

THE MONITOR

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Americans of Nebraska and the West

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Approves Negro Officers' Camp

Decision the Result of the Strenuous
Efforts on Part of Leading
Men of the Race.

OFFERS BIG OPPORTUNITY

Regarded as Biggest Chance for the
Colored Man Since His Emanci-
pation From Slavery.

Washington, May 16.—On Saturday, May 12, the Secretary of War authorized the establishment of an Officers' Reserve Corps Training Camp for Colored Officers for the new Federal army. The decision, which came as the result of a united and persistent effort of students of Howard University and many distinguished men and women of both races, is regarded by qualified opinion as the greatest opportunity for Colored men since the Civil War.

The establishment of this camp marks a radical change in the policy of the American government. For years and years the Negroes with few exceptions, have been excluded from holding official positions in the army and navy. West Point and Annapolis have been practically closed to them. One Colored man after another has sought to secure training offered to other classes of American citizens, but no amount of democratic argument or political influence could convince the administration of the justice of such an appeal. The war, however, has brought a new situation; a new crisis faces the country, and when conscription passed, the question immediately arose, how can the Colored men best serve their country? Shall they stand on the abstract theory of equal rights, or shall they with common sense meet a practical situation for the advancement of the race and the welfare of the nation?

Already fourteen camps have been established for the training of white officers. The War Department has officially declared that it would be impractical to admit Colored men to any of these camps which would mean that the thousands of intelligent Negroes in the United States would be forced under the conscription bill to serve as privates with little possibility of opportunity to rise above non-commissioned officers.

Loyal to the cause of the Negro, believing in the principle of equality but at the same time realizing that obstinacy is not firmness, when the government refused to open the camps to all of its citizens alike, a separate camp was sought as the next best thing for securing officers.

Dr. Joel E. Spingairn, who has devoted his time, his money and influence to the welfare of the Negro, initiated the project, and as Dr. Spingairn himself was recently called to camp the movement was taken up by the students of Howard University. Located at the seat of the War Department, these students supported by the President, deans and faculty,

Memorial Day

MORE precious than the wealth of all the hills and seas are the gifts of memory. Today this mistress of mysteries touches the secret chambers of the mind and brings back to a sort of misty life the treasure of faded years. Familiar faces float softly before tear dimmed eyes; deeds that glorified a day send echoes ringing again down the vasty years; old words once pregnant with will and hope resound and whisper of the worth of human dreams. And it is good. The family that can find no inspiration in the face of some departed loved one, the nation that has no tender memories to cherish for those whose blood and breath welded it into being, the reader who finds no fire in the forgotten speeches that stirred people and country on the conquest of wrong, are poor indeed. God has given them no heritage; life has forgotten to bless them. And to those who hold such prizes, this day is dedicated. With kindly feet we tread the pathway to mausoleums, tombs and graves, and drop a flower—the symbol that the memory of those who have gone before is yet fresh and green. The nation has many holidays, but sweetest and tenderest and holiest of all is this Day of Memory.

quickly organized committees, enlisted every Negro college in the country through the dispatching of telegrams and delegates and within ten days over 1500 men of college grade signified their willingness to enter the camp.

In addition the aid of Senator Chamberlain, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, Representative Madden, of Illinois and scores of other members of Congress were secured; the Colored Y. M. C. A. all over the country, the Young Women's Red Cross Unit of Howard University, and the Committee of 100 Citizens of the District of Columbia, headed by Dr. J. Milton Waldron. Headed by the central committee of Negro college men, organized by Howard University students, all these influences were brought to bear on the War Department and the establishment of a camp for the training of Colored officers was authorized last Saturday.

