

Obvious Observations

Yes, son, the Allies are still in the lead. Who said porterhouse steak? Mister, you must be dreaming. There ain't no such animals. Pass that kidney stew and fried mush. Also, farewell dear pie and cake and pudding; may you be with us again soon.

snooping past each man's door and giving it the gentle tap, tap. If you were asleep and didn't hear it, then bye and bye the big change, automobiles, palaces and so forth; but if you did hear it and grabbed old man opportunity by the coat tails, Henry Ford wouldn't have anything on you.

Leadership in Africa Offered by the War

War Service is the Key Which Is Opening the Door of Opportunity to the Race in the Dark Continent.

A CHILD wandered into a "Y" hut in East Africa. He was big and broad shouldered and black as the ace of spades. Six feet in his stockings he stood, straight as an arrow and muscled like a prize fighter.

None the less he was a child. Just now he longed desperately to be at home with his tribe in Somaliland. He wanted to strut around in his khaki before the dusky maidens, and his heart ached for the feast of the hunters home from the kill.

A Colored young man in the uniform of a "Y" worker came forward and welcomed the trooper in Swahili. His friendliness went to the child heart as straight as rain to the thirsty roots of flowers.

Then a miracle took place—and curiosity banished homesickness. From out of a little box came the voice of a man talking. The grown-up child examined the box eagerly to see where the man was hidden.

Presently the secretary, a graduate of Shaw university, Raleigh, N. C., led the shy native into a dark room, where there was more magic. A little man with funny feet and a cane was walking about on a white screen.

War service is the key which is opening the door of opportunity to the Negro race.

The latest evidence of it comes from darkest Africa. Into the jungles of which the ideals of democracy are slowly pushing their way. The Colored troops of Nigeria, Somaliland, Zanzibar, Mysaland and the Gold Coast are looking eagerly for light, and their eyes are turned to the Negro of the United States.

A chance for leadership—one full of immense potentialities—has come to the Colored race of this country. It has been given him to lead the native of Africa into the light of the new day that is dawning for him.

Max Yergan was the first Colored Y. M. C. A. secretary sent to serve with the British troops in South Africa. Before he had been in the field long General Van de Venter, commander of the British forces, wired to ask for more of Yergan's race to help in the work.

When the war began the Germans were very strongly situated in East Africa, the only one of their colonies that has not yet been captured by the allies. For three years they have offered a most stubborn resistance to the British, Belgian, Portuguese and Colonial armies.

The country exceeds the area of Germany itself. Its chief products are ivory, coconut fiber, rubber, wax and sisal for the manufacture of rope. Parts of it are wonderfully fertile, but there are also large stretches of dense jungle and low lying swamp lands.

The British recruited and drilled natives from their colonies. At first one-third of the troops used by the allies were blacks, now 90 per cent of them are of that race. African Negroes make very smart, teachable soldiers. In addition to the fighting units several hundred thousand porters and carriers are used to build railroads and transport supplies through a terrain inaccessible to motors and pack animals.

The mobilization of these natives is affecting the whole life of Central and Eastern Africa. Each one believed that his tribe was the most powerful one in the world, and he now learns of the existence of many races previously unknown to him. For the first time he sees motors, ships, airplanes. His horizon is wider, life becomes bigger, and his plastic nature yields rapidly to the impressions of civilization.

No Climate for Whites. During 1915 the British found out that white men could not stand the hardships of such a climate. Excepting the South African fighting units, some remnants of Indian Sepoys and the white personnel of departmental services, the forces engaged are drawn from the Negro tribes. Thirty battalions of the Kings' African Rifles have been raised in East Africa. Regiments from Nigeria, Zanzibar, the Gold Coast, Somaliland and other parts are bearing the brunt of the fighting. The Germans driven from the railroads and out of the important towns by General Smuts, have led their pursuers into a jungle country where more deaths result from malaria, dysentery, black water fever and other such diseases than from casualties in action.

Since they are of the same race, these Colored Y. M. C. A. secretaries, all of them graduates of American colleges for Negroes are able to get into closer touch with the simple African troopers than are white workers. Naturally their sympathy is closer and their understanding of them greater. Yergan learned Swahili within six months and so was able to talk to the men in their own tongue. Others among the workers have developed a remarkable aptitude for service in that field.

Boss Boys Learn to Write. The huts are provided with portable cinemas, lantern slides, gramophones and games. The educational feature of them is perhaps even more important. To see the patience with which a native porter after a hard day's work will try to study English with a slate and pencil is almost pathetic. Talks with lantern slides on sanitation, hygiene, and the prevention of disease are given to the head men of the villages. "Boss boys" are shown how to keep accounts and write letters to officers. One of the Colored secretaries conducted a class for native noncommissioned officers to make clear to them the ideals for which the war is being fought.

With the simple faith of children they come to these "Y" secretaries for all sorts of service, for instruction in a hundred phases of our complex life. They are given religious instruction. They are taught the fundamentals of civilization. When they are ill they are comforted, when wounded they are cheered.—Indianapolis Ledger.

Our Women and Children

Conducted by Lucille Skaggs Edwards

A TOAST TO THE FLAG

HERE'S to the red of it! There's not a thread of it, No, nor a shred of it In all the spread of it, From foot to head, But heroes bleed for it, Faced steel and lead for it, Precious blood shed for it, Bathing it red.

Here's to the white of it; Thrilled by the sight of it, Who knows the right of it But has felt the might of it Through day and night! Womanhood's care for it Made manhood dare for it; Purity's prayer for it Kept it so white.

Here's to the blue of it, Heavenly view of it, Star-spangled hue of it, Honesty's due of it, Constant and true! Here's to the whole of it, Stars, stripes and pole of it; Here's to the soul of it, Red, White and Blue! —John Daly.

PRAYER FOR OUR LAND

O Almighty Lord, who fashioned the hearts of men, and considerest all their works; grant, we beseech Thee, to us and to all the people of this land the spirit of obedience to Thy commandments; that walking humbly in Thy fear we may, under Thy mighty protection, possess our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE DEAD TO THE LIVING

YOU that still have rain and sun, Kisses of children and of wife, And the good earth to tread upon, And the mere sweetness that is life, Forget not us, who gave all these For something dearer and for you! Think in what cause we crossed the seas! Remember, he who fails the challenge, Fails us, too.

Now is the hour that shows the strong— The soul no evil powers affray— Drive straight against embattled wrong; Faith knows but one, the hardest way. Endure, the end is worth the three; Give, give, and dare and again dare! On, to that wrong's great overthrow! We are with you, of you; we the pain and Victory share. —Lawrence Binyon, in London Times.

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