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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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200,000 Colored Soldiers in Army

Recent Call for Forty Thousand Has Increased Number to This Figure—Ratio Relatively Large—Men Average Well Physically and Mentally.

RECEIVE SPECIAL TRAINING

Four Thousand to Be Sent to Schools and Colleges for Training in Electrical, Radio and General Engineering and Other Branches.

WASHINGTON.—The calling of 40,000 more Colored registrants into the army, and the organization of schools at the leading colleges of the race, where 4,000 selective service Negroes will be trained in electrical, radio and general engineering, automobile mechanics and the operation of motor vehicles, draws attention to the importance of this war effort that element which in 1910 numbered 9,827,763 out of a total population of 91,972,266.

There are now about 157,000 Negro soldiers in the National Army, and the 40,000 just called will bring the total to nearly 200,000. This does not include, of course, the four regiments of Colored troops in the regular army—two of infantry and two of cavalry.

Of the 9,586,508 men between 21 and 31 who registered under the selective service law on June 5, 1917, the Negroes numbered 737,626. Of these the boards summoned under the first call 208,953, or 28.33 per cent, as against 32.48 per cent of the white registrants. There were certified for service 75,697, or a little over 36 per cent, as against 24.75 per cent of the whites.

Good Proportion Shown.

"Thus it appears," said Provost Marshal General Crowder, in his report, "that out of every 100 Colored citizens called, 36 were certified for service and 64 were rejected, exempted or discharged; whereas, out of every 100 whites called 25 were certified for service and 75 were rejected, exempted or discharged. The explanation of this difference cannot be yet definitely ascertained until a more thorough study of the records becomes possible. The difference is probably not due to either a difference in physical qualifications, nor to a difference in the applicability of the several legal grounds for exemption and discharge. So far as the several regions of the country are concerned, the lesser ratio for Colored to white certified appears mainly, but not exclusively, in the southern states."

As stated above, the successive calls to the service has brought the total Colored up to nearly 200,000. The Provost Marshal General estimated that before the Colored registrants fit for service were exhausted they would furnish the army 191,539, or a grand total of 267,336. To these will be added, of course, their proportion of the registrants of June 5, 1918, that is, of the men who came of age during the year ending on that day.

Prior to the recent call, the Colored soldiers in the national army constituted two divisions. There are about 1,000 line officers, captains, first and second lieutenants, and in the medical and dental reserve corps there are about 250 more Colored officers. Most of the line officers are trained at officers' training camps established by the government. There are also Colored officers in the four Colored regular army regiments, the highest in rank being a lieutenant colonel, who is the only Colored graduate of West Point in the army.

The services of the Colored soldiers in the Civil War scarcely need recital. There were 138 regiments of infantry, 6 of cavalry and 15 of artillery, and they participated in 449 battles and skirmishes, a few of the regiments having the largest number of men killed in any one single engagement—their first fighting was at St. Helena Island, Ga., November, 1862, and the last when Doubleday's and Birney's brigades made the last charge at Appomattox in April, 1865—the total losses being 285 officers and 33,380 enlisted men. Seventeen Colored soldiers were awarded the congressional medal of honor, which ranks with the Victoria Cross, the Cross of the French Legion of Honor and the German Iron Cross.

In the war with Spain, the record of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry at El Caney and San Juan Hill—where they came gallantly to the aid of the "Rough Riders"—and of the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth infantry in

the Philippines are highly creditable to these Colored organizations.

In an article on the Negro soldier in all periods of the world's history, which has been given a place in the Congressional record, John E. Bruce presents some interesting facts in relation to this phase of his people's record. Passing over the exploits of Negro soldiers under Hannibal, Scipio Africanus, Pompey and Belisarius, Toussaint L'Overture, and Dessalines, and in later times under Menelik in Abyssinia, Cetewayo in South Africa and Maceo in Cuba, there are now 500,000 Colored men fighting on the side of the Allies, and that exclusive of those enrolled in the American army. The French Negro troops from Algeria have fought in France almost from the beginning, and have been as valiant at Chemin des Dames as at the Marne and Verdun. No less than six privates of one Senegalese battalion were named in the "citations a l'ordre" for April 17, 1917, alone. That is equal to a decoration, and is inscribed on the regimental roll of honor. The British Negro South African forces fought with distinguished courage through all the arduous campaigns which overthrew the German power in East and West Africa.

American Negroes are now fighting on the west front in France, making a record equally honorable.

