

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, JUNE 15, 1918

Vol. III. No. 5 (Whole No. 154)

Red Cross Says No Discrimination

Serving White and Colored Men Exactly Alike in War Zone and in Cantonments in This Country—Several Thousand Sweaters to Negro Draftees in Ten Days During Cold Spell.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Many inquiries are coming from the colored people of every section of the country as to what the American Red Cross society is doing to relieve the needs of the Negro soldiers in the camps and cantonments of this country and what species of aid and comfort is being given to the colored warriors who are battling on the fields of France.

The subjoined letter from Mr. Joseph R. Hamlen, of the national headquarters of the American Red Cross society, in answer to an inquiry sent out from the office of Emmett J. Scott, special assistant to the Secretary of War, describes somewhat in detail the character of the work the organization is doing, and declares, among other things of vital importance, that the services of the Red Cross are being "rendered to white and colored officers and enlisted men alike, and without distinction." The letter of Mr. Hamlen follows:

AMERICAN RED CROSS
National Headquarters,
Washington, D. C., June 5, 1918.
Mr. Emmett J. Scott,
Special Assistant, War Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Scott: I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 29th, in which you ask for information as to what the Red Cross has already done in the war zone or at the cantonments of this country for the Negro soldiers.

I am glad to be given this opportunity to tell you of our work in this respect. The Red Cross is rendering the same service to colored men that it is to white troops. No distinction whatever is being made because of the color of enlisted men. Sweaters and other knitted goods and comforts have been distributed to white and colored alike. We are rendering the same service to the families of white and colored alike. Emergency supplies are furnished at the request of colored officers, and in the hospitals, our men who do communication work, write letters at the request of enlisted men, without distinction because of color.

Nearly 10,000 Sweaters to Colored Draftees in Ten Days.

I remember a specific instance of service rendered to a large number of colored draftees last fall. They arrived at one of the large army camps during a period of intensely cold weather. The general in command of the division appealed to us and we were able to furnish him with 2,500 sweaters within a few hours and a total of 10,000 within ten days. Practically all of the first 2,500 of these sweaters went to colored troops, and a great majority of the ten thousand went to them.

I hope you will state with as much emphasis as possible that our constant efforts in behalf of the soldiers and sailors on duty in the armed service of the United States, both in this country and in Europe, are rendered to white and colored officers and enlisted men alike, without distinction.

Very cordially yours,
(Signed) JOSEPH R. HAMLIN,
Assistant to the Vice Chairman.

The above communication will doubtless be read with the deepest interest by the colored men and women of this country, who have been and are in perfect accord with the aims of the Red Cross society, but who had not been informed through any reliable source as to what the organization has actually been doing to supply the wants of the 150,000 colored soldiers in the army establishment. Thousands of these gallant men are under fire on the battle fields of France, and many more of our brave and patriotic colored Americans are in camp in our own land, preparing to join their brethren in the deadly conflict "over there."

As to the Use of Colored Red Cross Nurses.

The situation with regard to the use of colored Red Cross nurses is a matter which also is now receiving the attention of the War Department. The Secretary of War, Mr. Scott, advises, will soon announce through the office of the surgeon-general, the decision with reference to the utilization of the many competent women of

the race who have so cheerfully registered their willingness to aid in the winning of the war by serving as nurses in the military hospitals at home and abroad.

METHODISTS TO RAISE A MILLION DOLLARS

Columbus, O.—A broader program of social service for the Methodist Episcopal churches of the country will be discussed here at a meeting of bishops and district superintendents of the denomination on June 18, 19 and 20.

The meeting will be in furtherance of the plan of the connection to raise \$80,000,000 for its missionary and social uplift work. The project calls for work on the broadest lines and will seek to have established in every small and large city, as well as in rural communities, a church where various uplift activities will center.

Colored churches are included in the big program and they are expected to raise at least \$1,000,000 of the sum needed.

