

Growing,
Thank You!

THE MONITOR

Lifting;
Lift, Too!

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

\$1.50 a Year. 5c a Copy

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, SEPTEMBER 8, 1917

Vol. III. No. 10 (Whole No. 114)

TAKING STOCK IN EDUCATION

Elementary Training Is Special
Work of Public Schools.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Impartial Review of the Whole System
of Education Presented by Dr. Thomas
Jesse Jones—Suggests Plan For
Reducing Illiteracy—Need of Insti-
tutions of Real College Grade.

In concluding that feature of his report on the importance of elementary, secondary, college, agricultural education and teacher training Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones says:

"Elementary education is peculiarly the responsibility of the public school authorities. Though the enrollment of the philanthropic schools is 75 per cent elementary, their pupils are only 4 per cent of the Negro children six to fourteen years of age. The southern states out of their limited resources are spending \$6,000,000 annually for the salaries of teachers in the colored public schools. While this is proportionately not more than a fourth of that spent on teachers in white schools, it is a substantial sum.

"In comparison with the needs of the elementary school system, however, it



DR. THOMAS JESSE JONES.

is most inadequate. So long as the elementary school facilities are insufficient every kind of education above the elementary grade is seriously handicapped and the well being of the community is endangered. The possibilities of night schools for adults should receive serious consideration as one means of overcoming the large amount of Negro illiteracy.

"Secondary Schools and Teacher Training.—The primary importance of secondary schools for colored people lies in their contribution to the much needed supply of trained teachers for the elementary schools. According to the state records, over 50 per cent of the colored teachers in public schools have an education less than the equivalent of six elementary grades. This lamentable condition can be corrected only by a system of public secondary schools with provision for teacher training, theory and practice of gardening and manual training. Much effective help could be obtained through the active co-operation of the public secondary schools already organized. One of the most hopeful movements toward teacher training and secondary education is the plan to multiply county training schools.

"College and Professional Education.—The education of Negroes in America undoubtedly requires institutions that are genuinely of college grade. The first step in the realization of this need is the agreement that all shall combine in an effort to develop a few well selected institutions. A program for such a co-operation is suggested in the chapter on 'College Education' in this report. The second requirement of success in this direction is the determination that every college activity shall be adapted to the demands of modern society. Medical education is already centralized in two institutions, so that those interested in that profession may give their aid without question. It is highly desirable that some co-operative effort shall also be made to improve the standards of schools for colored ministers. No phase

of Negro education has been more neglected.

"Though there are a few very effective institutions devoted to the agricultural and mechanical education of the Negroes, they really constitute only a beginning of the supply needed. The number of their graduates is at present only enough to prove the value of the type. An adequate supply will be possible only through the combined effort of public and private resources. State and federal governments, through their general appropriations for agricultural and other forms of vocational education, can render a most effective

MR. LEMME'S PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN TRIP

As previously published in our columns, R. J. Lemme proposes to undertake the task of walking from Omaha to New York and from New York to San Francisco. He asserts that he will not only be able to support himself, but in addition earn a snug sum for a rainy day, by selling copies of The Monitor and securing subscriptions en route. Incidentally, of course, he may have the opportunity of advertising various firms on his way. The Monitor gladly allows him the privilege of selling the paper and securing subscriptions en route, allowing him a percentage on sales and subscriptions. A weekly list of his sales and of his subscriptions (accompanied by cash) as he sends them in, will be published, and our readers will be informed of the progress of his trip. He will begin his work of earning his expense money by selling Monitors on the streets today. He plans to start on his 4,500 mile walking trip Monday at 10 o'clock. His friends aver that he is only "bluffing," and that one or two days of walking will cure him of his desire to rival Weston. He, on the other hand, asserts that he will prove to all skeptics that he has the sand, the wind, the physical ability and the determination to complete the trip and present the letters which he carries from Mayor Dahlman to the Mayors of Chicago, New York and San Francisco.

If Lemme makes this trip as he proposes, it will be good advertising for himself, for Omaha and The Monitor, and whatever other firms he may represent. The Monitor, with which he has no official connection aside from that mentioned, reserves judgment, will furnish him with as many copies weekly as he can sell, will advise readers of the progress of his trip, and wishes him success.

PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN HOLD STATE CONVENTION

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.—The Fourteenth Annual Session of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Negro Women's Clubs was held here from August 22 to 24 inclusive, in Bethel A. M. E. Church. When Mrs. Ruth L. Bennett, of Chester, called the convention to order on Wednesday morning she was greeted by the largest delegation ever assembled in the history of the state federation.