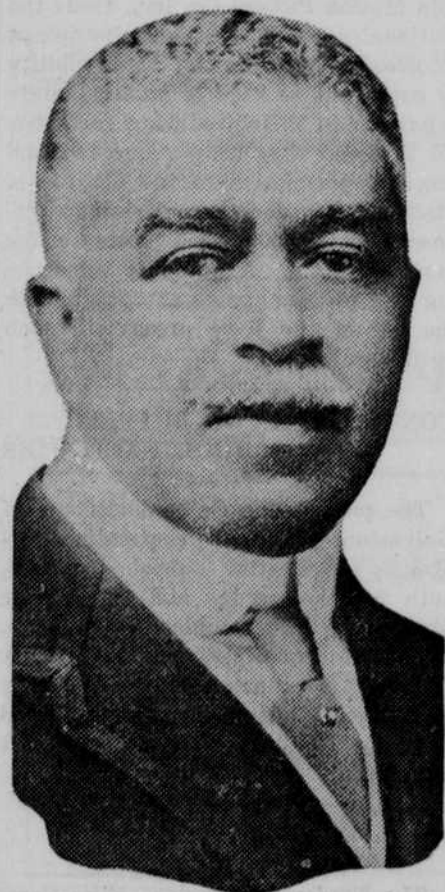
Men attending the camp will be made second lieutenants with a salary of \$1,700 per year.

RE-ELECTED SECRETARY OF THE DIOCESE.

Rev. John Albert Williams, priest of the Church of St. Philip the Deacon and editor of The Monitor, was re-elected secretary of the Diocese of Nebraska at the annual church council held this week. Rev. Mr. Williams' name was the only one submitted and the election was unanimous. Thus the Episcopal church of this state preserves the tradition of equality among its people and the Nebraska Diocese is the only one in the country having a Colored priest serve it as secretary. The position is a responsible one.

HENRY T. BURLEIGH.

Winner of Spingarn Medal For
Service to Race Is a
Famous Musician.



HENRY THACKER BURLEIGH

Of New York, winner of the Spingarn medal for high achievement as a composer. The medal was awarded at the annual meeting of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People held in the First Congregational church at Washington on Wednesday evening, May 16, 1917. The presentation was made by United States Senator Wesley L. Jones of Washington.

Democracy In Africa and In Fair France

The Baltimore American Editorially
Comments on Contrast Between
Two Countries.

VIVANI VISITS SUPREME COURT

An Interested Listener to Arguments
on Louisville Segregation
Ordinance.

The French Minister of State, Viviani, who is now in this country in the interest of urging America to take active participation in the war, by sending men to the trenches, represents the only country among the allies that knows how to treat its Colored citizens. The blessings of "Liberty, equality and fraternity" which the French citizenry won in the memorable revolution of 1789 have been actually enjoyed by every Frenchman whether he is European or African. Every man in France is a Frenchman first and then afterwards white or black. The black statesmen in the National French House of Deputies are in every way socially, economically and politically the equals of their brethren, and the black soldiers of France—were it not for these dark-skinned heroes, Senegals, Algerians and the rest, French resistance before Verdun would have been much weaker, and perhaps there would be another tale altogether to tell of that struggle in eastern France—have served their country in loyalty as black men know how.

It is easy to imagine the feelings of Minister Viviani as he sat in the Supreme Court of the United States last week. He came as the guest of Mr. Justice White and the case under discussion was the Louisville Segregation Ordinance.

Minister Viviani came to America because he understood the government of President Wilson was anxious to establish the freedom of all peoples of the world, and here he found that America had not yet settled the question as to whether one-tenth of its population was deserving of this same kind of freedom.

His surprise and consternation are easily imaginable, and yet he could offer no word of criticism or of protest without endangering the cause that now means so much to France. And so he sat through it all with a smile of admiration at the splendid arguments of Mr. Moorefield Storey, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Sometimes the mouth curved, seemingly in contempt of the whole procedure, in scorn at this mock democracy that is distinctly and exclusively American.

It is difficult to say what Minister Viviani's thoughts were as he left the court room. Most likely he had hopes that while the United States is teaching Germany international morality, France will utilize the prerogative of an ally in teaching the United States what real democracy means.—Baltimore Afro-American.