Rev. Dr. W. A. C. Hughes, of Washington, one of the field secretaries of the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension, has spoken in various sections of the country for the project and succeeded in arousing widespread interest. He says that the success of the campaign means a great future for colored churches in every community.

CONTRIBUTE OVER \$500 TO THE RED CROSS

Montgomery Co., Va.—In the recent Red Cross drive the work among colored people was organized under the direction of E. A. Long, principal of the Christiansburg Industrial Institute and the sum of \$539 was contributed by the colored people of the county.

Famous Artist Completes Work

William Edouard Scott, Famous Painter, to Paint Black Troops in Action in France.

Ft. Wayne, Ind.—William Edouard Scott, the famous colored artist, who has just completed some very artistic painting in our court house here, has been selected to go to France and make some oil paintings of colored troops in action. Scott is a graduate of the Manual Training High school of Indianapolis and of the Art Institute of Chicago.

He took the four years' course at high school in three years, and in the Art Institute won the school scholarship for two years and about \$5,000 in cash prizes. In 1909 he went to Europe and studied with the great John Paul Laureni. He also studied in the Beaux arts, Julian academy and at Celrossi academy, and made a number of sketching trips to England, Belgium and Spain. He has exhibited in the Salon of Paris, Royal Academy, London, and in the Salon at La Toquet and in the United States. Scott's Salon picture of 1912, "La Poirvre Vesn," was bought from the Salon by the government of Argentine republic for \$600, and his Royal Academy picture was bought by Dr. Victor Kune, of Indianapolis, for \$900. The city of Indianapolis also bought one of his French pictures for the permanent collection of the Haron Art Institute.

For the past four years Scott has taken up mural painting and portraiture, and has the distinction of being the only colored mural painter in the world, and second only to H. O. Tanner as a painter of story-telling pictures. He has mural paintings in three wards of the city hospital, Indianapolis, where he took for his subject, "The Life of Christ." He has murals also in three of the schools in Chicago, Evanston and Highland Park, Ill.

About the last of July Scott will sail for France, where, in the interest of one of the big eastern magazines, he will try to paint the "black troops" in action at the front trenches. Much has been said about the American troops in Europe, but little has been said about the colored troops of America so Scott will do his best to portray and give to the public a bit of the truth about his people in action.

Scott is thirty-four years old and he feels that God has given him the duty and the means to bring before the American people in dramatic color, that which is so lightly touched upon in our press, namely, the loyalty, patriotism and ability of the "Black American."

ROSCOE SIMMONS GIVEN OVATION

Talented Speaker Delivers Great Address in Municipal Auditorium to the Largest Audience of Colored People Ever Assembled in City.

MAKES A VERY
FAVORABLE IMPRESSION

Representative Citizens Occupy Platform—Father Williams Presides—Rabbi Cohn Offers Invocation—Hon. John L. Kennedy Introduces Speaker—Community Chorus and Desdunes Band Furnish Music.

Roscoe Conkling Simmons visited Omaha for the first time Monday and in the well known words of Caesar he might say "Veni, vidi, vici"—I came, I saw, I conquered, for he certainly won the hearts of those who met and heard him, not only by his gifted eloquence, but by his gracious, unaffected and winning personality.

Mr. Simmons arrived from Chicago over the Northwestern at 8 a. m. and was met by a deputation of our citizens, including representatives of the Knights of Pythias, of which he is a grand officer, and a deputation from the Crispus Attucks chapter of the Red Cross. Among those who were present were the Rev. G. G. Logan, Dr. L. E. Britt, D. G. Russell, J. N. Thomas, W. H. Ransom, Rev. John Albert Williams, the Misses Logan and Mesdames Bailey, Johnson, Jewell and Dillard, representing the Red Cross auxiliary. The distinguished visitor was driven to the beautiful home of Allen Jones, Twenty-fifth and Ohio streets, whose guest he was during his brief stay in the city. He left for St. Louis Monday night after the address.