The convention was cordially welcomed on behalf of the clubs, churches and city. Many interesting reports were made by delegates, showing the wonderful amount of work accomplished by race women along civic, charitable, religious and social lines. The general theme running through the sessions of the convention was uplift and the importance of race women's interest and influence in the present crisis.

COMMISSIONED IN MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

Jefferson City, Mo.—Dr. Isaac E. Moore, who has been practicing in this city, has been commissioned First Lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Corps and has been ordered to Fort Riley for service. Dr. Moore is a graduate of the University of West Tennessee, class '15.

CHARGED WITH COMPLICITY IN RACE RIOTS

East St. Louis, Ill.—The War Department has notified Attorney-General Brundage to begin proceedings against six members of the Third Illinois Artillery, charged with complicity in the race riots July 1 and 2. The soldiers will be brought to this county for trial.

CHICAGO GETS PYTHIAN TEMPLE

The new \$20,000 Pythian Temple will be built in Chicago. This was decided at the recent Supreme Lodge meeting in St. Louis.

Give Us a Colored Commander for Colored Troops

PRESIDENT WILSON, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMY, TWELVE MILLION COLORED AMERICANS RESPECTFULLY PETITION YOU, SIR, TO GIVE OUR RACE A GENERAL IN THE PERSON OF CHARLES YOUNG, DAVIS, GREEN OR ANY OTHER COMPETENT MAN NOW SERVING IN THE ARMY, AND TO GIVE HIM COMMAND OF COLORED TROOPS; AND WE PLEDGE YOU OUR HONOR THAT OUR COUNTRY WILL THRILL WITH PRIDE AT THE VALOR OF THE TROOPS UNDER HIS COMMAND.

GIVE US A COLORED COMMANDER FOR COLORED TROOPS. OUR LOYALTY AND SERVICE MERIT THIS RECOGNITION.

To the French High Commission

Graceful and Gracious Greeting on Behalf of Omaha's
Colored Citizens Addressed to the Recent
Distinguished Guests of Our City.

By R. L. DESDUNES

The following graceful salutation or greeting from the Colored population of Omaha to the French High Commission, who recently visited our city, was written by R. L. Desdunes. The original French and the translation have been graciously furnished

(Hommage de la population de couleur.)

Messieurs:
Heros, Vous qui Venez de la France lointaine,
Vous, defenseurs du droit et de la liberte;
Des humbles descendants de la race Africaine,
Veuillez bien accueillir hommage merite.

Nous, aussi, nous voulons temoigner a la France,
Au nom de l'avenir, du present, du passe,
Nos sincerres souhaits, notre reconnaissance,
Tel que, de tous, les temps, notre ame la pense.

Nous avons admire l'illustre Lafayette,
Le Divin Lamartine et le sublime Hugo,
De nos Dumas, la France est seule qui S'inquite,
Qui, par amour du bien, siat consacrer le beau.

Homage of the Colored Population. Gentlemen:

Heroes, You who hail from distant France,
You, defenders of right and liberty,
Of the humblest descendants of the African race,
Please kindly accept the well merited homage.

We, too, desire to testify to France,
In the name of the future, the present and past,
Our sincere wishes and our gratitude,
Precisely as it has been at all times the prompting of our soul.

We have admired the illustrious Lafayette,
The divine Lamartine and the sublime Hugo,
France is the one alone which takes concern of our Dumas
And which for the love of the good knows how to consecrate the beautiful.

WOMEN OF OMAHA, ATTENTION

The hour is at hand!
A million bugles sound the call!
The United States is asking its women to do their bit for the common cause. The council of national defense through its women's committee calls for the registration of the women of the nation.

Governor Neville of Nebraska has accordingly issued an official proclamation fixing September 12, next, as the day when women may add their names to the nation's roll of honor. On that day 300,000 Nebraska women should march to the voting precincts in which they live to volunteer to do something for this their own United States. On June 5 the men of this state nobly did their duty. On September 12 the women will voluntarily say: "Here we are, Uncle Sam, give us something to do!"

Can You Bake?
You will be asked what you can do and how much you are willing to do. Can you "bake a cherry pie for Billy boy," or cook, sew, scrub, knit, farm, raise garden, keep house, solicit money, drive an automobile, nurse, manage, entertain, or do anything under the sun? Every woman can do something and that something will be of real assistance to this country.

