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THE MONITOR

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

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A Message of Encouragement

"One's Own Freedom Is Safest When That of Others is Equally Safe," Says Secretary of War Baker, in Letter to Chicago Branch of National Security League.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of War Newton D. Baker has written the following letter to be read at a mass meeting to be held in the Coliseum, Chicago, Ill., on February 12 (Lincoln's birthday), under the auspices of the National Security League, with the co-operation of representative Colored citizens of Chicago:

War Department, Washington, D. C., Feb. 6. National Security League, Chicago Branch; Mr. H. H. Merrick, President; Mr. Edgar A. Bancroft, Chairman Executive Committee.

On Behalf of the Colored People: Rev. Dr. A. J. Carey, Dr. George C. Hall, Rev. W. D. Cook, Rev. N. J. McCracken, Major R. R. Jackson, Mr. Morris Lewis.

Gentlemen—I am in receipt of your telegram inviting me to be present and to deliver the principal address at a mass meeting to be held at the Coliseum in Chicago on the afternoon of February 12, 1918, under the auspices of the Chicago branch of the National Security League in connection with the representatives and leaders of the patriotic Colored citizens of your community.

As stated to you in the telegraphic reply which Mr. Emmet J. Scott, my special assistant, forwarded to you at my instance and request, I sincerely wish it were possible for me to be present on the occasion referred to, for I would then have a splendid opportunity to tell of the fine spirit with which the great test of the quality of America is being met by the Colored people of our country. But the pressure of my official duties here compels me to forego this pleasure.

I wish, however, in view of my enforced absence to send, especially to the Colored Americans of your community and elsewhere, just a few words of encouragement and confidence.

In our reserve officers' training camp, recently held at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, representative young Colored men presented themselves for training. They devoted themselves with zeal to the task and they are now imparting to the men under their charge the military lessons which they themselves learned. But more than this, they are teaching to their fellow men the principles for which America is in the war—those vital principles which are the foundation of the hopes of free people and the keystone of national security.

After all, what is this thing we call "democracy" and about which we hear so much nowadays? Surely it is no catch-phrase or abstraction. It is demonstrating too much vitality for that. It is no social distinction or privilege of the few, for were it that it could not win the hearts of peoples and make them willing to die for its establishment. But it is, it seems to me, a hope as wide as the human race, involving men everywhere—a hope which permits each of us to look forward to a time when not only we but others will have our respective rights, founded in the generosity of nature and protected by a system of justice which will adjust its apparent conflicts. Under such a hope nations will do justice to nations, and men to men. Nor can I believe that this democracy will be attained as a finished and complete thing, but rather with increased education and knowledge its application will enlarge and new meanings be discovered in it. It is not the philosophy of disorder, but of progressive order; not the doctrine of restraint by force, but rather of self-restraint imposed by men who realize that one's own freedom is safest when that of others is equally safe.

In a most encouraging degree it is being regarded by Colored civilians throughout the country as a privilege and as a duty to give liberally of their substance, of their time, of their talents, of their energy, of their influence and in every way possible to contribute toward the comfort and success of our fighting units and those of our allies across the seas.

The Colored men who were subject to draft are to be commended upon their promptness and eagerness in registering their names for service in the national army, and likewise mention is made of the relatively low percentage of exemption claims filed by them. Those in the service of their

country, I am sure, will prove faithful and efficient and will uphold the traditions of their race.

It is, indeed, most fitting that you should hold your patriotic meeting on the day set apart in honor of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, whose name is synonymous with freedom and true democracy.

Hoping that your meeting and all of your worthy efforts may be crowned with success, I am cordially yours,
(Signed) NEWTON D. BAKER,
Secretary of War.

QUALIFIES AS AVIATION MACHINIST

Dallas, Tex., Feb. 15.—Oscar B. Polk has successfully passed the required examination and has been assigned to the United States naval station at Key West, Fla., as an aviation machinist. He took his trial flight under the tutelage of Pilot G. I. White, the son of Stanford White of the notorious Thaw-White case.

Will Employ Colored Labor

The Federal Department of Labor Makes Preparation to Import Citizens from the Virgin Islands and Porto Rico to Supply Demand for Workmen.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—The most important statement recently issued in regard to the situation of black labor in the United States is that given out which has put a final quietus to the rumor that 500,000 Chinese laborers were to be brought here for farm and railroad work.

Arrangements for the early transportation of 50,000 common laborers to the United States from Porto Rico are being made by the employment service of the Department of Labor. As soon as tonnage is available 60,000 others will be brought from Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands, sufficient, the department announced Monday, to take care of any shortage in the domestic supply of railroad and agricultural workers.

