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# THE MONITOR

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A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

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## Segregation Law Declared Invalid

United States Supreme Court Renders Important and Far-Reaching Decision in Louisville Case.

OTHER CITIES ARE AFFECTED

The Court Holds That Passage of Segregation Ordinance Runs Counter to Limitations of the Federal Constitution.

Washington, D. C.—Segregation was given a black eye by the United States Supreme Court Monday, November 5 when the highest tribunal in the land handed down a decision holding that the Louisville segregation ordinance, designed to keep the Negro citizens in restricted districts, was invalid and in direct violation of the Constitution of the United States.

The decision is far-reaching and renders inoperative the obnoxious segregation ordinances passed in Baltimore, St. Louis, Richmond and other cities. As has been contended all along by noted lawyers, an attempt to compel citizens of the United States to live in proscribed districts is unconstitutional.

The decision of the United States Supreme Court is a most important one to the Negroes of the United States, and they have won the greatest legal victory since the adverse ruling of the Supreme Court some years ago in the Grandfather Clause case.

The opinion was rendered by Justice Day, all the Justices of the United States Supreme Court concurring.

The Louisville ordinance, which became effective May 11, 1914, was passed, according to the lawmakers of that city, to "prevent conflict and ill-feeling between the white and colored races in the city of Louisville, and to preserve the public peace and promote the general welfare by making reasonable provisions requiring, as far as practicable, the use of separate blocks for residence, places of abode, and places of assembly by white and colored, respectively."

The colored citizens who fought the measure contended that the ordinance would compel members of the race to live in quarters where they would be thrown into close touch with and subject to contamination by disagreeable and worthless neighbors, and that the measure prevented them from moving into desirable and healthy neighborhoods, confining them to unhealthy and crowded localities.

### Justice Day's Opinion.

Justice Day in his opinion said in part:

"The authority of the state to pass laws in the exercise of the police power, having for their object the promotion of the public health, safety and welfare, is very broad and has been affirmed in numerous and recent decisions of this court. But it is equally well established that the police power, broad as it is, cannot justify the passage of a law or ordinance which runs counter to the limitations of the federal constitution.

"That there exists a serious and difficult problem arising from a feeling of race hostility which the law is powerless to control and to which it must give a measure of consideration, may be freely admitted. But its solution cannot be promoted by depriving citizens of their constitutional rights and privileges. The right which the ordinance annulled was the civil right of a white man to dispose of his property if he saw fit to do so to a person of color and of a colored person to make such disposition to a white person.

"We think this attempt to present the alienation of the property in question to a person of color was not a legitimate exercise of the police power of the state, and is in direct violation of the constitution."

The New York World, under the caption, "Negro Quarters and Negro Rights," comments on the decision as follows:

"In nearly every case where southern and western municipalities have undertaken by ordinance to separate the habitations of whites and blacks there has been a pretense of subjecting both races to restrictions in the matter of owning, occupying or transferring real estate in certain districts. This was done by clever lawyers who wanted it to appear that the regulation was not discriminating; but it was well known that the purpose was to confine the Negro to certain quarters and to deny him the right to ac-

quire or use a residence elsewhere.

"It must have been easy, therefore, for the supreme court of the United States, in deciding one of these cases, to hold unanimously that, as the police power had been exercised in this instance in violation of property rights guaranteed by the constitution to whites as well as blacks, it was in conflict with the fourteenth amendment, which speaks of life, liberty and property.

"Yet the same court has decided over and over again that states and municipalities may separate whites from blacks in railroad stations and trains, street cars, schools and cemeteries, and the same fourteenth amendment is just as insistent upon 'the equal protection of the laws' as it is upon any property right whatsoever."

Moorfield Storey, the eminent Boston lawyer, who is national president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, took an active part in fighting the segregation ordinances, making the principal arguments against the constitutionality of the obnoxious measure.

## MONITOR CORRESPONDENT INVADES OKLAHOMA

Tulsa, Okla., Nov. 14, 1917.  
To the Readers of The Monitor:

Found Coffeyville an interesting and lively little border town. Met any number of interesting and progressive business and professional men of the race who are going to do big things in the near future. Watch the advertising columns of The Monitor and you will be able to get in on the ground floor. Coffeyville could furnish a number of interesting episodes, but they are too lengthy to be enumerated just now.

Parsons was my next point, and I was surprised to find in this large and business community only one race professional man, Dr. Bouser, and he is slated to leave soon, having been commissioned in the medical reserve corps. You will find the race men engaged in all lines of business and being well supported by this most progressive and prosperous community.

Independence was the next point visited and it impressed me as offering much to the race in the way of business opportunities, but they seem slow to take advantage of it. Independence is growing rapidly and in the last ten years has doubled in size.

