

THE MONITOR

A Weekly Newspaper devoted to the civic, social and religious interests of the Colored People of Nebraska and the West, with the desire to contribute something to the general good and upbuilding of the community and of the race.

Published Every Saturday.

Entered as Second-Class Mail Matter July 2, 1915, at the Post Office at Omaha, Neb., under the act of March 3, 1879.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES, \$1.00 PER YEAR
Advertising Rates, 50 cents an inch per issue.

Address, The Monitor, 1119 North Twenty-first street, Omaha.
Telephone Webster 4243.

THE CRIME WAVE IN OMAHA

A succession of revolting crimes in Omaha, with women the victims and Negroes the suspects, combined with unprovoked slashing of white men by a Negro running amuck, has created a dangerous condition of the public mind and the community must be on guard lest its reputation be sullied by outbreaks of mob violence such as have disgraced other cities.

The great majority of Omaha's very considerable Negro population is made up of industrious, law-abiding, well-behaved men and women. These are entitled to respect and protection. It would be a wicked mistake to make them the victims of the prejudice excited by the foul acts of individuals who happen to be members of their race. Whites and blacks have long lived in amity in Omaha, and because of it the latter have made a gratifying progress and the city has escaped the turmoil and evils that spring from the fanning of race prejudice. Omaha's welfare and good name demand that this condition continue. All good citizens will exert their influence, in any sudden emergency, to the end that it may continue.

It is unfortunate that, in recent months, a material addition, and not at all a desirable one, has been made to Omaha's Colored population. The northward movement of the most ignorant, shiftless and dangerous element of the black population of the South has affected Omaha as it has other industrial centers. It adds to the hardships of a police force already inadequate numerically if not otherwise. And it brings to Omaha a share of the difficulties and responsibilities of that race problem with which the South has so long been struggling.

These recent outrageous crimes have stirred Omaha from center to circumference. It is incumbent upon city and county to spare no effort or expense to bring the criminals to swift justice. In this stern task the respectable element of the Colored population should join, for the protection of their own security and to vindicate the hitherto good repute of their race in Omaha. With a united and determined effort they can be immensely serviceable to the cause of law and order.

There is no place in Omaha or anywhere else today for shiftless, lazy, professionally unemployed men. There is work clamoring for all. If you know of any such men, white or black, report them to the police, and the police will prove their incompetence if they do not at once see that they are put to work or run out of town.

We commend the position of the World-Herald, of which Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock is editor, in the above editorial. The World-Herald, however, is mistaken in one statement. The northward migration has not brought to Omaha as yet "the most ignorant, shiftless and dangerous element of the black population of the South." Those who have come in the main belong to the intelligent and well-intentioned laboring classes. This is the testimony of employers whom The Monitor has interviewed. Naturally undesirable are to be expected, but fortunately as yet they are a negligible quantity.

THE RIGHT STAND.

We are pleased at the stand the government has taken in the matter of the training of Colored troops. The South protested against their being sent with other troops to Southern cantonments. Tillman and others urged that they should be sent to Cuba or Porto Rico or to—well, anywhere else, except among "the Negro's best friends."

It looked at first as though the counsel of these had prevailed, for it was given out that "no Negro troops will be sent to cantonments in the Southern states." Recently the war department, be it said to its credit, has reversed this order and Negro troops have been sent South with the units to which they belong for training. This is as it should be.

If American soldiers are to fight in the trenches together, why should they not be trained together? And isn't it about time, anyway, to let the South understand that its peculiar prejudices are not to be allowed to jeopardize the interests of the nation?

The United States should have the right to send any of its troops to any section of the country it may desire

without let or hindrance, and have those troops respected. American soldiers should not be considered or treated as pariahs anywhere on American soil.

THE HOUSTON TROUBLE.

When well trained and disciplined regulars with the record for good behavior which has been the pride of the Twenty-fifth United States Infantry indulge in an outbreak like the deplorable rioting at Houston, Tex., last Thursday, it can be safely conjectured that the provocation which incited it was extreme. These men know the rules of the army. They know that it is a time of war. They have been schooled to self-restraint. They are amenable to discipline and devoted to their officers. Such men do not wantonly disregard their officers and jeopardize their life and liberty without great cause.

