

Growing,
Thank You!

THE MONITOR

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

Lifting;
Lift, Too!

\$1.50 a Year. 5c a Copy

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, JULY 28, 1917

Vol. III. No. 4 (Whole No. 108)

Negroes Buy Million Dollar Property

Philanthropists Talk of What Should Be Done; Leading Colored Men Act for Themselves.

SOLVING HOUSING PROBLEM

Philton Realty Company Acquires Apartments in Harlem. Astounds New York.

While well meaning white folks, philanthropists, real estate men and others are planning and talking about improving the housing conditions of Negroes in this city the Negro himself has set out to solve his own housing problem. He took the first step in this direction last week when he amazed those who have been working in his interest by the purchase of six fine big apartment houses on 141st and 142d streets between Lenox and Seventh avenues, property which a few years ago sold for more than \$1,350,000. For an initial step it is a long one, and since it was taken by the Negro himself it is evident that he has ideas about how he shall live that are far in advance of those which are being planned for him. In these apartment houses he will have all the comforts of the modern apartment house. He will even be lifted to his apartment by elevators just as in the best apartment house in the city.

He will have United States mail chute service, telephone, gas and electricity. In all apartments are hardwood trim and parquet floors, tile baths with showers and pedestal lavatories, open nickel plated plumbing, with porcelain fixtures, both in bath and in kitchen and ample closet room. French doors with Florentine glass are in the dining rooms.

The houses were built about five years ago for white folks who were expected to pay fairly good rents for accommodations. These are now partly occupied by white folks under leases which will not expire until October. As the block shifted from a tenantry of white folks several years ago to one of colored folks the occupants of the houses changed as rapidly as leases expired and today the row is occupied by white and colored families.

The Negro population of Harlem, when these houses were erected, was estimated at 49,000. This population has almost doubled since that time and today the estimate is that there are upward of 75,000 Negroes in the northeast corner of Harlem. They have huddled into dwellings and tenements and apartments abandoned by the whites.

Housing accommodations were so limited that friends of the Negro, folk who had the moral side of the colored man at heart, real estate men who had interests in Harlem to protect and builders of model tenement houses in the San Juan section decided to help the housing problem of the Negro and plans were laid and talked over for erecting in the Negro section of Harlem a series of model tenements, such as the Hampton at 210 West Sixty-third street, for their occupancy. The proposal was welcome to the colored folks of the section, most of whom are hard working and law abiding citizens. Philip A. Payton, Jr., and others of their leaders co-operated with this committee of moralist real estate men and builders, for the plan would give to the Negro as good housing conditions as prevailed in other sections of the city and at rentals below those which they were paying for poorer quarters.

It is a mistaken idea that the Negro does not pay high rents. He pays more relatively for the poor quarters he occupies than the white does for far superior premises. This inequality has been causing considerable unrest in the colored section and many respectable families have been threatening to leave for the localities where they could have better homes for less money. It was this unrest which spurred the real estate interests of Harlem to lay plans for building clean, wholesome tenements which they could rent for \$1.50 a room a week, the apartments being divided into three and four rooms with baths, the bath not being considered a room.

This type of house would appeal strongly to the average Negro family and would eliminate the necessity of taking in boarders in order to meet the prevailing high rents. But there were other families in the Negro section who wanted better homes than these houses would provide. They wanted dwelling places as fine as the whites, since they were able to afford

them. It was this demand that induced the steps taken last week.

Mr. Payton, Negro real estate man, organized the Philton Realty Company to buy the 141st and 142nd street apartments. Who are interested with him in the purchase of the houses is not to be known. They are colored folks, however, as far as can be learned, who have entered the company not out of philanthropy, but on a purely commercial basis, that is, to make money. They know to what extent the colored man has profited by the prosperity waves which have been sweeping over the United States for the last few years. Apparently Negroes have met these waves, for they are willing to pay in the new apartment houses a rental of \$10 a room, which means that a four room flat will cost them \$40 a month. The larger apartments will cost them from \$60 to \$70 a month to rent.

Since there are 306 suites in the six houses and every one of them will be rented, more than \$150,000 will be paid in a year by the colored folks who will live there. It is the highest rental that has ever been paid by colored tenantry in this city. The houses also are the finest that have ever come under control of colored folks in this city.—New York Sun, July 15.

Negro Exodus Is Increasing

Desire to Earn Higher Wages and Better Conditions Socially, Presents New Problems to Both South and North.

Chicago, Ill.—The exodus of Negroes from the South to northern manufacturing points, stronger within the last month or so, is regarded as likely to increase considerably as the season advances, and to continue throughout the summer. Not more than a quarter of those leaving the South, it is expected will return. The condition is totally without precedent since reconstruction days.

