than if denied work because of race; fight better if public accommodation in peace depends on conduct and the price, than if it is denied for color; fight more eagerly than if in peace encouraged by possession of a free man's ballot, than if represented by its denial; fight with more heart if in peace they have court protection than if their race means possible murder by the mob.

"To the national government which

Labor Situation Growing Critical

North and West in Need of Southern Help and Begin Considering
It Carefully; the War Has Further Effect.

The North and West need the Southern Colored labor, and need it very badly. Six months ago The Monitor undertook to help direct migration. It was expected that near May the demand would increase, and it has done so. Five thousand Colored men can find employment in and around Omaha today and another five thousand could find employment in the Dakotas, Montana, Idaho and Minnesota. Letters come to us from all over the East stating the labor wants of different sections of the country. Beginning next week The Monitor will publish the condition of the labor market all over the country for the special benefit of the many people of the race who are preparing to leave. It will be the only Colored newspaper of the United States that will give this information, and we believe that it will fill the greatest want of our race in the South at this time. Thousands are now ready to leave the South and do not know just where to go, so The Monitor intends to tell them where labor is needed most and where the labor market is not overcrowded.

The Monitor does even more than this. In addition to directing persons where to go The Monitor will secure jobs for thousands before they leave the South. All persons desiring this protection need do is to send for application blank, fill out and send as directed, and the position will be at once secured and held for them until their arrival.

The general minimum wage now is 25 cents per hour.

The one pressing consideration is the matter of transportation. Thousands of our people in the South who want to leave haven't the fare, and the companies, imposed upon by labor agents, hesitate to advance transportation for any large number and run the risk of losing much money. The Monitor, however, is constantly forcing this issue to the front and thinks it only the matter of a few weeks now when transportation will be advanced and the laborers allowed to pay it back in small sums weekly.

Labor agents fare badly in the South. Every one of our applicants coming here has a story to tell of the watchfulness of the South in preventing emigration. But the South is helpless before The Monitor plan started six months ago. We have secured the names of hundreds who want to leave, who are leaving and who will leave as soon as we induce the industries to advance transportation. If there are places North for every Colored family in the South The Monitor will have them away from the South in the next five years, unless railroads refuse to carry them and the South refuses to let them walk away.

The foregoing shows how absolutely necessary The Monitor will be to the Colored people of the South for several years to come. It is the only paper in the country making such an effort, and can be absolutely relied upon for every labor notice appearing in its pages.

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calls us all to war, to our fellow Americans of every race variety, we would appeal in the name of fair play, of justice and humanity. We are all citizens of a common country.

"There is need no longer of subjection of Americans to the race prejudices of fellow Americans. In the presence of a common danger and a common obligation, with a war devastating Europe caused by racial clannishness and racial hatred, under Almighty God, let the United States of America and the people thereof give up race proscription and persecution at home. Let the door of the workshop, the school, the college, the civil service, the army, the navy, the military school, the naval school, open alike to every citizen of the republic without regard to race and without distinction of color. Let the right to travel, to vote, to have court protection, be free, without barrier or denial.

"Give, Mr. President and all our governors, the same encouragement for volunteering or enlisting to white, to brown, to yellow, to black, Americans all, by vouchsafing the same

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Colored Actors Score Triumph

Appearance In Race Plays at Garden
Theatre, New York, Pronounced
Success

MR. RIDGELY TORRENCE

Tells Why He Decided to Show New
Yorkers Theatrical Ability
of Negro Race.

Mrs. Hapgood's Colored company at the Garden theater, New York, has made good and is receiving columns upon columns of praise in the New York press. Mr. Ridgeley Torrence, whose plays the Colored actors are interpreting, believed that the Colored actor was capable of things far better and greater than mere comedy, and with the support of Mr. R. E. Jones and Mrs. Hapgood he has proven it. Now that everything is a success from box office to art, Mr. Torrence tells in the New York Sun why he decided to show New York the histrionic abilities latent in the Colored race.

"When I was a little boy in Xenia, Ohio," he says, "I was half consciously impressed with the beauty of the Negro's voice, the charming laziness of his disposition, the vigor and beauty of his musical sense. Later, when I was devoting my time to the composition of poetry, I began more than ever to appreciate the value of these racial qualities. I discovered growing up within me a desire to make us of these qualities in some art form. Then one day, when I first saw the Irish Players acting plays that had been written about them and for them, I realized that the theater was the proper place for my experiment.

"The racial qualities I have spoken of are primarily theatrical qualities. The beauty of voice which the Negro possesses, as I believe, beyond any other race is a beauty which of course must be heard. His rhythmic sense, his feeling for physical line and pose, are similarly things which must be seen. These are theatrical qualities, and as such distinct from the characteristics of lyric poetry, for instance, which in these days is meant chiefly to be read in silence. Finally, I found in the Negro an emotional richness, an immediacy of emotional expression, which is perhaps the first and most important of all the dramatic qualities. Drama, in the great majority of cases, is a thing of emotional action. The primitive, direct, explosive emotion has always made the most appealing drama, or at least the most theatrical. When I considered all these qualities with which the Negro is endowed beyond most other men it seemed to me that the Negro was a creature of the theater. I have sometimes imagined that the Negro, other things being equal, might produce the greatest, the most direct, the most powerful drama in the world."

ADVICE TO PERSONS LEAVING SOUTH

Don't leave on rumors. Be sure you will find a job when reaching your destination.

Pay no money to strange labor agents for jobs and tickets. Deal only through reliable firms.

Ask every agent if he is willing to have you investigate his claims.

Married men should leave first and send for their families after they have found suitable quarters for them.

The cost of living is high in the North, but not quite as high as in the South. Clothing is much cheaper.

Find if labor agents will look out for men after they arrive. The Monitor will help you find room, reasonable board, and be at your service whenever you need any help that it can give.

Be careful of crowding into the larger cities. Many of these are already over-populated. Too much labor in one place is always worse than not enough.

Subscribe for The Monitor today and keep in touch with the labor conditions all over the country.