Army Officer Put Out of Service

Georgian Who Disobeyed Brigade Commander and Refused to Participate in Troop Formation Because Colored Soldiers Were in Alignment Is Dismissed From the Army.

Little Rock Ark.—By virtue of a telegraphic communication from the war department received at headquarters at Camp Pike, Captain Eugene C. Rowan, late of the 162d depot brigade, was dismissed from the service and Lieutenant Robert Hall was dismissed and given a sentence of 25 years at hard labor at the military prison at Leavenworth, Kas.

Lieutenant Hall was mess officer of the 348th infantry and deserted his organization late in February.

Several days after his desertion a check up of the mess food revealed shortages amounting to about \$7,000. He was arrested in San Francisco and brought back to camp.

A part of the fund, placed to his credit in a Little Rock bank later was secured through civil court proceedings.

Hall was stripped of his insignia and placed in the camp stockade. He is a graduate of the first training camp at Fort Logan H. Root.

Captain Rowan's case attracted considerable attention while it was before general court martial several months ago because it was the first time the color line has figured in a national army court.

Captain Rowan was charged with having refused to obey an order issued by the brigade commander calling for a troop formation because it was asserted both Negroes and white soldiers were included in the formation.

The officer is a native of Georgia, but has recently lived in Mississippi. Captain Rowan left Camp Pike this afternoon and said he hoped to go to Russia to assist in the reorganization of the Russian army. He is a veteran of the Spanish-American war and a graduate of the first series of officers' training camps.

ROBERTS WOUNDED AGAIN IN FRANCE

New York.—Needham Roberts, whose heroic fight, with Henry Johnson, against twenty-four Hun barbarians, won him the French war cross and stirred the heart of the Colored race throughout the world, is again wounded following his return to the trenches and another heroic action against the Germans. He was reported in the June 21 casualty list to be severely wounded.

Roberts is a native of this city and lived here at 157 West Fifty-third street.

CUBA'S EXECUTIVE INSISTS ON FORCED MILITARY SERVICE

Havana.—President Menocal sent a message to congress today urging the prompt passage of the obligatory military service bill. It is said in well informed circles that if congress fails to pass the measure before adjournment the president will put it into effect by decree.

Colonel Young Finishes Long Trip on Horse

Colonel Charles Young, of Wilberforce, highest ranking Colored officer in the service of the United States, arrived home Wednesday from Washington, after making the trip to the capitol on horseback to convince the war department that he is physically fit to take an active part in this war.

Colonel Young, who was retired, excepting for a position on active duty in the state of Ohio, last summer, after his attempt to organize a Colored regiment in Ohio failed, is optimistic following a personal conference with Secretary of War Newton D. Baker, and in his own words, he is "smiling a broad smile."

"I simply wanted to convince the war department that I am still physically fit for active service and I

be indispensable to the government. Merely a desire to do his part in the present crisis as his patriotic duty, is explained by the local officer as his reason for taking so definite an action as calling on the war department.

Colonel Young has never been ill, and is in perfect health now. He was examined by army physicians a year ago last May and it was said that he had high blood pressure at that time, but if such is the case, it has never bothered the officer and would not prevent him from considerable more active duty than he is now assigned to. Colonel Young was retired except for "active service in Ohio," last summer following an attempt to organize a Colored regiment from this state, which he hoped to command.



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CHARLES YOUNG Whom it is earnestly hoped will soon be recalled to active service in the army. He recently took a 400-mile horseback ride as a test of his physical fitness. His appointment to a command would be pleasing to 12,000,000 Colored Americans.

have every reason to believe that my case will be considered favorably," said the colonel.

Although he was not promised anything definite by the secretary of war, who was personally acquainted with his case before the colonel's visit, he has reason to believe that his trip will be fraught with satisfactory results and that his services will be called upon in the present crisis. Although it is understood that Colonel Young is in line for a brigadier generalship, the officer has no personal ambition prompting his activities to get back into service. According to Colonel Young himself, he is not prompted by any personal hope of promotion or gain and if the war was not going on at present, he would be well satisfied with his allotment.

However, he is chafing under the inactivity of retirement at a time when every one should be doing his best for his country, and when it appears that a man so well versed in military training and discipline would

The horseback ride to Washington is an example of the army test for physical fitness and was the method employed by Theodore Roosevelt when he was president. A ride of 20 to 30 miles a day is considered a good army rate, yet the local officer kept up an average of 31½ miles a day for sixteen days. He walked 15 minutes out of every hour while on the road in order to be able to tell the secretary of war that he had walked a quarter of the way to Washington.

