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# THE MONITOR

Lifting  
Lift, Too!

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

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## Houston Makes Good Impression

Monitor Representative Finds Race Progressive and Business Conditions Favorable in Texas Metropolis; Interviews Editor of Chronicle.

Houston, Tex., Jan. 12. To the Readers of The Monitor: I salute you! Having been in Houston for a week and at Camp Logan quite often I have become rather military, you see.

Houston, the pride of southern Texas, a city of 125,000, 40,000 of which is claimed by the race, is situated fifty miles north of Galveston on Buffalo bayou, at the head of deep water navigation. Ships from all over the world, landing at her docks, make her a very important commercial and shipping point, also a large railway center.

### Many Home Owners.

The race is doing wonders here. Sixty per cent or more are buying their homes; they are well employed, earning a good wage, some few holding good positions, and a large number in business of all kinds. They are located in all parts of the city. San Felipe street, the main thoroughfare of the Fourth ward, where most of the race live, I would liken unto our North Twenty-fourth street.

Dowling and McKinney streets, where you will find more in business, in the select residential district, reminds me of west Farnam and Dewey avenue. The Fifth ward, where they are also very thickly settled, reminds one of our own South Side.

### Home of American Mutual.

Houston is also the home of the American Mutual Benefit association, which is an institution that the race is proud of, proving it by their support. A visit to their offices will make any race man feel proud to meet the large number of departmental heads, with their numerous assistants, busily engaged in checking accounts and operating typewriters, makes one wonder if this is real. Yes, it is, and all of this is happening 'way down south in Texas. But it proves the race's ability to adapt itself to any condition and take advantage of the least opportunity offered.

### Meets J. Vance Lewis.

Here I met J. Vance Lewis, lawyer, lecturer and traveler, and I guess most of you readers are acquainted with him. He was glad to meet The Monitor and its representative, and with true Southern hospitality welcomed us to both his office and his home.

### Herbert's Hospitality.

Mr. Phil Herbert, proprietor of the Herbert Pharmacy, made every provision for our pleasure and convenience during my stay, I being his guest, with rooms provided at the Oriental hotel. I made my headquarters in his store, where I met most of the business and professional men, also many prominent citizens, for every one when downtown pays Phil a visit, even the soldiers from Camp Logan, especially the line officers, who can be found around the stove in Phil's back room every evening, because it is cold here, Houston having been visited by a snowstorm, the first in twenty-three years.

### Did I visit the cantonment?

Why, certainly, and I am going to tell you all about it.

### Camp Logan.

Camp Logan, as it is called, is located about five miles northwest of the city and is easily accessible for vehicles over several well paved boulevards and a single line of street railway.

The Eighth Illinois, as it was formerly known, has grown in importance, being now known as the 370th Infantry, U. S. A., in command of Colonel Franklin A. Denison, Lieutenant Colonel Johnson, Major White of the medical corps, Major Stokes of the First battalion, Major Hunt of the Second battalion, Major Duncan of the Third battalion, Captain Gwynn of the machine gun corps, assisted by First Lieutenant Lyburn Jackson, a former member of the Chicago police department and well known in Omaha; also Second Lieutenants Phillips and Browning. By the way, Phillips is a graduate civil engineer and expects to be commissioned in the engineer corps when organized.

"The Old Eighth," as we will still call them, came here on October 23, excepting G company, which came August 1 and did guard and police duty during that most unfortunate incident of August 23. The Eighth Illinois has an enviable reputation, being known as the best disciplined and drilled regiment at the

camp, attached to the Thirty-third Infantry, under command of Major George Bell, jr. They are housed in large tents, furnished with wood floors and half walls, small camp stoves and cots for six men.

The base hospital, commissaries and mess halls are located in large, well built wooden structures.

### Interviews Editor Chronicle.

After visiting the camp, where I conversed with any number of the officers, I decided to call on Mr. Kepple, managing editor of the Chronicle, one of Houston's big dailies; secured an introduction and an appointment through the Rev. William H. Green, a prominent worker of the race. I came away from Mr. Kepple's office with a better impression of Houston, Tex., and the South.

Among other things said he called my attention to the fact that had not Houston possessed some good-thinking, clean, law-abiding citizens of both races the incident of August 23 might not have been confined to the angered and mutinous members of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, U. S. A., and the local police, a fact which we will all recognize.

Next week I promise you some more interesting facts concerning the race in Houston and at Camp Logan. Until then I am correspondingly yours,

FRED C. WILLIAMS,  
Traveling Representative of  
The Monitor.

