

Mrs. Mary B. Talbert Delights Audience

The Talented and Efficient President of the National Association of Colored Women Delivers Instructive Address Before Large Audience—Outlines History of Organization—Tells of Personal Observations of Southern Conditions—Patriotic Work of Women—Delegation From Omaha Woman's Club Present.

KIND WORDS FOR THE MONITOR

OMAHA is honored this week by the presence of Mrs. Mary B. Talbert, president of the National Association of Colored women, the only national organization of our people, which has been called into consultation by the government for effective co-operation in war work. The organization represents a membership mounting up into the thousands and necessarily wields a tremendous influence.

Mrs. Talbert, who is en route to Denver to attend the national convention of the Association, spoke Wednesday night under the auspices of the Greater Omaha Improvement Club, a woman's organization, to a capacity house in the auditorium of St. John's A. M. E. church. She is a pleasing, instructive and forceful speaker with a most attractive personality and she captivated and delighted her large and appreciative audience from the outset.

Unfortunately, the program was somewhat late in starting, entirely too late, and those who had come early were somewhat restive because of the delay, but as soon as Mrs. Talbert began speaking all thought of the lateness of the hour vanished.

The program began with "The Star Spangled Banner," led by Mrs. Martha Taylor-Smith and St. John's choir. The Rev. John Albert Williams, rector of St. Philip's Episcopal church, of-

ferred a brief invocation. This was followed by a selection by the choir and a well chosen address of welcome on behalf of the Improvement Club by Mrs. John A. Smith, who presided. Mr. J. Noah Thomas gave a cornet solo, which demanded an encore. Dr. L. E. Britt gave a most befitting address of welcome on behalf of the business and professional men of Omaha. Miss Mary Pegg read a brief and thoughtful paper; Mrs. Luther Dillard sang "Ah, I have Sighed to Rest Me," by Verdi, in which she was accompanied by Miss Ozelia Dunning and Mr. Maceo Williams, violinist. Mrs. Alphonso Wilson, president of the club, in her own inimitable and gracious way then introduced the distinguished guest and speaker.

Mrs. Talbert expressed her pleasure at being in Omaha and renewing old acquaintances. She had been kept in touch with Omaha through The Monitor, which she said was eagerly looked for week by week and eagerly read in Buffalo and was also read by the city treasurer and other influential people of that city. Its sane and fearless editorials were most favorably received and commented upon, and the reliability of its news service won approbation, as there could not be found the slightest hint of "yellow journalism" within its columns. "I wonder," she said, "if you people here in Omaha realize what a wonderful agency and influence in social uplift you have in that splendid publication, The Monitor? We of the east do, and I hope you do."

Passing then directly to her subject, Mrs. Talbert said in part:

"It will give me great pleasure to tell you of the organization, past achievements and future plans of the National Association of Colored Women. It came into being twenty-three years ago. Necessity called it into being. A man by the name of Jack published an article in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat making an outrageous charge against Negro women.

This led Mrs. Josephine P. Ruffin of Boston to invite 100 women to a conference in Boston. Forty-two responded. They refuted this libel by a scientific investigation of records and found that the morality of colored women, all things considered, was not only equal to but in many cases superior to that of their more protected sisters. But these forty-two women realized that the colored women should organize to help in every way possible their own people. If the white women found it necessary to organize helpful agencies we realized that we needed the same. If chasms and pitfalls were to be avoided by our young people it was necessary for motherhood to have the knowledge to guide them.

"We adopted as our motto, 'Lifting as we climb.' We decided that there should be no countenancing of the double standard of morality. We decided to teach our boys, as well as our girls, that 'whatsoever a man soweth the same shall be also reaped.'"

"We found our people divided into three classes—the aristocrat, who had had superior advantages and training and who had drawn a circle around themselves; a middle class, not vicious but well-meaning and happy-go-lucky, who had also drawn a circle around themselves; and then, alas, the largest class, the lower class, ignorant, vicious and superstitious. We decided that those above should join hands in an effort to lift those below. And this is the work the association has been largely instrumental in accomplishing.

"If we do not help our own people how can we expect others to do so?"

Mrs. Talbert spoke of the loyalty of our race to the government in the present world war, which is being fought for democracy. She said the outcome of the war would be the dethroning of America's sham democracy and the enthroning of true democracy, which she aptly defined as a country "where just laws are enforced and where color does not count."

She called attention to the fact that "the black soldiers who are fighting for democracy in Europe, when they return will demand democracy in America and will not tamely submit to the customary treatment meted out to the black American by the brutal, bulldozing 'cracker' element of the South."

She told of her recent investigations of penal conditions in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, and how the women have been organized to better these conditions. She brought tears to the eyes of her audience when she told them of the murder of Mary Turner at Valdosta, Ga., on Sunday, May 19, because she said they had no business to lynch her husband, and how the Huns of Georgia for that remark hanged Mary Turner, who was in a delicate condition and while hanging from the gibbet gave birth to a child, a fact which the Associated Press suppressed. It was that act that caused the organized protest of the colored women of Georgia, published in last week's issue of The Monitor, to President Wilson, which elicited the only word yet spoken by him against lynching of Negroes. The National Association of Colored Women intends to start a movement to depopulate Georgia of Negroes by bringing them to northern and western states unless these outrages cease.