In the evening Mr. Simmons spoke at the Auditorium under the auspices of the Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, before an audience of nearly 1,600 people, chiefly colored, with a few white people present—all too few for their own good—for he has a message for the American people, and those who were not present as a prominent white gentleman said, lost a rare privilege. It was undoubtedly the largest audience of colored people which was ever assembled in the city.

The First Regimental Band Uniform Rank, K. of P., Dan Desdunes, leader, gave one of their delightful concerts from 7:30 until 8:30 p. m. The splendid community chorus of seventy-five voices under the direction of Mrs. Florentine F. Pinkston, with Mrs. Jessie Moss at the piano, sang patriotic airs, "A Hymn of Peace," and the Negro spiritual, "Steal Away to Jesus." It was the community chorus' first appearance and not only did they sing well, but they presented a fine appearance. In the audience seats were reserved for some of the fraternal orders, who were present in uniform, and the Crispus Attucks Auxiliary of the Red Cross was present in uniform.

On the platform were several representative citizens of both races, among whom may be named the Hon. John L. Kennedy, Rabbi Frederick Cohn, Victor Rosewater, James C. Dahlgren, Frank Howell, Robert Smith, T. P. Reynolds, Miss Mabel Gudmundsen, Dr. J. H. Hutten, Dr. L. E. Britt, Sergeant Isaac Bailey, J. Noah Thomas, W. H. Ransom, M. F. Singleton, Amos P. Scroggs, W. H. Robinson, the Rev. W. F. Botts, the Rev. W. H. Wilkinson, the Rev. J. A. Broadnax and George Wells Parker.

The Rev. John Albert Williams was chairman of the meeting. The invocation was offered by Rabi Frederick Cohn of Temple Israel, who prayed for the outpouring of the spirit of brotherhood throughout the world and the speedy incoming of a just and righteous peace.

The community chorus then sang "A Hymn of Peace." The chairman then briefly stated the object of the meeting saying that the people of Omaha were indebted to the Rev. Dr. Logan for bringing Colonel Simmons to Omaha, the greatest city in the country. He said that Mayor Smith was expected to be present to give a brief word of welcome, but that he had not come, and had probably been again called to Chicago. His word of welcome would not, however, be missed inasmuch as the vast audience spoke a welcome more eloquent than words.

Mr. George Wells Parker had been selected to introduce the Hon. John L. Kennedy, who in turn introduced the speaker of the evening. Mr.

Parker's introductory words were brief, well chosen and most gracious.

The Hon. John L. Kennedy called attention to the fact that this war is no one man's war, but the people's war and made the prediction that it would be won and that colored citizens and colored soldiers would help win it and that colored troops would be among those who would carry the Stars and Stripes into Berlin. He said "I have not had the privilege of hearing Roscoe Conkling Simmons speak, but I have heard that he has a silver tongue and I am sure that in addressing us tonight he will sustain his reputation. It is my pleasure and privilege to introduce to you Roscoe Conkling Simmons."

Mr. Kennedy was frequently applauded and when Mr. Simmons was introduced the audience gave him an ovation.

Mr. Simmons said in part:

"I am exceedingly sorry that the mayor is not here to hear this speech. I have heard that Mr. James C. Dahlgren, your former mayor, was always on hand and I am pleased to see that he is still here. (Great applause.) I am also informed that Mr. Roosevelt was here a few days ago. Is that true? I desire to thank Mr. Kennedy for his laudatory words. I do not know that I deserve them; but I do know that I desire them. I want to thank the band for its presence and beautiful music; this splendid chorus for its songs; and to thank all who are present. I am exceedingly glad that I have come to your city. I am pleased that there are representative white citizens present here tonight. For we are all in trouble together now and we need to help each other. They are welcome. They are always welcome. As you pass some of these beautiful churches you will notice a most attractive sign, fresh looking with golden letters saying "Everybody Welcome"—but we know perfectly well that you don't mean us and so we pass right by. But when you read a sign over one of our churches: "Everybody Welcome," we mean exactly what we say. So come in.