## U. S. Food Administration

Kansas Farmers' Association Urges Co-operation in Food Conservation.

Topeka, Kan.—The Sunflower State Agricultural association, composed of the colored farmers of Kansas, held a meeting recently in the Topeka Industrial and Educational Institute here, and by unanimous vote declared support to the United States food administration, urging full co-operation of the Kansas farmers and other members of the race to the government in its gigantic task of fighting for worldwide freedom.

President William R. Carter of the association told the farmers that it was their task to help win the war. "We are a part of this great country," said President Carter, "and it is up to us to respond to every call made by our President through any department of the government. All the world insists that food must play an important and essential part.

"Since it is food, then food we are going to have and the farmers of Kansas intend to see that it is furnished. These young men are going into the fields—those who do not go into the trenches—and become producers as well as consumers. They will produce more than they consume, for they realize that there are our sons and brothers in the trenches and on the battlefields who must be fed."

Poultry, farm and industrial displays attracted the attention of many who attended the conference. Women showed by demonstrations how they could help win the war and how easy it is to observe the meatless and wheatless days and still remain happy.

"Poultry raising must be given special attention this spring," declared J. G. Grove, the 'Negro Potato King' from Edwardsville, Kan., "because poultry and eggs must to a considerable degree take the place of meat on meatless days. There is a great demand for poultry at present, and it will be still greater in the future."

### MOB BURNS MAN FOR MURDER OF GIRL

Hazelhurst, Miss., Jan. 16.—A mob took Sam Edwards, a Negro, accused of killing 17-year-old Vera Willis, from jail here early today and burned him to death.

Oil was poured on the Negro's clothing by the mob, said to include the father of the girl.

A battering ram was used to break in the jail door and Edwards is said to have confessed. The mutilated body of Vera Willis was found in the woods near here.

### COLORED MECHANICS QUIT WHEN SIGN GOES UP

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Twenty-five colored mechanics, who have been employed here in the plant of the Pittsburgh Model Engine company, walked out after giving thirty-six hours' notice when an objectionable "Jim Crow" sign, recently placed in the plant, was not removed.

## THE NEGROES' GREAT DAY

An Instructive, Outspoken and Strikingly Significant and Suggestive Editorial, Recently Published in the Evening News of San Jose, California.

ALL San Jose citizens are fully aware of the significance of New Year's day, but many of them probably failed to realize that the day marks an anniversary of one of the greatest events in the history of the country—the freeing of the Negroes by the going into effect of Abraham Lincoln's famous emancipation proclamation fifty-years ago.

We are prone to get in the habit either of ignoring such anniversaries, or, if we do remember them, of simply smugly remembering that a great event occurred so many years ago, and of feeling that the event was sufficient to itself, and achieved in entirety the task that was to be performed. But in truth, there was never a great deed or event yet which did not leave an aftermath of more deeds and duties to be done. The Declaration of Independence left us the task of establishing a genuine democracy, and of really making all men "free and equal." The adoption of woman suffrage leaves upon us the great task of emancipating woman economically and mentally, as well as politically. And just so, the emancipation proclamation left with us the great task of freeing the Negro socially and economically, as well as politically.

The white race has not by any means fully discharged itself of its duty to the Negro race. The issuance of the emancipation proclamation merely started the great task of making up to the Negro race for all the wrongs that the white race has committed.

We went over to Africa and ran down the Negroes as if they were wild animals. We put them in chains and crammed them into the noisome holds of slave ships, where they died by the hundreds. We brought them over to this country and put them to work in the blazing sun of the Southern states. When it was our whim to do so, we beat them. Our rapacious young men treated the girls of their race as the legitimate prey of desire. When the Negroes attempted to run away we dragged them back and treated them with barbarous cruelty.

Then came the civil war, and we made them free politically—theoretically free. As a matter of fact, technical tricks of law exclude the vast majority of the Negroes in the Southern states from voting. We have never yet made a strong enough effort to educate and civilize the Negro, and when he acts like a brute and attacks our women, we too act like brutes and burn him at the stake. We forget the countless Negro women who have been attacked by white men. We forget that the only possible chance of elevating the Negro race is to take the path of education and systematically to train the Negroes in the ways of civilization and modern democratic culture.

It is of these crimes committed by us in the past against the Negro, and it is of these duties which we now owe to the Negro, that we should think when we are considering the fifty-fifth anniversary of the going into effect of the emancipation proclamation. We should not congratulate ourselves on having permitted one of our great men to do a great thing more than half a century ago, but should rather highly resolve that we ourselves will do great things in the present and future to carry on the work started by the issuance of that now world-famous proclamation.