The statement of the officers that the men had complained to them of the treatment received at the hands of the Houston police and the information volunteered that in a conference between the military and civil authorities the Houston police had been instructed to speak of them as "Colored soldiers" are rather significant.

It is to be regretted that the sentiment in any section of this country is such that deplorable affairs of this kind are possible.

THE BEAM AND THE MOTE

Our country has entered the world war on the side of the allies. Pure democracy is our goal, and we must plant it on the ruins of militarism. The purpose is sublime. Each and every right thinking man and woman cannot but appreciate this great aim and must bring his mite towards it. If young, to serve in the military or navy ranks; if older, to help materially. No one should remain with folded arms, not to assist in removing the mote in the militaristic countries, which molests humanity and destroys peace. It is a deserving cause and every man should put his shoulder to the wheel of humanitarianism for the purpose of subduing brutality, conquering savagery and quelling barbarity.

However, while we are beholding the mote in our adversary's eye we should consider the beam in our own eye. The East St. Louis brutal attack on "blacks" by the noble "whites" in which murder, arson, robbery and abuse of men and women, old and young, took place, and some noble-hearted white women took part, is one of these beams in our eye which deprives us of the right of judgment of motes in somebody else's eye. The fact that the defenders of the state of Illinois were inactive—as reported in the press—makes that beam immeasurable. How dare we try to bring into order somebody else's house when disorder reigns supreme in our own house? But in this case we do not stand alone, some will say. The Black Hundreds in democratic Russia made pogroms upon the Jews and incited the people to a renewal of massacres upon the Jews, and liberal England has its Leeds, where attacks upon Jews, destroying their homes and business became a pastime to the good subjects of the king. Yet two wrongs do not make our one wrong right.

Surely we—the liberty-loving people—should not be murderers, arsonists and robbers. These activities do not enter into the definition of liberty and equality.

Again, the moral pogrom made by some United States military officers upon Jewish applicants for enlistment do not spell justice, nor does it mean fair play.

True, as the Black Hundreds in Russia do not include all the people of the country so the white savages of East St. Louis do not embrace the other elements of that city, and the bigoted military officers do not include all the other military officers, yet so long as the culprits are not punished, so long as the offenders have not received their deserved chastisement, the beam of shame is in the eye of every citizen of this country. The sin is too great to condone. The question whether we may bring order in somebody else's house before we have brought order in our own house remains unanswered. This immeasurable beam must be removed and the quicker the better.—Jewish Bulletin, Omaha, Neb.

Obvious Observations

The Houston riot is a very serious affair, but one thing it shows is that Colored men and women must not be abused when guns and ammunition are plentiful.

The kaiser still delivers optimistic speeches to his troops and the Allies still say that the war is almost ended.

The price of coal has been fixed at the mines and if the administration will fix the freight rates on the way over, it will finish a mighty important problem.

Goodbye to the wheat pit. The grain gamblers will now have to try poker or craps.

Get in on The Monitor special rates. There's going to be some fine reading in it this winter.

The south doesn't want any Colored soldiers trained down that way. If it treated the Colored man right it would not be scared, but it knows it doesn't and hence the frigid feet.

Spuds are still two bones a bushel and there are oodles of them. There's somebody in the wood pile somewhere and that somebody "ain't cullud."

The nation has been promised a lower cost of food, but if the Hoover gent doesn't hurry up we will starve to death before anything is done.

If these nice cool days keep up, June won't have a thing on August days.

Gee whiz, mister, haven't you paid that subscription yet? Get busy. Thanking you for your modest attention, we will now proceed to can a few opinions and pickle a few thoughts.