Saturday morning found me disembarking at Nowata, Okla., my first stop in that state. This city has a very progressive and learned gentleman in the person of Prof. J. Oscar Spencer, who is at the head of the Nowata High school for our race.

Sunday and Monday were spent at Claremore, the Carlsbad of Oklahoma. Met our popular tonsorial artist, Mr. Jeter Thompson.

Tuesday found me rushing into Tulsa to catch up with my mail and then write to you.

Until next week I remain correspondingly yours,

FRED C. WILLIAMS,  
Traveling Representative of The Monitor.

## CHANGE OF STANDARDS FROM WAR, SAYS WATTLE

"This war is not without its blessings and the compensations are going to be many," said Food Administrator Wattle in a forceful address to the teachers of Nebraska during their annual convention in Omaha last week.

"A change of standards is one of the big compensations, and through the elimination of waste and the establishment of habits of economy by education a nation-wide reform will be begun, which will be lasting in nature.

"The sanctity of our religion, the security of our homes, the purity and justice of our laws, our prosperity, our honor and our lives are at stake. It is time for patriots to attack, a time for action and a time for every one who loves our institutions to defend them against all enemies."

## FOUND GUILTY OF SECOND DEGREE MURDER

Wichita, Kan.—After a few hours of debating the jury brought in a verdict of guilty of murder in the second degree November 1 against Hugh Harris, charged with the murder of Mrs. Lula Coleman, colored. His attorneys built a defense upon the fact that Mrs. Coleman insulted Harris' wife and that Harris was temporarily insane on July 20, when the shooting occurred. Mrs. Coleman died three days later. Sentence will be given later by Judge Bird of the district court.

## A Patriotic Message Which All Americans Should Read

House of Bishops of Episcopal Church, in Special Session, Issue Notable Pastoral Letter on Present Crisis to Be Read to Congregations of that Faith.

THE House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church held a special session in Chicago in October. The pastoral letter issued by that influential body and ordered to be read in all congregations of that faith is such a notable document and contains such a definite, wholesome, much-needed message for all Americans at this time, irrespective of religious beliefs, that we take the liberty of publishing it in full for Monitor readers:

Brethren of the Clergy and Laity:

Our nation is at war in behalf of justice, liberty, and humanity. When these are in danger, the Church's station is at the front. When the nation has with solemn deliberation entered war, voices which have spoken of neutrality, non-resistance, or pacifism are silenced. We hate war, and shrink from its horrors, but we who enjoy the privileges of civil liberty won by the blood of our fathers, must when they are endangered, defend them at the cost of our blood. In the overthrow of injustice and inhumanity is the only hope of permanent peace. Loyalty demands of every citizen unconditional consecration to the service of the nation.

We thank God that from their homes and parish churches have gone the boys and men of the Church, eager to do their duty wherever the nation sends them. We watch them with pride as they are mustered into the army and navy. As the nation is preparing to enter the awful conflict, we your Bishops remind you of certain definite duties and opportunities.

1. A nation fighting to keep the world safe for democracy must in character and action be true to democracy. Racial strife, class antagonism, impurity, and intemperance, wreck civil liberty. Before we can conquer injustice and inhumanity in others, we must first overcome them in ourselves. Our guilt in these respects we must acknowledge with shame. We expect of our soldiers and sailors concentration of thought and action, self-discipline, courage and serenity under stress.

We can demand no less of ourselves. In humility and sincerity we must live by the principles for which we fight. National character gives thrust and force to the national army. The war with all its suffering and loss may prove a blessing if it rouses us from the indifference to religion, to spiritual concerns, and moral issues which threaten our very life.

At the source and foundation of the character of this people are Christ and His Church. If the force of arms is necessary to put down wilful disregard of the rights and decencies of human life, it is only by the persistent teaching of Christian principles that these can be preserved for ourselves or for the world. We need plain teaching of the Christian religion with its insistence on the claims of God and the claims of our fellowmen, and on God's present gifts of grace by His spirit through His Church and sacraments to enable us to live up to the example and precepts of His incarnate Son, our Lord.

2. The President has well said that this is a war not of armies but of peoples. Every man, woman and child has a place and is enlisted in the cause. The army and navy at the front, we close beside and behind them; though they be in France and we in America, we are one with them, bound together in a common cause. Hence, everything that we are and that we do will unite in their support. Every man on the fighting line, in hospital, or on lonely guard duty, must feel behind and with him the heart, sympathy and action of the people. To express this, we must not only work for the Red Cross, and give generously in money and comfort; we must also be ready to pay heavy taxes cheerfully and buy Liberty bonds. It is upon the people's substance that the armies move.

