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THE MONITOR

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A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

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SAFEGUARDING NATION'S FOOD

Business Men Hear Patriotic Address by Freeman.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST WASTE

Pioneer League Worker Makes Strong Appeal For Full Co-operation of Whole Race in Conserving Food Supply—Tells How We May Help Win the War Against Germany.

Washington.—According to authentic reports growing out of the eighteenth annual meeting of the National Negro Business Men's league, recently held at Chattanooga, Tenn., the "stand out" feature of the occasion was the impressive presentation of the subject of food conservation, brought to the attention of the league and its thousands of followers by Daniel Freeman, a well known business man of this city, for many years president of the local branch of the National Negro Business Men's league.

Mr. Freeman has returned from the Chattanooga conference bubbling over with enthusiasm for the cause which carried him there and reports that the meeting ranked with the very best the Business league has held in any section of the country since its formation at Boston in 1900. He is a pioneer in the work of the league and from the outset had been regarded by the founder, Dr. Booker T. Washington, as the natural leader of and official spokesman for the colored commercial interests of the nation's capital.

Holds Key to Victory Over Germany.

Bringing patriotism down to stubborn facts, Mr. Freeman, without recourse to oratorical flourish, but in simple, straightforward and convincing language, pointed out that the conservation of food holds the key to victory over Germany and illustrated in his own original way the countless channels in which the colored people of the country, from the wealthiest to the humblest, could be of vital assistance to America and the allies in this titanic struggle for world democracy.

The general government recognized the value of the Negro help in this work by sending Mr. Freeman to the Chattanooga conference of the business chieftains of the nation as the special representative of the food administration, under the direction of the Hon. Herbert C. Hoover and Dr. Ray L. Wilbur, to lay the matter properly before the colored people of the land.

The wisdom of the selection of Mr. Freeman was amply demonstrated by the able address delivered at the Friday afternoon session of the business league and the rapt attention with which it was received by the audience which crowded the Lyric theater to the doors.

Our Responsibility in War Crisis.

Mr. Freeman, after analyzing the necessity for the full use of every resource for the winning of this battle for liberty, impressed upon his hearers that the real object of the food administration was to try to organize all the people of the United States in the conservation of foodstuff. He stressed and particularized the fact that food conservation clubs should be arranged for among the colored people in schools, churches, business fraternities, commercial and women's clubs, and stated plainly that there was something that the humblest person could do.

"With the shortage of food abroad, with the partial failure of transportation, the shortage of labor and the present abnormal world conditions facing us on every hand," said Mr. Freeman, "each one of us has a new responsibility. As a tenth part of the American body politic the colored people must do our share in the work of conserving the food supply for the good of our country and in aid of our allies. We can do this if we save and do not waste. It will require our careful thought three times a day. Not only must we eat carefully the products of the day, but we must preserve the perishables and fruits that are now so abundant. Soldiers cannot fight unless they are fed."

To Wage Campaign Against Insects.

He urged a systematic campaign against gophers, rats, mice and insects and declared that the inescapable questions were: "Will each one do his duty? Will each of us do our bit?" The call was an impressive one, and Mr. Freeman's graphic analysis of the plan and its method of application provoked a discussion in which all of the speakers and questioners evinced an anxiety to know just how to proceed and the agencies through which they could work to the best advantage. Resolutions were adopted unanimously pledging the moral support of the members of the league and pleading with the Negroes of the country—men, women and children—to obey the behest of the government in this matter. Food conserva-

tion is patriotism, and it is self protection.

Mr. Freeman's constructive activities in the cause do not end with his special detail to Chattanooga. He will continue to work with a general committee, formed by the Hoover commission, to organize and conduct the food conservation campaign among the 10,000,000 colored citizens of the republic. Mr. Freeman has made an auspicious opening for the cause, and he is to be congratulated upon the intelligent, aggressive and productive service rendered the nation and the race at Chattanooga.

WAR DEPARTMENT MOVES IN RIGHT DIRECTION

Secretary Baker Gives Final Order on Part to be Played by Colored Soldiers of Both National Guard and Draft Army.

STATIONED AT ALL CAMPS

Washington, D. C., Sept. 5.—How color lines have been ignored in the assignment of Negro troops in the National Army is revealed in general orders issued recently, showing the War Department's intention to apportion the Negro troops evenly where possible in all cantonments. The order provides that in every cantonment there shall be one Negro infantry regiment where sufficient personnel is available.

Protests have been made against quartering Negro troops in certain parts of the south, but no modification has been made.

The order is taken as an indication of what the War Department will do in disposing of similar regiments in National Guard camps.