"Do you know the Negro people are the only people that can sing "The Star Spangled Banner" right? There is a high note there that only we can reach. God has given us the gift of song. Way back in eternity when motion stood still and God would give music to the world, the morning stars sang together and the Negro caught the rhythm of that first glorious song and has been singing through the ages.

"I am proud of the fact that I am an American Negro. God had his purpose in placing us here and we have only to be true to Him and measure up to the full standard of manhood to have all the wrongs and limitations against which we justly complain removed.

"The world is fighting to relieve humanity from chains; and America cannot free the world without freeing me. They must remove the chains from off my hands and the rope from around my neck.

"Be proud of the fact that you belong to a race whose future is still before it.

"I am told by the whites at times that I ought to go back to Africa. Why? We were both brought to these shores about the same time. They landed on the shores of New England and I on the shores of Virginia. True, they came as first class passengers and I came in the steerage, but thank God, it was the same ocean that brought us here. And here we are both to stay and work out our God-given destiny side by side. I have done my part and will continue to do my part. I have no treason to atone for; but a record to defend. All I ask is that you unloose me and I will show the American white man what the American Negro is and can and will do. God put us here side by side. It was His doing. He knows full well His purpose. 'What God hath joined together let no man put asunder.'

"The white American may have his now, but what's his is mine; only I've not got all mine yet. I'll get it some day. Your message my people is patience. Patience, persistence, perseverance will bring us into our own.

"We were asked when America entered the war, 'What will the Negro do?' Gentlemen of America, he will do just what you will let him do. All

you will let him do; no more, no less. He is eager for the noblest, best and highest service and will render that service to the full measure that you will permit. He can only do what you will let him do. Will you let him do his best?

"He has shown you what he will do. You have heard about the boys of Colonel Hayward's regiment, the old 15th New York, across the ocean. You know the story how two of them on guard duty attacked by 25 Huns, even after they fell wounded and bleeding, routed the 25. Well, now, if two wounded Negro American soldiers could defeat 25 Huns, don't you see that it would take only 200,000 Negroes to capture the whole German Empire. (Laughter and Applause.)

"This is our country and it is our duty to serve to the limit. I am a native born American. We are not a race of hyphenates. Our country is in trouble now. Serious trouble and she needs us. Before this war is over she will need the service of every American Negro; and she cannot and will not prove ungrateful to us who stand by her in her hour of need. This is God's war and this country had to go into it.

"We are sometimes called by the white Americans imitators. Granted. Why, of course, we are. We have passed every other people on the ladder, but you, and we will not be satisfied until we at least stand on the same rung of the ladder. Who else are we going to imitate, but you, the fellow who is ahead of us?

"I love America, because it has been to me, despite limitations a land of opportunity. I read the promise of the future by the light of the past.

"Fifty years ago today I was nothing; had nothing; but what am I today? I have acquired billions in property; I stand erect as a man. I can read and write. Yes I can take the pen and write upon the scroll of fame beside the name of Washington and Lincoln, the names of Frederick Douglass, Paul Lawrence Dunbar and Booker T. Washington, illustrious American citizens. I know only one flag and that is the Stars and Stripes. I belong to a people that has no spies, no anarchists, no I. W. W.'s. When Woodrow Wilson goes to sleep tonight Negroes stand guard; when he awakes in the morning Negroes are still on guard. Wherever he may go about his household he is guarded and protected by Negroes. He knows full well that the American Negro can be trusted and that he will be as true to him tonight as he was last night.

"Here is the flag of our country; the only flag we know. The flag we can and must and will defend; and it in turn must and will protect and defend us. Let us not forget that it was this flag that put a marriage certificate in my home that my children might know their father's name. It is a flag worth fighting for. I am a Christian and believe that American white men must and will eventually give me every God-given right to which as a man I am equally with him entitled. With patience we shall wait and with fidelity we shall serve, until the Stars and Stripes, Old Glory, shall float above Berlin and peace and justice shall prevail, for

"It takes a long tall brown skin man with khaki on

"To make the kaiser lay his weapons down."