Director General McAdoo has asked the employment service to assist in supplying the railroads with labor for maintenance and shop work. The first men imported will be sent to the south and southwest for railroad work with the understanding that they will be released for farm service during the press of the agricultural season.

F. C. Roberts, special agent of the department, will leave for Porto Rico next week to arrange transportation, registration of the men having been completed some time ago.

Louis F. Post, assistant secretary of labor, asserted today that all requirements for common labor can be met by proper distribution of the domestic supply and by the use of American citizens from Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands. He condemned agitation for importation of Chinese and Mexicans as "unnecessary and prejudicial."

MILLENIUM DRAWETH NIGH

Bastrop, Tex., Feb. 8.—There were five convictions in the district court the past week, all for burglary, all white men. Not a Negro was convicted at this term of court in Bastrop county.

NOBLE M. JOHNSON STARS NEW SERIAL

Famous Colored Movie Star Has Heavy Part in "The Bullseye," the Greatest Serial Photoplay Yet Produced.

Universal City, Cal., Feb. 7.—For the first time in the history of the film industry a race actor is to be featured in the greatest serial photoplay yet produced, "The Bullseye," produced by the Universal Film company, featuring the noted Eddie Polo.

Noble M. Johnson, the only recognized race actor among the leading companies, has been chosen from among thousands at Universal City as the leading heavy in support to the furious, fighting Eddie Polo. Mr. Johnson's recognition as an actor of ability has only been won through hard, persistent efforts, and his rise from an "extra" with the Lubin company, three years ago, to the leading male support of a famous star in the largest film company in the world is a record that not only he but the race may well be proud of. Mr. Johnson has won his reputation as a race man, being known as such and recognized as such in spite of existing circumstances.

Independence Heights Is a Colored Community

Has the Commission Form of Government; Was Set Apart as a Municipality Three Years Ago; Has a Population of Seven Hundred.

BY FRED C. WILLIAMS.

It is not generally known that Texas boasts a municipality which is governed exclusively by members of the Colored race. The city of Independence Heights, with a population of about 700, has this proud distinction.

It was set apart as a self-governing municipality in January, 1915, and entered upon its first fiscal year February 1, 1915. It was launched as an experiment to prove the Colored citizen's ability to administer the affairs of government and so far has justified the movement.

Has Commission Form.

Independence Heights has the commission form of government, its elective officers being a mayor and two commissioners, who constitute the

mayor and commissioners, respectively, assisted by the heads of the specific departments.

Forum of Commerce.

Larger cities may have their Commercial clubs and Chambers of Commerce, but Independence Heights shows its progressiveness by having its Forum of Commerce, the object of which is to promote business enterprises after the pattern and by the methods employed by Chambers of Commerce.

Business Enterprises.

And Independence Heights has its business enterprises. Among its merchants are G. A. Allen, A. D. Sterritt, William Cummings and S. A. Brantley, who enjoy a liberal patronage. Here is also located the Beacon Light

this city. The rest is distributed among the population.

The Negro population of the city sees the wisdom of becoming land owners and they prefer to acquire their property in a manner in which no publicity is given to it. They prefer to have their identity unknown, principally for the reason that since the mortgage lending institutions are organized in attitude against this class of property for mortgage accommodation, and since the mortgages are a necessity, only the courageous members of the race dare acquire property. This may seem a broad statement, but it is nevertheless a fact.

There is nowhere in the city of New York, where Colored owners of real estate, or white owners of Colored tenements, seeking mortgage accommodations can receive the same consideration that owners of other properties receive, and wherever such mortgages are secured the owners are compelled to accept a smaller mortgage, pay a higher rate of interest, a bigger bonus—in short, terms that are unequitable.

Food Expert Goes to Washington

Government to Make Experiments with Sweet Potato Products Worked Out by Tuskegee Teacher.

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, Feb. 8.—Prof. George W. Carver, director of the Tuskegee experiment station, has just returned from Washington, D. C., where he went at the invitation of the Department of Agriculture to demonstrate the sweet potato products which he has been experimenting with successfully during the past year.

Prof. Carver reports that his meeting in Washington was most encouraging and states that it is the purpose of the government to make future experiments with the sweet potato to ascertain how some of the eighty-eight products which he has worked out may be used in connection with the nation's war program of food economy.