As far as practical, Colored regiments from the draft army will be officered by men who commissions at Des Moines this month. It is the intention of the War Department to send one Colored regiment over the seas with each division or 16 regiments.

WOULD CURB GREAT INFUX OF NEGRO

Columbus, O.—Steps have been taken by both the federal and the state governments to curb the influx of Negro laborers from the south into Ohio—at least unless definite employment is awaiting them and suitable housing provided.

PYTHIANS RECEIVE WELCOME AT POUGHKEEPSIE

Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—Representatives of the grand lodges and courts throughout the United States of the Knights of Pythias, Eastern and Western Hemisphere, attended the fifteenth biennial session of the Supreme Lodge at Poughkeepsie last week. Over three hundred representatives were in attendance Monday, August 27, when Mayor Wilber delivered a patriotic address of welcome in the council chamber of Columbus Institute, where the session was held.

PHILLIP A. PAYTON, NOTED REALTOR, DEAD

New York.—Phillip A. Payton, the pioneer Colored real estate agent of the Harlem district, died at his summer home at Allenhurst, N. J., on Wednesday of last week. He was only ill for a few days.

The deceased was born in Westfield, Mass., 41 years ago. He was graduated from the Westfield High School and completed his education in Virginia. He came to this city about twenty years ago and had been in the real estate business for over fifteen years. He was the first agent to place Colored people in the flats in Harlem. That section now has more than 60,000 Colored people.

It was only a few weeks ago that a deal involving the turning over of fine apartment property worth over a million and a half dollars in 141st and 142nd streets, was engineered by him.

WOMEN EMPLOYED AS "SECTION HANDS"

Pittsburg, Pa.—Henry Snyder, track foreman of the Pennsylvania station yards, has employed three Negro women "section hands." These women have been assigned to the task of keeping the tracks around the big station trainshed clear of little, such as newspapers, banana peels, etc. The men who have been doing this work have been assigned to other duties. The women are equipped with sticks with spikes in the end of them, and so far have done their work efficiently.

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.

A Defense of the Colored Soldier

An Infantry Captain Who Has Served With Colored Troops Writes Suggestive Letter to the Army and Navy Journal on Texans' Antagonistic Attitude.

The following letter has just been published in The Army and Navy Journal:

Why is it that every time the Colored soldiers are involved in a riot it occurs almost without exception in Texas? There must be some underlying reason for each occurrence. The writer was stationed in Texas when the "Brownsville Affair" took place, both before and after. Before the 25th Infantry arrived for duty at Fort Brown, one of the "Old Time Texans," a man who had served as a deputy marshal for nearly thirty years on the border, told me that there would be trouble if the Colored troops were ordered to any place in Texas. He further stated: "I do not object to them myself but there are several hundred or thousands who do not want them and who will get them out of the state if possible." This was the statement from a man who knew Texas and the border as very few white men know it. He was also the best judge of human nature that I have ever seen.

Why do not such affairs happen in other states? Ask the people of Oswego, Syracuse and Watertown, New York, Spokane, Washington, Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, West Point, etc., why they want the Colored troops to return again.

Are the white people so vastly different in the different parts of the United States that actions of the Colored troops are so vastly changed when they move? There must be some reason explaining why it always happens in Texas.

The Colored soldier is as fine a soldier as the United States Army can furnish and the records of the Colored regiments are worthy of as much praise as any military organization in any part in the world. Look at their records in Cuba, the Philippines, Mexico, and even as far back as the Civil War. What regiments can boast of more gallantry, loyalty, faithfulness and real patriotism? Ask any officer who has served with the Colored troops what his opinion of them is and if he wants to get back to them again. I can without hesitation state that they will all give you the same answer and that is "The best ever" and "You bet your life." The writer has served with the 24th Infantry on several different occasions and can unhesitatingly state that there never were more loyal, obedient, hardworking and willing soldiers anywhere in the Army.

One day on the train, the writer overheard several men discussing a "raid and riot" (?) by the 24th Infantry at El Paso, Texas, some months before. He heard such remarks as "They are a worthless bunch;" "They should be cleared out of our Army;" "If I had my way I would have Congress abolish all 'nigger' regiments," and more on the same line. The writer stood it as long as he could and then joined in with something like this: "Pardon me for interrupting your talk, but you must admit the Colored soldiers were at least men when they enlisted and are therefore entitled to some consideration. You have made the statement that the Colored soldiers are no good. Have any of you ever served with or seen them on duty? Do you know that the records of the Colored soldiers are as fine as the white soldiers from the beginning of the Civil War to the present date? These men were patriotic enough to offer their services to their country with all possibility of being killed in action. Did any of you apply for enlistment when your country called for

men?" The writer also informed them that he was an Army officer and had served with the Colored troops and based his statements on actual experience. All but one fellow admitted that they had not understood the Colored troops as they really were. The only way to really know the Colored soldier in his true light is to serve with him.