### COLORED LABORERS ASK FOR RAISE

Beaumont, Tex., Jan. 10.—The Colored Shipyard Laborers' union, at a meeting Friday night, voted to ask employers for an increase in wages. A minimum of 40 cents an hour for an eight-hour day, time and a half for overtime and double time for Sundays and holidays will be sought. Similar action was taken by the white laborers' union Thursday night.

There are approximately 1,200 common laborers employed in the six local shipbuilding plants.

### COLUMBUS, OHIO, TO HAVE COLORED Y. M. C. A.

Columbus, O., Jan. 7.—The contract for the Spring street branch Y. M. C. A. new building, which is to be erected at the corner of Fifth and Spring streets, this city, for the colored youths of the city, was let Saturday, January 5, to Charles W. Schneider & Son of Columbus. The building is to be completed September 1, and while the contractor is a white man the entire work is to be done by colored artisans. This building will cost, including equipment and site, when completed, \$115,000.

### NO DARKNESS HERE

Private Ray Barbee and Miss Savannah Day were married at the residence of Rev. F. L. Lights Tuesday night.—News Item, Houston Observer. It was most fitting that Ray and Miss Day should be united by the Rev. Mr. Lights. No room for darkness here.

Father Williams: Allow the operator to suggest that the coming ray-beam should be named Daylight.—Bob Allen.

Ed Waters, the other linotype man, suggests that if it be a son it should be named Sunlight.

### OFFICERS' WIVES ORGANIZE

Spouses of Negro Officers at Camp Form Association; Will Co-operate in Benefit Affairs for the Soldiers.

Des Moines, Ia.—Fifteen wives of the Negro officers who are stationed at Camp Dodge met recently at the residence of Mrs. S. L. Birt and organized themselves into a club to be known as the Officers' Wives' Association of the 366th Infantry, National Army.

The following were elected officers: Mrs. G. S. Norman of Atlanta, Ga., president; Mrs. M. E. Everett of Dallas, Tex., vice president; Mrs. F. S. Blocker of Atlanta, Ga., secretary; Mrs. C. W. Allen of Iowa Falls, Ia., assistant secretary; Mrs. W. H. Clark of Huntsville, Ala., treasurer, and Mrs. J. W. Bundrant of Minneapolis, Minn., musical director.

The purpose of the organization is to bring together all the wives of Negro officers now stationed at Camp Dodge, or who in the future may go there, for active co-operation in matters of benefit to the officers and soldiers at the camp and for helpful influence in the community.

### LOUISVILLE ASKING FOR POLICEMEN

Louisville, Ky.—Leading colored citizens are making a hard fight to get the new republican administration to appoint colored men on the police force. This city has never had a colored policeman and politicians of both parties have dodged the issue for years.

### RECOMMENDED FOR COMMISSIONS

Houston, Tex.—Forty-seven non-commissioned officers of the 370th Infantry have been recommended for commissions and have had their physical examinations.

### SCARCITY OF LABOR BECOMES ALARMING

Head of Steel Corporation Would Have Government Import Orientals.

Chicago, Jan. 5.—A plea to solve the labor problem of the United States by the importation of Orientals was made here tonight in an address by Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the board of the United States Steel corporation, at a dinner given by the Commercial club.

"To the extent needed, the United States should immediately, under proper conditions and reasonable restrictions, draw from the islands of the sea and from Oriental countries enough men, including soldiers and sailors, to meet every emergency," he said. "There would be no difficulty in obtaining in a short period large numbers of strong, healthy, intelligent, loyal men for civil or even military duty, and the number could be increased from time to time as required."

"All who are acquainted with the facts know that we need more men and that we can get them if we are so disposed. If legislation is required congress should act without delay."

### Garner Balks at "Social Equality"

Protests Reaching Washington of Efforts to Compel Intermingling of Whites and Blacks.

NEGROES AND WHITES SAID TO BE MIXED AT HOSPITALS

Texas Congressman Promises to Raise Rumpus Unless Conditions Are Changed.

By W. S. Gard, Correspondent, Houston Post Bureau, 401 Kellogg Building.

Washington, Jan. 11, 1918.

Protest against seeming efforts to establish social equality between white and black soldiers in the National Army are reaching Washington. Strong appeal from camps in Texas have reached Congressman Garner and he is arranging to take the matter up with the war department.