As to the situation in Chicago, A. L. Jackson, executive secretary of the Wabash avenue branch of the Y. M. C. A., says: "The Negroes are coming into Chicago pretty regularly, and in larger numbers now. I had a man watch the railroad stations recently for ten days, and the Police Department also had a man take a careful census. In one week they found 500 arrivals and in another week from 1,200 to 1,500. All, of course, do not stop in Chicago. Many go on, to Waukegan, Indiana Harbor and Gary, Detroit, Moline, and various other manufacturing centers. In two days my agents found two parties of from 50 to 75 Negroes using Chicago as a transfer point. The flow has been very steady through good weather."

"The real reason for the migration," continued Mr. Jackson, himself a Negro, and an authority locally, "is the desire of the Negroes to better their school, housing, social and sanitary conditions. The exodus is coming for the most part from Mississippi, Georgia and Louisiana, with Mississippi leading, and also from South Carolina. Mississippi is leading because of two conditions—lynch law and peonage. In Alabama and Virginia, so-called 'good' states, they are not feeling the Negro migration, but in the states with lynch law and poor schooling, they are leaving in large numbers. The readjustment of the Negro population and higher wages will raise the standard of the Negroes; and in the South, the shortage of them will make their labor more valuable and increase their bargaining power, assuring them more consideration in those questions of law enforcement, schools, housing and conditions of cleanliness.

COLOR LINE DISCRIMINATION ON POTOMAC STEAMERS REMOVED

Washington, D. C.—After a nine months' fight by a well organized committee, the "jim-crow" regulations of the Chesapeake and Potomac Steamboat Company have been set aside. Colored passengers are now permitted to enjoy first-class accommodations in the salon and on the salon deck, and are also furnished with state-rooms. This revised regulation went into effect from June 16, 1917.

TEACHERS IN NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans, La.—The teachers and citizens have made big preparations for the annual session of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools, which meets here July 25-29.

Press Comments On the East St. Louis Massacre

Editorial Opinions Gleaned for Monitor Readers From Various Publications --- Both Colored and White.

RACE PRESS.

Providence (R. I.) Advance.

We hope this event will so thoroughly stir up the Negro masses as to pave the way for a general unification process among the race, for at no time in our American history do we need to be organized as at the present trying period.

Baltimore (Md.) Commonwealth.

It is to be hoped that this Federal investigation will at least set the precedent that it is the duty of the Federal Government to reach forth its strong arm and protect outraged Negroes in spite of the doctrine of state's rights.

Hopkinsville (Ky.) News.

It is believed that Monday's horror will disclose collusion upon the part of the militia. If this should be brought to light we have confidence that someone will be punished for this outrage that places the United States upon a par with Russia and Turkey. This matter cannot be permitted to go unnoticed.

Jackson (Tenn.) Searchlight.

The race riot that occurred in East St. Louis shows the height of American civilization. Is this a better civilization than the Teutons? Can America think herself better than those who treated Belgians thus?

San Antonio (Tex.) Inquirer.

Illinois will bear its part in the national duty of these times with better grace and a fairer standard if it shall do its utmost, by a genuine enforcement of its penal statutes to erase some of the blackness of this blot that East St. Louis has spread upon the record of the commonwealth.

Washington (D. C.) Eagle.

On the one hundred forty-second anniversary of the Declaration of Independence which gave assurance for the protection of all men under our flag and Constitution it is a hard, hard task to drive from the nostrils of our very souls the nauseous stench of the burning flesh of our brothers in East St. Louis. We are trying to take courage here from the better sentiment of the best Americans.

Denver (Colo.) Statesman.

The spirit of Abraham Lincoln is recording these atrocities, and who knows but quietly and secretly a Negro Lincoln may suddenly appear on the scene, and instead of appealing make a demand on the Federal Government to put mob-rule out of existence in this nation, or we may crumble like a Babylon, a Rome, or a Spain.

Richmond (Va.) Planet.

This latest tragedy should be condemned from every pulpit in the land and the sermons upon it should last for not less than six months. The colored newspapers of the country should take it up as a subject for comment for at least a year to come. We have stood many things but this latest manifestation of heathenism, savagery and fiendishness is without a parallel in the history of this country.

Birmingham (Ala.) Reporter.

Union leaders are courting black laborers in Birmingham trying to turn them against their employer. Union leaders are shooting and killing black laborers just five hundred miles away because the black laborer wants to work. Do you think it would make any difference because the black man belonged to the union? White men are white men; they are going to protect one another first in the union.

The Pittsburg (Pa.) Courier.

Far better would it appear to all men of reason and decency if the President of these United States first made America safe for all its citizens before preaching a "New Democracy" and a new "Humanitarianism." Can America fight for a greater purpose than safety at home? Can we imagine a great enemy at our doors than the forces which make of our laws mere printers' ink, and of our constitution mere scraps of paper?

WHITE PRESS.