Nothing is too small or too humble. Everything is needed—everything will be used. The women of Russia have donned khaki and are fighting at the front. You won't be asked or expected to handle guns this time, but you can help win the war at home.

Get Ready.
The eyes of the world are upon you. You can make the enemy tremble. You won't be shot if you fail or refuse to register, but sooner or later you will feel ashamed of yourself if you don't heed the call.

This is the most important thing you were ever asked to do—to help make the world safe for democracy. Stand back of your boy who goes forth to battle for humanity.

You can at once serve yourself, your neighbor, your country, and your God.

DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMITTEE.

AMERICA'S CAUSE FOR WAR

"The new German policy swept every restriction aside. Vessels of every kind, whatever their flag, their character, their cargo, their destination, their errand, have been ruthlessly sent to the bottom without warning and without thought of help or mercy for those on board, the vessels of friendly neutrals along with those of belligerents. Even hospital ships and ships carrying relief to the sorely bereaved and stricken people of Belgium though the latter were provided with safe conduct through the proscribed areas by the German government itself and were distinguished by unmistakable marks of identity, have been sunk with the same reckless lack of compassion or of principle.

"I am not now thinking of the loss of property involved, immense and serious as that is, but only of the wanton and wholesale destruction of the lives of noncombatants, men, women, and children, engaged in pursuits which have always, even in the darkest periods of modern history, been deemed innocent and legitimate. Property can be paid for; the lives of peaceful and innocent people can not be. The present German submarine warfare against commerce is a warfare against mankind."—Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States.

SUPREME LODGE K. OF P. AT ATLANTIC CITY IN 1919

St. Louis, Mo.—The Supreme Lodge Knights of Pythias, after one of the most successful sessions in the history of the organization, decided to hold the 1919 convention in Atlantic City, N. J.

At the election of officers there was practically no opposition to the slate and the old officers were re-elected with little or no opposition. This was true of the Court of Calanthe as well as the Supreme Lodge and the Uniform Rank department. Prosperity marked the present regime and they were returned to power.

Friday morning the military parade took place and was pronounced by the public and press as one of the best displays of its kind in the history of the city.

Takes Third Trip to Des Moines Camp

"Bob" Robinson Gives Monitor Readers Some Interesting Impressions of Our Boys Who Are Training for Officers.

OMAHA MEN MAKING GOOD

Editor Monitor: Impressions of our third trip to Des Moines will doubtless interest your many readers.

Our party, consisting of Messrs. Broomfield, Buford, McCullough and myself, in the two Pierce Arrow cars owned by Buford and McCullough, left Omaha Thursday, August 30, at 5 a. m. and were in Des Moines at 11 o'clock. We went right to the fort, where we first paid our respects to the Omaha boys and other friends, after which we had lunch served with Company No. 2, thanks to Mess Sgt. Pinkston, Co. D, 24th infantry and Chef Fritz Henderson of Kansas City. "Fritz" is the only thing German about Henderson and he is such a loyal American that he is seriously considering changing his name from Fritz to Sam.

Our menu was mutton stew, mashed potatoes, sliced tomatoes, bread and butter, jams and cake. It was some lunch and the Omaha tourists did justice as you may well judge, to the occasion.

The boys were getting ready for an examination, so we found some of the other boys who were not so busy. First Lieutenant W. W. Peebles, O. R. M. C., showed us around the quarters where some 600 recruits were being trained for the hospital corps. The newly commissioned officers of the medical corps are busy at this task. These men, capable and efficient, are from all parts of the country but mostly from the Southern states.

Messrs. DeFrantz and Beckett of the Army and Navy Branch Y. M. C. A., have the new uniforms which are very attractive, being the French type and of a mouse color. Leggings are also worn and the letters "Y. M. C. A." appear on the shoulder straps.

During our visit to the Fort Friday afternoon we saw much that was of interest. Each company was drilled by two candidates for a half hour each and they are due credit for the showing made. After drill the companies had a study hour, during which we went to see the trenches and the Hospital corps drill just back of the quarters, returning in time to attend parade and retreat. Being informed of the staging of a sham battle that night we returned to the city for dinner so as to be back in time to see it.

At nine o'clock we were south of the fort and on line with the outpost guard, but had to remain on road, as to have entered would have caused us to make some excuse to the sentry. So we remained out watching and listening.