Notice that Negro soldiers are to enter the officers' training camps at San Antonio has brought further protest against the fever to properly segregate the race in southern army camps.

Congressman Garner said Friday though it has been reported to him from reliable sources that Negroes and white soldiers are mixed indiscriminately in the same hospital wards in Texas camps and that convalescent soldiers eat at the hospital tables with Negro soldiers. Garner said: "I have been in complete sympathy with all that has been done toward raising an army and with the administration's management of difficult problems, but I can see no reason for attempting to set up and force social equality between the white and black races in the army training camps. I am going to take the matter up with the war department, and unless something is done speedily to relieve this situation I am going to raise a rumpus and I think the people in Texas know what that word means."

### DAN DESDUNES KNOWS A GOOD THING

Dan Desdunes, the popular leader of the First Regimental Band, knows good things besides music. He is buying a Thrift Stamp every day and says he is going to keep it up. This means that Dan is saving 25 cents a day. He exchanges every sixteen Thrift Stamps with the additional 12 cents necessary for a War Savings Stamp which pays 4 1/2 per cent interest.

Everybody who follows Dan Desdunes' example will not only help lick the Kaiser, but will save a neat little sum of money.

Buy War Savings Stamps.

Pay your debts.



## Charged With Clever Swindle

Federal Officers Arrest J. A. Fields, Who Is Alleged to Have Duped Working Women Out of Several Hundred Dollars.

In the arrest Wednesday of J. A. Fields, a colored man, who lives at 4428 South Twenty-fourth street, this city, the federal officers allege that they have unearthed one of the cleverest swindling games ever reported to the postoffice authorities in these parts. It is estimated that Fields cleaned up about \$2,000 in the last thirty days by his scheme.

"Fields & Dooley" was the name under which Fields chose to operate. William Dooley is the stepfather of Fields and lives with him.

### Offered Women Light Work.

Fields inserted advertisements in many newspapers, including the Chicago Daily News and Detroit Free Press.

The advertisements asked for women to work two hours an evening and promised salaries of from \$15 to \$18 per week.

Answers came by the hundreds. Mail carriers were amazed at the number of letters which went to the little shack on the South Side and Postoffice Inspector Coble got to working on the case.

Fields' first letter to those answering his advertisement advised the prospective victims that all that was required at first was that they should secure a "certificate of compensation," for which a fee of \$1 was necessary, besides 37 cents postage.

### Believe 5,000 Bit.

It went on to say that "it is one of Nebraska's most rigid laws that you must have this certificate before we can take you into our employ. It may seem insignificant, but if it is disregarded the government might make it rather nasty for us." So the women sent the \$1.37. It is the opinion of postal authorities that at least 5,000 of them answered the advertisement.

One of the further baits said to have been held out by Fields was the promise of sick benefits without cost.

"If you are taken sick while in our employ," he wrote, "we will pay you \$7 per week until you are well, and will hold your job for you in the meantime."

### To Sell Basketball Game.

The "job," by the way, was stated to be the selling of the "Varsity Basketball Game." No one but Fields knew what this game was, for when he was arrested he didn't have even a model or sample of it. But he said he could construct one in a few minutes from cardboard.

He wrote his victims that they should sell these games at \$1 each, collecting 25 cents in advance, and that when the games were delivered and paid for he would send them 25 cents more, making their commission 50 per cent on the sales.

### Fake References.

He offered as references what he stated were "two Omaha business firms." One of these was Alexander & Payne, 1834 North Twenty-fifth street; the other was Powell & Charles, 5635 South Thirty-third street.

Neither of these firms exists. There is no such number as 1834 North Twenty-fifth street. The house at 5635 South Thirty-third street is occupied by a lone Negro named Wiggins, who had been instructed by Fields to turn over to the latter any mail he might receive in the Fields & Dooley printed envelopes.

Fields went further than this to protect his "references," say the postal authorities. He called at the postoffice here, presented himself as connected with Alexander & Payne, and directed that any mail received for that firm at the North Twenty-fifth street address be forwarded to his home.

### MAYOR VAN LEAR STOPS "THE BIRTH OF A NATION"

Minneapolis, Minn.—Thomas Van Lear, mayor of this city, has ordered the manager of a Lake street theater not to show the film, "The Birth of a Nation," because it may create a feeling against the Negro citizen or incite a riot. The mayor is taking a step in the right direction. The supreme court of Minnesota has decided it "a vicious film" and if it is shown we expect Mr. Van Lear to revoke the license. His power to do so has been sustained by the supreme court of this state.—The Twin City Star.