The writer has nothing against the State of Texas and has many friends there, but feels that there must be something wrong with that section of the country when soldiers wearing the uniform of the Army are handed the line of treatment they get there merely because they happen to be black. Aside from the man, the uniform he wears is entitled to respect. Every Colored man that holds up his right hand and takes the oath to serve his country deserves just treatment as much as a white man. If the civilian wants to see a real soldier he is invited to inspect any of the old-time sergeants of the Colored regiments. He has the same feelings as any white man, the same sense of honor, and the same pride in his country.

You will never find trouble with the Colored soldiers except where some superior white person tries to show his contempt for anything black. The writer is a white man, an Army officer, and one who has served and travelled many times in the South and knows existing local conditions. The class of Colored men that join the Army is vastly different from the class that cause all the racial disturbances throughout the South. The Colored soldiers are men of higher intellect and aspirations. They have to be, to be allowed to enlist. They constitute, in the opinion of the writer, the pick of the Colored young men of this country who have been from financial reasons unable to attend any of the Colored colleges; and many are graduates from the leading schools and colleges in their home states. It cannot be denied that there are some black sheep in every flock, but it is absolutely sure that the Colored soldiers are not all black sheep. There are thousands of instances that could be mentioned showing the absolute loyalty of the Colored troops in peace and war. Colored soldiers have given their lives for their officers and other white men. The instance in the fight of the 10th U. S. Cavalry in Mexico during the last Pershing Expedition. Three enlisted men refused to leave Captain Morey after he had been wounded and when they did go it was because he had ordered them to do so. That is merely one instance out of a great many.

This is not intended to "puff" the Colored soldiers at this time. They do not need it. Their record stands as an example of efficiency and is a model that should receive the praise and not censure of every white citizen of the United States.

I can state with pride that I am a white officer who has served with the Colored soldiers.

Infantry Captain.

NO COLORED SOLDIERS IN SECOND DRAFT

Lincoln, Neb.—Governor Neville, Sept. 10th, received a telegram from Marshal Crowder directing him to instruct all local exemption boards not to send any Colored soldiers in the next 46 per cent of troops selected for the draft army. The supposition is that a training camp for Colored soldiers will be established later. The second group is to leave September 19, according to present schedule.

Square Deal Is Aim for Negro

North Carolina Meeting Takes Up Race Problem—Southern Educators Take Stand to Make Better Conditions.

Louisville, Ky.—V. O. Gilbert, State superintendent of instruction, who has retired from Blue Ridge, N. C., where he attended the Conference on Law and Order, called to consider the race problem in the South, was impressed with the manner in which those who attended the conference came out flat-footed for a square deal for the Negro. The economic factor, he says, was recognized as fundamental in the problem and while noting the success of the many of the more able members of the race, the conference held to the principle of the stronger races helping instead of exploiting the backward to the end that the race can contribute more to the enrichment of their own lives and to the lives of all.

The conference was made up entirely of leading southern educators and was called to make "America safe for democracy, that it may make the world safe. The wholesale emigration of Negroes from the South and the race riots and lynching in the North and West, which speedily followed the advent of the new and unaccustomed element in the several communities, impelling the conference, the members of which agreed that the race problem is a seriously growing one in this country.

In a series of resolutions the conference deprecated lack of certain and speedy justice in the courts; proposed the public commendation of officers who resist mob violence and the cultivation of a public opinion that will make it impossible for a public officer who fails to do his duty to retain his office; recognized home-ownership as the basis of stable, secure citizenship for Negroes, as well as for whites; recommended the establishment of law and order leagues to correct conditions that lead to insanitation, poverty, disorder and crime, recommended the establishment of a speakers bureau for the dissemination of proper knowledge on these subjects and the raising of a fund to defray expenses of the bureau; favored placing literature on the race question in all public libraries and the introduction of text books into the Negro public schools on elementary morality, on lives of eminent Negroes and for the progress of the race.

WOMAN ARRESTED FOR RACE RIOTS IN EAST ST. LOUIS

Belleville, Ill.—The first woman to be arrested in connection with the race riots in East St. Louis was taken into custody Sept. 11th. She was Mrs. Alice Taylor, 18 years old, who was locked up on an indictment charging conspiracy and rioting.

REGIMENT IS ORDERED TO THE PHILIPPINES

San Antonio, Tex.—The Twenty-fourth Negro Infantry, members of which engaged in the race riot in Houston, Texas, will be sent to the Philippines, it was stated here Sept. 5th.