The Great Falls (Mont.) Tribune.

It is a shameful story. It should cause every decent American citizen to blush for his countrymen who did these things. The honor of the country demands the stern punishment of the men and women guilty of such fiendish acts, and yet the history of the past gives us no assurance that this will be done.

Billings (Mont.) Gazette.

Never has the loyalty of the Negroes been questioned, nor can it be, for on every occasion they have responded to the call of Uncle Sam, and furthermore they have invariably given a good account of themselves. A few more outbreaks of this character and the nation will find itself minus a most valuable adjunct.

Rocky Mountain Herald (Denver, Col.)

The slaughter—better term it a massacre—of Negroes was not only cruel, but fiendish. It brings dishonor upon our country and the flag, and we shall be held up to scorn, especially by those with whom we are at war.

The Kansas City (Mo.) Journal.

Illinois and America cannot afford to have such an exhibition of transplanted "kultur" and "frightfulness." For the time being there is neither freedom nor bravery in a "land of the free" and the "home of the brave" where such things can take place. For the time being it is mere stultification to protest against barbarities practiced elsewhere while these horrible tragedies are being enacted in an American community.

The Cleveland (O.) Leader.

Absolutely no excuse can be found for such horrors. They are outbreaks of cruel and murderous bestiality which know no law of God or man. Not a particle of evidence exists that the great majority of the victims of the mob attacks upon colored men and women had broken any law or given any just cause of offense. They were killed because of their race and for no other reason.

The Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch.

The Negro should be protected in his industrial rights in Illinois as he is in Virginia. When he has been—when the shame of Illinois has been blotted out—it will be time enough for the North to resume its discussion of politics.

The Nashville (Tenn.) Banner.

The East St. Louis Negro massacre is the worst manifestation of race conflict ever known in America. It was bloody and barbarous, a disgrace to the country's civilization.

There is no proof or record that these Negroes, pitilessly shot down as they fled from their burning homes, had done harm to anyone. Their chief offense was that they had fixed their habitation in the community and asked for work.

The Virginian, (Fairmont, W. Va.)

The real culprit in this case is the weak city government which for months has been ignoring its duty to enforce the law and preserve the peace. But this time the aggressors were whites, and not a thing was done. This week's outbreak was the direct result of that abdication of municipal authority. Every city that has that kind of municipal government is running the same risk that East St. Louis ran.

Houston (Tex.) Post.

To have this shameful spectacle of savagery raging in the heart of the country at a time when the nation is giving vent to the loftiest purposes which can animate it is peculiarly humiliating. It not only shames the nation, but it reproaches the nation's allies now engaged in the noblest effort of history to suppress savagery and brutality and to re-enthroned Christian civilization among men.

The Monitor is growing. Help us grow.

MOSAIC TEMPLARS HOLD ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING

Big Increase in Membership and Funds. Invest \$30,000 in Liberty Bonds.

(Special to The Monitor.)

Little Rock, Ark., July 20.—The Mosaic Templars closed a most enthusiastic meeting here July 13. On July 10 an audience of more than 2,000 listened to an inspiring patriotic address by Roscoe Simmons. Grand officers of the Temple were re-elected Thursday. Reports of the auditor and recorder showed that in the last triennium there had been an increase in membership of more than 12,000, and in funds over \$100,000. The order had invested \$30,000 of its available funds in Liberty Bonds.

BANK FOR LOUISVILLE

Louisville, Ky.—A number of prominent men have filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of state at Frankfort and in the office of the clerk of Jefferson county, establishing the Standard Savings and Loan company. The officers are: Dr. John H. Frank, president; E. L. Bowen, vice-president; Edward H. Hansberry, treasurer; John H. Frank, Jr., cashier.

Makes Second Trip to Training Camp

"Bob" Robinson Tells Monitor Readers of Interesting Trip to Army Post At Des Moines.

PATRIOTIC SERVICE AT STADIUM

Thousands Listen to Soul-Stirring Singing of Colored Cadets and Witness Inspiring Review.

Editor Monitor:

We have returned from our second trip to the Reserve Officers' Training Camp at Fort Des Moines. Our trip going and returning was over the "White Pole" route. Our party was composed of Messrs. Broomfield, Banks, Buford, Jackson and myself. We left Friday morning and returned Monday. Many of the incidents of the trip enroute and at Des Moines must be omitted for brevity's sake and lack of space.

On arriving in front of the Y. M. C. A. Friday afternoon, we met some of our old friends and many of the boys whom we had met on our visit early in July. We had the pleasure of being introduced to Bishop Johnson of Philadelphia, whom we heard deliver a splendid address, replete with excellent advice and sparkling wit, wit, Sunday afternoon.

Saturday morning we were at the Fort early, but it being an "off day" for the boys, we visited the different companies and the Y. M. C. A. tent. The men in quarters were getting ready for the great demonstration at Drake Stadium Sunday evening at 6:30.