Look After Welfare of Migrants

Committee of Milwaukee Citizens Returns After a Trip South Studying Conditions.

Milwaukee, Wis.—The Rev. J. S. Wods, warden of the Booker T. Washington Social and Industrial center of Milwaukee, and Secretary J. W. Minor, accompanied by the Rev. L. W. Owens, Aurora, Ill., have just returned from an extensive trip through the east and south, studying the labor conditions among the colored people, who are migrating from the south. The gradual stream of migration from the central southern states will find its way into Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and even farther west. Hundreds of these people will be scattered throughout the northern states.

The Booker T. Washington center has undertaken to meet the new condition by establishing a bureau of investigation and general information, a free employment bureau, for both men and women, and a home for working women.

New President For Howard University

Trustees Unanimously Elect Dr. J. Stanley Durkee, Ph. D., a New England Educator of the First Rank—Sound on the Race Question—New Era of Prosperity Promised Under His Constructive Administration.

War Service Technical School a Brilliant Success—Regular Term of Howard Opens October 2—Bronze Bust of Gen. Howard Loaned Great Institution Founded by Him Half Century Ago.

(Special to The Monitor.)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Rev. J. Stanley Durkee, Ph. D., for many years pastor of the famous South Congregational church, of Campello, Brockton, Mass., one of New England's most influential religious organizations, was unanimously chosen as president of Howard University at a meeting of the board of trustees held on Tuesday of last week. The selection was made by a rising vote, and only the one name was offered for consideration. The merits and superior availability of Dr. Durkee were most eloquently presented by Dr. J. E. Moorland, International Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., and secretary of the special committee delegated by the board to suggest a suitable man for the headship of the University.

Gracious Tribute to the Retiring President, Dr. Newman.

Dr. Stephen Morrell Newman, after a faithful service of six years, retires voluntarily from the presidency to engage in literary work. He indicated by the tender of his resignation nearly two years ago his desire to take up a less onerous task because of his advancing age. Dr. Newman was tendered a unanimous vote of thanks by the trustees by his efficient and consecrated labors in behalf of the institution and fitting resolutions were likewise adopted. Recently, as a testimonial of their appreciation and good will, the faculty and officers presented to Dr. Newman a beautiful silver loving cup.

The New President Sound on Race Questions.

The new president, Dr. Durkee, is an educator of ripe experience, a firm and able administrator and a man of impressive personality. He is an honor graduate of historic Bates College, Lewiston, Maine, and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy was conferred upon him by the University of Boston. He is about 50 years of age, and is in the prime of a vigorous manhood, enthusiastic in temperament, and blessed with an optimistic outlook on life. More than all else, perhaps, from the viewpoint of the people he is called to serve at this time, he is absolutely sound upon all phases of the "race problem," as it is found in America. He is a native of Nova Scotia, and is a product of that sturdy stock of broad-shouldered lovers of liberty and fair play, who preached and practiced the doctrine that every member of the human family is entitled to the highest possible development in education and to the enjoyment of every form of civic opportunity.

Howard Faces a Future Bright With Promise.

Through his precepts and writings, in addition to many concrete demonstrations of genuine helpfulness, Dr. Durkee has given evidence of the deepest sympathy with the ambitions, aspirations and struggles of the colored people. Coming from modest beginning himself, he is prepared to grapple with the problems of poverty and to point with accuracy to the pathway that makes for progress. His term begins July 1, and he enters upon his new work with a zeal and enthusiasm that promises an era of unexampled prosperity for the race's foremost institution for the higher education of colored American youth.

Technical Training School a Phenomenal Success.

The success of the school for the technical training of young colored men for war service is succeeding beyond the most sanguine expectations of those who inaugurated the system. Three hundred men of draft age, some volunteers and some conscripted, are being given instruction in radio (or wireless telegraphy), bench wood-working and electricity. The military supervision is in the hands of Capt. Jerome Lavigne, commanding officer of the technical training detachment, who is assisted by five line officers

(Continued on Fifth Page.)