Mrs. Talbert urged the women of each community to take up their own peculiar problem and work it out faithfully, perseveringly and courageously. She plead for the manifestation of sympathy and helpfulness to the fallen. To welcome and encourage the strangers who are coming from the Southland.

The president of the Omaha Woman's club and a delegation were present, who thanked Mrs. Talbert for her splendid address and said that they wished that the same address might be given before their club.

TOWN IS SHOT TO PIECES

Minnesota Village Loses Band and Baseball Team to the Marine Corps.

St. Paul, Minn.—Isle, Minn., was a village of 75 population, situated on the Soo line near Mille Lacs Lake, Minnesota.

Not a small part of its population was of young men, so it had a baseball team and a brass band, just as any other really ambitious village should have.

The past tense is used advisedly. Isle, Minn., still is a village, situated just where it always has been. But in no other way can the past and present be compared. It is without its baseball team, its brass band—and its young men.

For the baseball team and the brass band—20 of 'em, have enlisted in the Marine corps.

"The town's simply shot t' pieces!" declared an elderly resident, one of the few left.

U-Boat Victim to Get Even. Pittsburgh, Pa.—Frank Wilson, four times a victim of German submarines while employed in the British merchant marine, left here for Canada to enlist in the English navy to "get even" with the enemy.

BIG CAMPAIGN TO ELECT LOYAL WAR CONGRESS

National Security League Announces Nation-Wide Non-Partisan Participation in Fall Elections.

Active participation by it in the Congressional campaigns, which will shortly commence throughout the country, has been announced by the National Security League. The League declares that unusual measures must be taken to insure the election this fall of a Congress which will stand militantly behind the carrying of the war to a decisive victory.

The entire force of the League's 281 branches and its membership of over 100,000 patriotic American citizens will be thrown into this campaign. The creation of support of the movement outside the League will also be undertaken by means of an active propaganda among the leading citizens of every state in the Union, irrespective of party.

Elihu Root Takes Lead.

Elihu Root, who is Honorary President of the National Security League, at the recent Annual Meeting of the organization laid particular emphasis on the necessity of non-partisan support of the Government in its efforts for the aggressive prosecution of the war and the consequent importance of this year's Congressional elections. The matter was then taken up by the National Executive Committee of the League and the campaign decided upon at a meeting attended by Alton B. Parker, who is Honorary Vice President of the Security League; James W. Gerard, former United States Ambassador to Germany, one of the League's Vice Presidents; S. Stanwood Menken, President of the League; Lawrence F. Abbott of the Outlook, and other prominent men.

The League for National Unity and other great national organizations have already endorsed the movement. The leading newspapers of the country are also expressing their approval. The following are a few of the favorable editorial comments which are appearing in all parts of the country:

Editorial Approval.

Williamsport (Pa.) Sun: "The National Security League's effort will have the hearty support of all patriotic voters."

Springfield (Mass.) Union: "This idea is sound and eminently worthy of serious attention."

Des Moines (Ia.) Tribune: "Here in Iowa we may well emulate this example which will lead to victory for Americanism regardless of party designation."

Saginaw (Mich.) News: "This campaign will have a strong and growing following all over the country."

Helena (Mont.) Independent: "Americans upon whom party lines rest lightly and many who are strong for their party will find reasons for commendation of the plan of the National Security League."

25,000 Letters.

The League's campaign will be conducted by a committee headed by Charles D. Orth, a prominent New York commission merchant. This committee, as a preliminary step, has laid the matter before 25,000 leading citizens in all parts of the country and of all political beliefs in the following letter:

"The conduct of the war and, in fact, the very future of America are dependent not only upon the election of a War Congress that will enact necessary laws, but upon the presence in the National Legislature of men of vision, ability and broad experience, who are the best qualified of our citizenship to correctly solve the great internal and international questions which will come before the next Congress.

"Grave Duty."

"The National Security League, pursuant to unanimous action of its Executive Committee, has taken upon itself the grave duty of impressing these matters upon you and asking you to pledge your service for prompt action to prevent disaster which might follow the election of incompetent or disloyal men to Congress. This can be prevented through definite and concerted action on the part of loyal citizens, who are in the vast majority. Neglect and indifference may prove fatal.

"The remedy is for every one to assume the personal obligation of speaking with or writing without delay to political leaders, newspaper men and others who form public opinion in their Congressional Districts. Make them realize sharply that the need of the nation is the election of men of absolute and unconditional loyalty who are determined to prosecute the war to victory and who possess the strength of character and unquestioned ability to be of real service to the country in this crisis. The problems before the nation are such as to try the very souls of the best men that we can elect.

Personal Responsibility.

"The people of your district will undoubtedly take the right stand if awakened to the political situation in time to secure the highest type of candidates to vote for in the primaries. Every citizen can directly influence results to that end, and we earnestly hope that you will recognize the responsibility of so doing."

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