When we left the Fort Saturday afternoon we were invited to attend a grand ball given by "The Step Lively Girls" of Des Moines for the cadets at Greenwood Park. The boys seemed to have an enjoyable time, and we know we did watching them dance.

Sunday afternoon we watched the boys play a game of baseball and then went to the Y. M. C. A. tent, where we heard two splendid addresses by Bishop Johnson and the Hon. Nelson Crews of Kansas City.

At 4:30 we left the Fort and drove to Drake Stadium to attend the White Sparrow Patriotic Service. Autos were parked for blocks and blocks. The Stadium which must hold 5,000 or 6,000 people, was packed. Enthusiasm abounded. Patriotism was all prevalent. Music was furnished by the First and Third Iowa Infantry and the Typographical Union Bands. Community singing, "America," was led by Dean Cowper of Drake University. A military octette, eight uniformed Negro soldiers, sang through megaphones and unaccompanied, three numbers: "The Old Flag Never Touched the Ground," "Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray," and "I want to be Ready." They made a tremendous hit, and the immense audience wildly applauded. This was especially so when one of them waved "Old Glory" as they sang "The Old Flag Never Touched the Ground."

The members of the octette were: T. J. Lancaster, J. E. Scott, Bush Hunter, A. S. Gilpin, R. R. Penn, L. C. White, C. H. Thompson and L. G. Koger.

Community singing, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," followed. Then

Will Not Speak of Loyalty

Washington Minister Says Loyalty And Red Cross Tabooed.

Washington, D. C.—Explaining his reason for failure to speak of the Red Cross or of loyalty to the United States, Dr. F. J. Grimke, of the 13th Street Presbyterian Church, made the following statement from his pulpit. "When the United States government shows a proper appreciation of the service of the Negro, who has never failed in every crisis of its history to do his whole duty, to shed his blood freely in its behalf; and when the Red Cross ceases to discriminate against colored nurses and physicians out of deference to the Negro-hating sentiment of the South, then, and not till then, will I be heard on either subject. I hope I have some little self-respect left, enough, at least not to allow myself to be insulted, and to acquiesce in it. No, I have not spoken and it is not my purpose to speak."

came responsive reading of Psalm 46, one side reading one verse and the other side another verse. Can you imagine the effect? A collection was taken for the Woman's Auxiliary of the Navy League. The bands played selections. There was some more community singing; "Onward, Christian Soldiers" being the number. Col. C. C. Ballou, U. S. A., commanding officer then made his appearance to see that everything was in readiness for the military review. The men entered by companies four abreast, formed in battalions, and lined up at the west side of the stadium facing east. A person would not believe that three-fourths of those men had only six weeks of training. He would have believed them to be one of our regiments of regular infantry. They had the appearance, preciseness and regularity of trained veterans. After mass formation the audience joined in singing "The Star Spangled Banner." Stacking arms 300 of the boys formed in a semi-circle in front of Col. Ballou and officers and sang four numbers: "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," "Shouting All Over Heaven," "Steal Away, and Tipperary." There was applause, repeated continuous applause for five minutes. Companies reformed and after executing a few commands showing their mastery of the manual of arms, Col. Ballou gave the command, "Pass in Review." It was great. That's all. It would take columns for me to fully describe what took place at the Stadium. One would have to see those men to fully appreciate their efforts.

It recalled memories of some sixteen years ago when I was a member of Company L, 25th Infantry.

I would like to urge every colored citizen of Nebraska, who can possibly do so, to take a day off and visit Fort Des Moines. It will be an inspiration to him.

Yours most respectfully,
W. H. ROBINSON.

WOMEN AT PRAYER IN WASHINGTON

Washington, July 11.—Preparatory to the coming of Mrs. Mary B. Talbot, president of the National Association of Colored Women to Washington to confer with the state presidents and put the question of lynching squarely up to the American people, 5400 women gathered at the Metropolitan Baptist Church this morning from six to seven. The enormous crowd overflowed the entrances and steps and extended into the street. "Wrongs can and must be righted" said Miss Burroughs. "We regret that the issue has been thrust before us when we are with the nations at war, but there will be no world democracy until the burning of innocent women and babies, aged men and innocent citizens of color is taken from the list of 'sports' of civilized America.

"We propose to fight for our country, to help against foes at home and abroad, to conserve food and fuel supplies, and we believe that the fight for democracy must begin at home.

ASKS CONGRESS TO INVESTIGATE RIOTS

Washington, D. C.—Representative Dyer of Missouri introduced a joint resolution Monday, July 9, for a Congressional inquiry into the recent race riots in East St. Louis.

In the Senate Mr. Sherman submitted a resolution from the East St. Louis Chamber of Commerce deploring the riots.