Colonel Young left Wilberforce on June 6 and arrived at his destination last Saturday, June 22. He traveled only in the day time, stopping at night at different places along the route. His accomplishment of the feat is considered an excellent proof of his physical ability. The secretary of war was surprised to see him, said Colonel Young today.

Colonel Young besides being the highest ranking Colored officer in the service, is also the only Colored graduate of West Point.—Xenia, Ohio, Morning Republican, June 28.

CALIFORNIA WOMAN BECOMES DENTIST

First Woman Dentist in Southern California Wins High Honors in Class of 85—Will Enter Practice With Her Husband in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles, Cal.—When Dr. Vada Jemore Somerville received her diploma at the thirty-fifth annual commencement of the University of Southern California in Shrine Auditorium Thursday afternoon, June 5, the event marked an epoch in the history of our women in California; for Mrs. Somerville is the first woman of the Colored race to complete the course and receive the honor in this state.

Dr. Somerville has been for a number of years one of the leaders among the younger social set and when she abandoned social activities

to enter upon the study of dentistry, the young people of the city suffered a severe loss. She attended the Los Angeles high school for three years, thus preparing herself for the future. She won the Times scholarship to the University of Southern California and attended that institution for one year. While attending the university she was able to make a sufficient number of credits to meet matriculation requirements to enter the college of dentistry connected with that institution. It was in October, 1915, that Dr. Somerville entered the dental school and on the sixth of June was graduated in a class of 85 with as high standing as any of the other students. She was the only woman in the class and throughout her course was treated with every consideration and with greatest courtesy by faculty and student body.—Citizens Advocate, Los Angeles.

BERT WILLIAMS QUILTS FOLLIES

Colored Comedian Will Enter Vaudeville.

New York.—Bert Williams, for years leading comedian of the Ziegfeld Follies, has left that show and will enter vaudeville. It is said the reason given for his withdrawal is lack of material with which to entertain audiences.

Williams is to appear in a one act version of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," in which he will play the parts of Uncle Tom and Simon Legree. Arrangements for booking the play are now being made.

Calls Conference on Negro Labor

Confers With Representative Negroes at Raleigh and the Director of Negro Economics of the United States Department of Labor—All Highly Pleased at Results.

Washington.—The Governor of North Carolina recently called to meet him at the state house for conference on Negro labor problems a number of most representative Negro citizens from all parts of that state. He also invited Dr. George E. Haynes, Director of Negro Economics of the United States Department of Labor, to meet with them to discuss plans for bringing to the attention of the rank and file of Negro workers the problems of industry and agriculture in connection with the war and the desire of the white citizens to add their co-operation in increasing the production to win the war.

Governor Bickett himself presided throughout the conference and took an active part in its discussion. Dr. Haynes outlined the general plans of the Department of Labor and for more than an hour the citizens present discussed these plans, offering their advice as to such modifications as are needed to adjust them to the welfare of the Negroes of North Carolina. At the close of the conference the governor appointed a temporary committee which has drafted a constitution which authorizes a state committee and the organization of local and county district committees. During the conference a number of the citizens present expressed themselves as highly pleased, both at the result of the conference and at the liberal attitude of the governor in calling such a conference.

The governor expressed himself as highly pleased with the results and accepted a place as honorary chairman of the permanent state committee. Those present and taking part in the conference were as follows:

Dr. A. M. Moore, Berry O'Kelly, Rev. P. R. Berry, Dr. S. G. Atkins, Bishop-elect H. B. Delany, Mrs. Annie W. Holland, Colonel J. H. Yong, Prof. J. D. Wray, Prof. L. E. Hall, Mrs. F. C. Williams, Dr. J. B. Dudley, Bishop G. W. Clinton, Prof. C. L. M. Smith, C. C. Spaulding, J. E. Taylor, Captain L. E. Hamlin, Dr. Geo. J. Ramsey, Ralph Iard, N. C. Newbold.

A temporary committee was formed to direct the work until the permanent committee is appointed by the Department of Labor. Of this committee Dr. S. G. Atkins, President of the State Normal School at Winston-Salem, N. C., is chairman.

PHILADELPHIA APPOINTS A POLICEMAN

Philadelphia, Pa.—Mrs. Mary E. Smith of 1426 Lombard street, is the first woman to be appointed as a policeman in this city. She assumed her new duties last week.