Concerning the dried sweet potato, one of the products which Prof. Carver has been experimenting with, the Rural New Yorker says:

"Prof. George W. Carver of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama recently sent us samples of dried sweet potatoes, the first we have ever seen. They came in excellent condition, and our people pronounced them quite equal to the fresh product when cooked. It was only necessary to soak them for a short time and then cook in the ordinary way. These potatoes came in such excellent condition, and were so near to the fresh product, that it seems as if this preparation of the sweets ought to become a great industry. It is possible to produce more food from an acre of sweet potatoes than can be produced from any other crop growing in this country, and the very nature of the sweet is such that unless stored carefully it is short-lived. Some one in the south will find it possible to develop a great business in drying and selling sweet potatoes."

WEST POINT FAR BEHIND TUSKEGEE

New York, Feb. 8.—Charles Zueblin of Boston, an expert on municipal problems, addressing the Women's City club at the Hotel Vanderbilt, accused the government of imitating Prussia rather than attempting to initiate measures that would win the war. He criticized Annapolis and West Point as being "100 years behind Tuskegee," and said that the best engineers graduated from West Point are not permitted to stray from the archaic methods of the early nineteenth century.

ORGANIZE HOME DEFENSE LEAGUE

Washington, D. C., Feb. 8.—A number of Colored men here have organized a company of the Home Defense League, to be known as the Treasury Rifle Guards. It is composed of employees in the treasury department under the secretary of the treasury.

BUY ANOTHER WAR SAVINGS STAMP

Either Tips or Good Salary

Dining Car Waiter Says Average Monthly Income From Patrons \$75.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 8.—The philosophy of tipping was expounded to an interested audience at the railway wage hearing today by Robert L. Mays, a dining car waiter, who spoke for unorganized Negro employees. He said they received \$25 a month wages for sixteen to eighteen hours' daily work. When asked if they would consent to the elimination of tips and substitution of a higher salary, he said he believed both waiters and porters would be glad to forego tips if their pay was increased to \$100 and up monthly.

"Then your tips average \$75 a month?" asked Mr. McChord.

"Yes, on a good run. We serve possibly thirty persons at meals every day, the tips averaging 10 cents each, or about \$90 a month. Some of the men on the big eastern lines, between here and New York, for instance, would kick on a salary of \$100 and no tips, but the men in the west, on the long desert runs, where they have to buy their own food and get back home the best way they can, would be glad of the change."

"And what difference does the tip make in the kind of service received?"

"Absolutely none. We are not merely required to give good service, but our superiors see that we do give it, for any dissatisfaction means loss of patronage by the road."

"I suggest a very small addition to each check—about 12 cents would care for the increase in wages. A slight advance in berth rates would pay the porters a living wage."

HAVE ANSWERED FINAL CALL

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—General Pershing in his last report of deaths occurring in his forces "over there" included the names of Rufus Graham, Colon, Ga.; Thomas Murray, Charleston, S. C.; Aleck Cummings, Sanderville, Ga.; George H. Jones, Newport News, Va., and William A. Jones, Houston, Tex., all of the stevedore regiment, and Abraham Clausen, civilian worker of the transport workers' battalion.

SECOND OFFICERS' TRAINING CAMP OPENED IN PORTO RICO

San Juan, P. R., Feb. 8.—A second officers' training camp was opened here today with 100 Colored candidates. A cantonment contract has been awarded calling for the completion of a camp by May 1, when it is expected that drafted men will be called for training.

MME. WALKER MADE DIRECTOR

New York, Feb. 15.—Mme. C. J. Walker and Frank H. Gilbert, among the wealthiest members of their race in this city, have joined the leading Colored clergy as directors of the Watt Gerry Holding company.

ARMY WANTS COLORED MECHANICS

The government wants Colored men to enlist in the technical positions of the Colored division of the army. The ordinance department is going to organize a mobile repair shop, or a machine shop on wheels, consisting of a large number of powerful motor trucks. The list of men required includes experts to act as superintendents, first-class machinists and all-around auto mechanics, men on small tools for saddlery, leather and canvas repair, machinist apprentices and helpers, cooks, stenographers, typists and clerks. Men who desire to come into the service for the special purpose of joining the mobile shop of the Ninety-second Division (Colored) should write at once to Major P. S. Gage, division ordinance officer, Ninety-second Division, Camp Funston, Kansas.

OFFICERS TO BE TRAINED IN TEXAS

San Antonio, Tex.—A training camp for Colored officers has been opened at Camp Stanley, Leon Springs, Texas. Fifty men will be trained there, thirty-four from the Twenty-fourth Infantry and sixteen from the Tenth Cavalry. The war department seems determined to keep Colored troops in the South, though it means a hardship for the Colored patriots.