The 160 members of the battalion of the Twenty-fourth who defied their officers and quit Camp Logan to march on Houston, causing a battle in which eighteen died and thirty were wounded, will be kept in this country for court martial. The military trial will be held soon at Fort Bliss.

DEATH OF PROMINENT RACE LEADER

Baltimore, Md.—Hon Harry S. Cummings, for years a national leader of the race, departed this life at his residence, 1318 Druid Hill avenue, September 7. He was a graduate of Lincoln University and the law department of the University of Maryland. For many years he was Attorney General of the Supreme Council of the G. U. O. of O. F., and was serving in the First Branch of City Council of the City of Baltimore, representing the 17th Ward. He has held the latter position for nearly 30 years, and is the oldest member of Council in point of service. He has been not only prominent in local politics, but being a gifted and polished orator has been honored nationally, being selected to make a seconding speech for Colonel Roosevelt when he was nominated for President at Chicago in 1904.

Mr. Cummings was but 51 years of age, and the race loses one of her ablest leaders in his demise.

PEDESTRIAN LEMME STARTS ON WALKING TRIP TO NEW YORK

Sold Monitor and World-Herald on Streets Saturday; Did Not Get Started Until Tuesday; Writes of Trip From Loveland, Iowa.

Rutherford J. Lemme, the only Colored man who has ever undertaken a walking trip of 4,500 miles, has started on his way. He sold 170 copies of The Monitor and 100 copies of the World-Herald on the Omaha streets Saturday. He expects to support himself and earn considerable money by selling papers on his trip from Omaha to San Francisco by the way of New York.

He presents quite a striking figure with his white suit, decorated with the colors of the Allies and the American flag.

A large number were on hand to see him set out Monday at 10 o'clock, but were disappointed by his non-appearance. The following letter, written enroute, will explain the situation:

"Loveland, Ia., Sept. 12, 1917.

"Editor The Monitor:

"I arrived in Council Bluffs, Ia., at 11:20 a. m. yesterday, after leaving Omaha just twenty-four hours late through no fault of my own. Ten minutes before I was to leave there was a piece of blackmail drawn up on me, a true case of extortion, the result of which was that I was arrested and had to prove my innocence, which I proceeded at once to do, and, thank God, was able to do. Well, enough said on that matter.

"Well, after arriving in Council Bluffs I had quite a time in locating the mayor, and was unable to do so until 3 o'clock. I handed him my credentials and he was well pleased with them and signed his name underneath Mayor Dahlman's and sealed it with the city's seal and took a copy of The Monitor.

"I left Council Bluffs at 4 p. m. and slept last night at Honey Creek in a scale house, with a little bag for my bed. I got up at 6 a. m. and walked over to Loveland, six miles distant, before breakfast. Two miles east of here I found a grading camp with thirty-five of our people from Vicksburg, Miss., working. I lectured to them today at noon in their car at dinner. I spoke of loyalty to themselves and their employers and how necessary it is for them to show efficiency, and to report any dissatisfaction before thinking of desertion, like the cowardly soldier does when he gets tired of obeying the commands of Uncle Sam.

"I told them to go first to their employer and state their grievance, and that he would probably give them the consideration wanted. I had dinner with the foreman and his family, and also Chef Robinson and his wife from Vicksburg, Miss.

"I continued on to Missouri Valley and hunted up the mayor and got his signature. He insisted that I must go out to the fair grounds and visit the fair, which I did and had a good time. Now I am on my way to Woodbine. Before I stop tonight I hope to have sixty miles distance between me and Omaha. (To do so, he'll have to go some.—Ed.)

"Lots of people ask me to ride, but I thank them and try to sell them a paper and go on.

"Don't forget to send papers for me to Des Moines.

"Sincerely yours,

"R. J. LEMME."

POSTPONES GRADUATION OF NEGRO ARMY OFFICERS

Washington, D. C.—Because it has deferred mobilization of Negroes in the national army, the War Department recently postponed the graduations at the Negro officers training camp at Fort Des Moines, Ia., one month, until October 15. Instruction will continue until then.

DR. MOTON HAS TALK WITH PRESIDENT WILSON

Washington, D. C.—Dr. R. R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute, had a twenty minutes' conference with President Wilson on Friday of last week, in which the Negro question was discussed. Dr. Moton is said to have told the President that Colored Americans were greatly discouraged over the unfriendly attitude of the present administration. The President is said to have expressed a desire that more cordial relations be established between the races. It is not known what assurances Mr. Wilson gave that he would soon speak out against lynching and other injustices to which the Negro is subjected.