SKITS OF SOLOMON

Profit

Profit, my son, it a small amount of change which a man is supposed to make off the investment of his mazzuma. Twenty years ago if a man made six per cent off a dollar he considered he was going some, but nowadays when every man wants to crowd John D. and brother Pierpont off the stock exchange, a hundred per cent is a mere piffle. Take ham, for instance. I remember in the old days when you could go down to the corner store and get a ten cent ham hock to boil with a nickle's worth of cabbage and there would be meal enough to board the neighborhood. Now a small size ham hock makes a ten dollar note look like it has pernicious anemia. Then there are spuds. Everybody has been raising spuds this summer and many have spuds, but the poor sucker what wants to eat spuds must plank down two bones per bushel. Eggs and butter are also examples. Once upon a time a man could stand in front of ten tubs of butter ranging from a dime to twenty cents a pound and keep on tasting until he found the kind he wanted. But just try tasting butter now! Why, the plain clothes man would be giving you a nice automobile ride before he could say, "Wait a minute, please." It's a fright. And running this engine around to where it started, who gets the profit? The farmer says he doesn't and the commission man let's out a whoop of hard times that would make a Comanche Indian sick at the stomach. The middleman just bows his head humbly and tells you to buy a flashlight and look around, 'cause it "ain't him." And friend consumer has to stand it. He is giving somebody anywhere from 100 to 200 per cent on his money. Profit is a nice thing, an awful nice thing, but it's getting to be too nice. Somebody has to take a fall out of it and some soon. Mr. Hoover is appointed to be the fall guy, but up to date Sir Hoover has been talking more than acting. Let's have some sure enough fireworks. We're all willing.

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Omaha, Neb., Aug. 20, 1917.
The Rev. John Albert Williams, Editor of The Monitor.

Dear Sir: Being a subscriber to your excellent paper, I wish to state that it is the best companion one could possibly have. I am especially gratified to know that your publication is not sensational or unreliable, but furnishes food for thought.

With best wishes for a continued success, I am, as ever, a booster,
EDGAR A. LEE,
2705 Corby Street.

August 28, 1917.

The Rev. John Albert Williams, Editor of The Monitor:

My Dear Sir—I beg leave to offer a suggestion relative to the Charles Smith case. I believe that every Colored man in Douglas county ought to subscribe at least \$1, to be used as a defense fund to see that this accused man of our race gets some semblance of a fair trial. If you think this proper and the right thing to do you may head the list with my name and dollar. I think this case demands immediate action. Just common, plain justice is all we demand for the accused.
JOHN H. WAKEFIELD,
4430 South Sixteenth Street.

Our Women and Children

Conducted by
Lucille Skaggs Edwards

WORK

School days again for the boys and girls! Again you must get down to hard work. Never has there been such a demand for trained men and women, and only by hard work may one become so fitted. There is a Latin proverb which should commend itself to each one, "Vive quasciras moriturus; stude quasi semper victurus" ("Live as if you were to die tomorrow, study as if you were to live forever"). No real success in life may be attained without hard work. The student who thinks he can shift through school and plans to have a good time and then settle down after graduation will find to his regret that "the habits formed in youth will cling through life."

Work, hard work, giving your best effort to each day's task, is the only way to success and contentment. Great danger lies in idleness. Don't be afraid, don't be unwilling to "labor and to wait."
L. S. E.

FATHER'S DAY

By Annie Willis McCullough.
Father's Day is bright and sunny,
Though the weather may be bad;
And you're happy, too, and sunny,
Never sad!
No, of course you're never sad!

Father's Day is full of stories
And of quiet Sunday fun;
And you love to hear the stories
He's begun—
Splendid stories he's begun!

Father's Day is full of rambles
In the spring and summer time.
You can learn so much from rambles;
Oh, they're prime—
Lessons learned that way are prime!

Father's Day is full of loving,
Full of extra kisses, too.
And you cannot help be loving,
Sweet and true—
All the world seems sweet and true!

Dried Fish Chowder.

½ pound salt fish.
4 cups potatoes, cut in small pieces.
2 ounces salt pork.
1 small onion, chopped.
4 cups skimmed milk.
4 ounces crackers.
Salt codfish, smoked halibut, or other dried fish may be used in this chowder. Pick over and shred the fish, holding it under luke-warm water. Let it soak while the other ingredients of the dish are being prepared. Cut the pork in small pieces and fry it with the onion until both are a delicate brown, add the potatoes, cover with water, and cook until the potatoes are soft. Add the milk and fish and reheat. Salt, if necessary. It is well to allow the crackers to soak in the milk while the potatoes are being cooked, then remove them, and finally add to the chowder just before serving.

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