One guard got his orders mixed and the officer questioning him must have walked a post himself as he was very lenient and explained the duties for the perplexed and embarrassed guard. Listens easy for one who has not been through the mill.

We returned to the city at 10:30 p. m. and attended a dance at Masonic Hall given by the young men of Des Moines, assisted by Miss Susie Lee, in honor of the Omaha party. It was a delightful affair, although hastily gotten up. Three officers of the Medical Reserve Corps were present.

Saturday morning we left for Omaha at 10:45. While going into Van Meter, Ia., I had the misfortune of breaking an axle shaft on Mr. McCullough's car, so we were towed to England's garage by Mr. Buford where he and Mr. Broomfield bade us adieu as they wanted to be in Omaha at 5 p. m. so that Mr. Buford could report for duty with the police department. They beat the schedule as they were in Omaha at 4:30, having made the drive in five hours and forty-five minutes. Mr. McCullough and I had to remain over and come by train.

To return to camp affairs: The Medical Reserve Officers have taken band headquarters for their quarters and have a mess of their own. Forty or more boys have been commissioned and others are waiting to take the oath. Every man in camp is looking for word that he has made good or must return to his regiment or back to civil life. Quite a few of the boys have been sent home for various reasons and there are now less than 900 men in training. Since our last trip the 9th Cavalry boys have arrived and the men we met have the carriage of veterans.

I learned that our attorney, Will N. Johnson, had made application for his discharge, and that he had a good chance to earn a commission as he had made a record while there of which any man should be proud.

As I have to return to Van Meter for the car I shall run over to Des Moines again.

The Omaha boys are evidently making good as they are hanging on for the final gong. Many of the men are planning to visit Omaha after camp breaks as those who win commissions will be given a fifteen day furlough before being ordered to duty.

Dr. Peeble, or as I should have said, Lieut. Peebles, promised to have some bars on his shoulder straps so we could tell that he is entitled to a salute on our return visit.

BOB ROBINSON.

HAVE OVER FOUR THOUSAND TRAINED NURSES

Louisville, Ky.—The tenth annual convention of the Graduate Nurses' association recently met here with Dr. Daniel Hale Williams as the guest of the association. The noted Chicago surgeon urged that the nurses take the opportunity offered by the United States government calling for efficient nurses. He declared that we have registered 4,500 trained nurses and that there are at least forty-five first class hospitals owned and operated by our people.

COUNCILMAN CUMMINGS SUFFERS PARALYTIC STROKE

Baltimore, Md.—City Councilman, Harry S. Cummings was brought to his home on Druid Hill avenue Wednesday, August 29, from Roland Park where he had been spending some time with his family at the residence of Mrs. Sophie Lewis. Physicians were hastily summoned and found that Mr. Cummings had lost the use of his body above the waist.

SOLDIERS ARE SENT TO PRISON

San Antonio, Tex.—Six Negro soldiers of the 24th infantry who clashed with the civil police and the troops sent to subdue them at Waco on the night of July 29, were found guilty of violating the ninety-third article of war before the general court-martial held recently at Camp McArthur, Waco. Five of the men were sentenced to five years at hard labor in the United States penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kas. The sixth man received ten years. All were sentenced to be dishonorably discharged.

WILL NOT BE CALLED IN THE DRAFT

Washington, D. C.—Until the War Department determines upon a policy with regard to quartering Negroes of the National Army at cantonments in the South, Negroes chosen under the draft will not be called to the colors. This course is due to protests from Southern States following the race riot at Houston, Tex.

The War Department feels it will not send Negro troops to Southern camps until it has had time to consider the situation. One of the reasons for not calling Negroes in the first contingent of the draft is that some of the cantonments have not been completed.

COLORED AMERICAN AVIATOR FALLS IN FRANCE

Lawrence Scanlon, of Cedarhurst, L. I., flying with the aviation forces in France, lost control of his machine, fell 500 feet, crushed through the roof of a bakery and escaped unhurt. The machine was demolished. When Scanlon could not get a chance with the American flyers, he went to France and very easily qualified despite his color.

AUTHORIZES REGIMENT OF STEVEDORES FOR SERVICE

Washington, D. C.—A regiment of 2,400 Negro stevedores for foreign service has been authorized by the War Department to meet the demand for experienced men to handle war supplies for the American expeditionary force in France. Recruiting officers, especially those in southern seaport cities, have been instructed to seek men for the regiment. The army also wants Negro cooks and will give good pay to even inexperienced men if they have capacity and are willing to learn.