Failures in efficiency there are and will be. Let us withhold criticism until we are sure it is justified. Rivalry for position or fame has no right place in war or in organized beneficence. Force depends on united action.

3. Next to the character and consecration of the people the fighting power of a nation is in the possession of the staples of life, in food and clothing. Upon the economy, simple habits and self-restraint of Christian people the nation has a right to call with confidence. Every housekeeper and child, every man, whether traveling or at home, has a duty to save food and clothing, money and everything, as to provide for our allies and for ourselves. Covetousness and the seeking of selfish gain in the country's time of need should be frowned upon as no less disgraceful than cowardice or rebellion.

4. The war department is working out a great and we believe a beneficent warfare. Military discipline used to cut the armies off as much as possible from home and natural associations. Men in abnormal conditions become abnormal. A soldier is still a man. Confident that the normal man is the best fighter, the government is doing everything in its power consistent with military efficiency to keep the soldiers and sailors in touch with society and home, to encourage right associations with the women and girls in the neighborhood of the camps, and to build up the men physically and morally through recreation and social and religious influences.

While we trust the general high character and awakened moral sense of our soldiers, every officer of the Church and every citizen should see to it that his town is clean enough for the soldiers to roam in and the officials and people should do their part to protect the girls of the neighborhood as well as the men and boys who have come from distant homes. Grateful for the action of the President and Congress in restricting the manufacture and sale of liquor, we urge all to support the authorities in enforcing the law, and to set a personal example of abstinence.

5. The War Commission of the Church has been created to marshal the spiritual forces of the Church for efficient action. We want the Church to follow our boys and men with sympathetic interest, and to offer them its Sacraments and pastoral care. Re-enforcing the commissioned chaplains, voluntary chaplains of our communion, welcomed by the authorities, will keep close to the camps and naval stations both in this country and in France, and give guidance and spiritual leadership to the men.

Strong laymen also, members of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and others engaged for that special work by the commission, will as secretaries of the Y. M. C. A. keep in touch with Churchmen. Chaplains will be equipped, the names of Churchmen in the national service will be listed, literature will be sent, and duplication of work and of appeals for help will be avoided by co-

(Continued on second page)

## 6,000 MEN AND 96 OFFICERS AT CAMP MEADE

Camp Meade, Md., Nov. 2.—More than 6,000 Colored men including the Maryland quota, those from Tennessee, the District of Columbia and eastern Pennsylvania, are now here to receive training for army service. They are quartered near Admiral Station and seem happy.

As each group of men arrived at camp they were given a cold shower bath, assigned to cots in the barracks and given the following articles for their mess kits: One pan to eat out of, a knife, fork and spoon.

The men have to undergo the regular medical examination of the army. It will be some time before all receive uniforms, and broomsticks and varied sorts of snits will be familiar scenes at drills.

Every effort will be made to look after the moral welfare of the men.

Ninety-six Colored officers are at the camp. Lieutenant Clyde G. Brannan of Fremont, Neb., is here.

## ELECTED TO LEGISLATURE

E. A. Johnson First Colored Man to Serve in New York.

New York, Nov. 8.—For the first time in the history of New York state there will be a Colored member of the legislature, Edward A. Johnson having been elected thereto from the Nineteenth assembly district Tuesday. Johnson ran in the Harlem district, where there are thousands of Colored voters, defeating his democratic rival by 338 votes.

James C. Thomas, jr., who ran for the Board of Aldermen from the Twenty-sixth district, was defeated. Both of the men were enthusiastically backed by the Negro Civic League, of which John M. Royall is president.

Mr. Johnson is a lawyer and formerly resided in Raleigh, N. C. He served as a member of the city council in Raleigh. He also served as dean of the law school at Shaw university. Mr. Johnson is the author of a school history of the Negro race.

## NEBRASKA RESPONDS TO LIBERTY LOAN APPEAL

Nebraska's response to the Liberty loan was a magnificent tribute to the patriotism of the state. Unofficial figures show that about \$25,000,000 was subscribed, with thirty-one counties buying their quota or going over the minimum allotment.

Eight counties responded with less than half their quota, but the official returns may raise them a trifle.

Omaha subscribed about \$10,750,000 and Lancaster county \$3,500,000, making about \$21,000,000 for the state. Omaha's figures showed \$11,390,200 subscribed through the Omaha banks, but this amount included the subscriptions of the Union Pacific and Burlington railroads, two-thirds of which goes to the general state credit.