URBAN LEAGUE IN WAR WORK

New York.—The National League on Urban Conditions among Negroes, with headquarters at 200 Fifth avenue, New York City, is now in a campaign to help the government in the production of those goods that are essential to the prosecution of the war. Incidentally, it is the hope of the league that out of the effort larger industrial opportunities for the Negro will follow.

Adjustment of Negro labor in industrial centers so as to increase the output of factories, improve the efficiency of Negro labor and reduce friction between the races—this is the contribution of the National League on Urban Conditions among Negroes in the war emergency.

The league is aiding the sale of War Savings Stamps and encouraging Negroes to join in thrift societies.

Committee of One Hundred

Expansion of List of Speakers to Present the War Aims of the Government to the Colored People of the United States From 60 to 100.

MONITOR EDITOR IS NAMED

Representatives of Every Notable Group of the Negro Race to Take Active Part in Approaching Campaign of Education.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The war department and the committee on public information announce through the office of Emmett J. Scott, special assistant to the secretary of war, the expansion of the list of speakers to present the war aims of the government to the Colored people of the United States from sixty (60) to one hundred (100.)

Hereafter this group of speakers will be known as "The Committee of One Hundred," and will be found active in the approaching campaign of education, planned to cover every community in the country, where Colored people abide in appreciable numbers. They represent every notable element of the race and will doubtless exert a potent influence in enlightening the Colored people as to their duty toward the government and pointing out to them in a definite and practical way how they may be of the greatest service to the nation in the winning of the present struggle for liberty and democracy.

The following well-known public men constitute the additions to the list already announced.

Additions to List of Speakers.

Bishop Benjamin F. Lee, senior bishop of the A. M. E. church, Wilberforce, O.

Bishop Charles Henry Phillips, bishop of the Colored M. E. church, Nashville, Tenn.

Bishop John Hurst, bishop of the A. M. E. church, Baltimore, Md.

Dr. Henry L. Phillips, archdeacon of the Protestant Episcopal church, Philadelphia, Pa.

Prof. W. S. Scarborough, president of Wilberforce university, Wilberforce, O.

William H. Steward, editor the American Baptist, Louisville, Ky.

Rev. John Albert Williams, editor The Monitor, Omaha, Neb.

Mr. John C. Dancy, secretary church extension board, A. M. E. Zion church, Washington, D. C.

Dr. James S. Russell, president St. Paul Normal and Industrial Institute, Lawrenceville, Va.

Mr. I. Garland Penn, corresponding secretary Freedmen's Aid Society, M. E. church, Cincinnati, O.

Mr. Samuel W. Green, grand chancellor, Knights of Pythias, New Orleans, La.

Dr. M. W. Dogan, president Wiley university, Marshall, Tex.

Prof. William Pickens, vice president of Morgan college, Baltimore, Md.

Mr. John H. Murphy, editor of the Afro-American, Baltimore, Md.

Mr. George L. Knox, publisher of The Freeman, Indianapolis, Ind.

Mr. A. E. Manning, editor The World, Indianapolis, Ind.

Dr. Sumner A. Furniss, member city council, Indianapolis, Ind.

Mr. Armond W. Scott, grand exalted ruler, Order of Elks, Washington, D. C.

Mr. E. M. Hewlett, attorney at law, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Henry Lassiter, 1215 17th street, Washington, D. C.

Mr. R. L. Smith, president Farmers' Improvement society, Waco, Tex.

Mr. Walter J. Singleton, president Mu-So-Lit club, Washington, D. C.

Mr. W. B. Kemp, editor The Leader, Detroit, Mich.

Mr. W. E. Mollison, attorney at law, Chicago, Ill.

Mr. J. Gray Lucas, attorney at law, Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Charles H. Anderson, president Anderson & Co., bankers, Jacksonville, Fla.

Mr. George A. Myers, Cleveland, O.

Mr. William Warley, editor The Louisville News, Louisville, Ky.

Mr. William T. Francis, attorney at law, St. Paul, Minn.

Mr. A. E. Meyzeek, principal Colored Normal school, Louisville, Ky.

Mr. Henry Lincoln Johnson, attorney at law, Atlanta, Ga.

Rev. J. Francis Robinson, field secretary of National Baptist Convention (Incorporated), Chicago, Ill.

Mr. James J. Manuel, office of auditor of state, Denver, Colo.

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