## XMAS PACKAGES FOR NEBRASKA'S COLORED BOYS

The women of the Crispus Attucks Auxiliary are planning a house to house canvass among our people during the coming week, to raise funds to provide Christmas boxes for Nebraska's Colored drafted men at Camp Funston and Omaha's five commissioned officers. About \$100 will be needed for this work and the ladies will endeavor to reach every Negro in the city. Let every one respond to this call. Help to make this Christmas merry for every mother's son whom we saw so proudly march away a few weeks ago. Any amount will be gratefully received. Any one so desiring may send subscriptions to Mrs. Isaac Bailey, 2816 Pratt street.

## DR. CABANISS APPOINTED HEAD OF Y. M. C. A. WORK AT CAMP MEADE

Washington, D. C., Oct. 28.—Dr. George D. Cabaniss has been appointed head of the Y. M. C. A. work at Camp Meade, Admiral, Md. He is eminently fitted for this most important work and has the respect and love of the thousands of men with whom he has worked in the years of his Christian activity and his duties as a physician.

## COOPER BACK TO THE COUNCIL

Philadelphia, Nov. 8.—Richard A. Cooper was re-elected to the common council from the Seventh ward Tuesday. He has served several terms.

This is our country and we will all do our full duty to preserve, defend and protect it.

## Colored Contingent Livens Things Up

They Are Showing More Pep and Enthusiasm Than Any Others Thus Far, and Keep Soldiers Laughing.

BY DAVID E. DEXTER,  
Staff Correspondent Kansas City Post.

Camp Funston, Kan., Oct. 31.—Big Bert Williams and McIntyre and Heath have been pulling a laugh occasionally with their footlight capers, but theirs is "funeral stuff" compared to the stunts put on by the Negroes of the drafted army now in this camp. There are hundreds of Bert Williamses here, with a big show going on all the time. And it's all free.

Even the glum-faced pessimists who predicted evil with the coming of the Negroes are admitting that thus far the Negroes have shown more pep and enthusiasm than any contingent that has arrived. There have been more hearty, wholesome laughs in camp since yesterday morning than there have been for a week, and the Negroes aren't doing all the laughing, either.

Each arriving train brings in a few of the Negroes, cheering, singing, playing instruments that range from a bass horn to a banjo. Yesterday a special train arrived with 580 of them from Missouri points.

### Big Negro Leads Contingent.

There were big, fat Negroes; little skinny ones; short, fat ones; dandies with silk socks and red, white and blue caps, and the work-a-day kind with patches on their trousers. One big black from Macon, Mo., fully 6 feet 6 inches tall, wore a bright red uniform of a minstrel show of bygone days and proudly led his quota up to the receiving station. Bowing and scraping he handed the papers to Lieutenant Walter L. Schmitz, receiving officer.

Many of them brought razors, carried in sheathes at their hips, and declared they "didn't need no other weapon."

A little fat Negro from southern Missouri had a big, fat 'possum, which will be his company's mascot—until Thanksgiving day. Then he'll be dinner.

Musical Instruments, But No Clothes. Some of the Negroes didn't even have coats to keep off the cold wind, but clutched tightly to a cornet, a guitar or a banjo.

Colonel E. M. Bigelow, who has been taking charge of the Negro troops as they arrive, is leaving it to the medical officers to say whether or not the Negroes shall take cold baths immediately on their arrival. Negroes are very susceptible to pneumonia and as there is no warm water now it is probable the cold shower will be postponed for a while. The men are being issued clothing as far as it is possible and although not every one is being given a uniform, all are being given good, warm clothing and overcoats. Plenty of bed clothing also is being issued.

The Negroes will be assigned to the Ninety-second Division, to be commanded by Brigadier General C. C. Ballou. They are being quartered in barracks formerly occupied by depot brigade troops that were sent to other training camps to fill out National Guard organizations.

### Musical Midway Noisy.

"Musical Midway," the place has been designated unofficially by the men of the Eighty-ninth Division, because of the noise that bursts forth there each night. Already a dozen orchestras have been organized; there are a score of "porter quartets," to say nothing of banjoists and soloists who seek to outdo each other. There'd be about 100 bands in the Ninety-second Division if the men of that unit had their say.

Although organization is scarcely under way, the Negroes are learning the "one-two-three-four" stuff in great style. They keep time beautifully; they're strong on rhythm, but they are just a bit inclined to put in a fancy dance step now and then.

When the commander of one company asked if there were any men who had had experience in waiting tables all but nine stepped forward.

The biting cold weather experienced here the last few days is only putting vim and vigor into the men of the Eighty-ninth Division, who can now take an eight-mile hike in the morning, come back and put an hour in at steady drilling without the least effort. They are a ruddy, healthy looking aggregation of men, a different sort than came down here a few weeks ago.