

THE MONITOR

A Weekly Newspaper devoted to the civic, social and religious interests of the Colored People of Nebraska and the West, with the desire to contribute something to the general good and upbuilding of the community and of the race.

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RACE SUPERIORITY

THE New York Independent, in its issue of August 24, publishes an illuminating and thought-compelling editorial under the caption "Race and the War," which shatters the idol of "Race Superiority" at whose shrine the nations of the earth are wont to reverently bow. We publish the editorial in full in this issue and to it invite your attention. It will repay careful reading.

The article points out, as did our own Dr. Dubois, editor of The Crisis, in that able publication a year or more ago, that "one of the issues of the war is race prejudice." Dr. Dubois' contention was that race prejudice was THE cause of the war. But, no matter; the point we would now make is that it is significant that both The Crisis, the leading magazine of Colored Americans, and The Independent, one of the foremost—we consider it the foremost—magazines, published by white Americans, agree as to one of the fundamental causes of the great internecine world conflict. Race prejudice is undoubtedly one of the underlying causes, and in our opinion, the CHIEF cause.

The Independent points out that the Teuton has been obsessed with the idea of his superiority to all other men, and that consequently the world's civilization is the creation of a single race—the Teutonic.

If this be true, and from the Teutonic viewpoint and for the Teutonic consciousness it is true—then it follows, naturally and logically, that world dominance belongs to the Hun by divine decree. He has the right to dominate the world, to subdue kingdoms, to subjugate nations, to suppress nationalities. DEUTSCHLAND UBER ALLES (Germany over all.) Of course. Why not? What else could there be from the standpoint of "KULTUR" and the "SUPER-MAN?"

All European races are inferior to the Teutonic, and therefore, since might is right, legitimate subjects for conquest, subjugation and exploitation. And if this be the Teutonic estimate of the so-called "white" races of the world, we can readily understand his intensified contempt and disdain for the dark-skinned races of the world. But, let it be said with all candor, the Teuton has no monopoly of this, it would seem, inherent contempt for the dark-skinned races. It is the common possession of the "white" race, everywhere, except among the Latin races. The Teuton, however, believes in his superiority to all other races, white, black, brown, red and yellow on the entire globe, and that therefore as the "super-man" it is his bounden duty to superimpose his "kultur" upon all the world.

Race prejudice, therefore, is the real cause of this war. It takes its rise in the doctrine of "race superiority" which looms large in the Germanic consciousness and is not found entirely wanting in that of kindred races. Race prejudice among European "white" races has unleashed the dogs of war and set the world aflame.

Unfortunately, most unfortunately, it is this same spirit manifested by white Americans against black Americans, which causes so much heart-burning and resentment in the United States today. It is pro-Germanism transplanted to American soil. It is Prussianism of the most malignant type. It is the Teutonic doctrine of the "super-man" translated into American speech and action, an exotic pest which must be blotted out, if Americanism and true democracy are to flourish here, as flourish we believe they must.

It is strangely significant, however, that that nation which undoubtedly emphasizes more than any other the doctrine of "race superiority," and is not approached by any other nation, except perhaps by the United States, in its contempt and dislike for the dark-skinned races and particularly those of African descent, should be confronted and conquered—as she unquestionably will be—by practically all these nations of the earth which she particularly despises.

Think of the millions of black men from all quarters of the globe fighting under the banners of the allies, shoulder to shoulder with men of every other color! Can you not conceive how these brothers in arms, league of all the races of mankind against the common foe of humanity, are going to be knit together with golden chains of sympathy and kind-

ness, unity, peace and concord?

The fiction of "race superiority" will vanish before the dawning truth, that in the great family of man each race and nation has been given its peculiar gifts which are complementary to each other, none inferior or superior, save in that it fails to contribute or contributes its share to the common good. Races, like individuals, are superior or inferior only as they measure up to or fall short of their opportunities and responsibilities in the service of and in advancing the cause of humanity.

Neither white skin nor black skin is the outward and visible sign of superiority of heart or intellect, which after all is the only true measure of superiority by which individuals, races or nations are to be judged. The superior race, the superior nation, is that which holds superior ideals and does superior things.

This is the "race superiority" which we should all covet, for which we should all strive, and which we believe is coming out of the present travail of the nations.

CARRY IT UP

A pernicious custom prevails in some of the Government offices of refusing to give employment, solely on the ground of color, to applicants who have passed Civil Service examinations with high averages, been duly certified and ordered to report for duty. As soon as it is discovered that they are Colored, they are either bluntly told that they can not be given the position on that account alone, or else they are politely and suavely informed that "we regret to tell you that at present there are no vacancies." Several glaring cases of this kind have recently been reported from Washington and other localities.

From some local experiences which we have had, we are inclined to believe that in many cases—not all, of course—prejudiced and officious subordinates, and not the heads of the department, are responsible for this discrimination and glaring injustice and that it ought to be taken up with the head of the department.

But whoever is responsible for it, those in authority ought to see to it and must see to it that it cease. The Government of the United States is too big to allow this practice to persist in the face of the crying need for efficient and proficient workers. Loyalty, character and ability should be, and eventually will be, the only requisites.

When confronted by this discrimination, don't give up. Carry it up to the head. Justice will finally triumph.

GOOD BYE, BOYS; TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES

Tomorrow another contingent of Colored draftees leave to do their duty in helping to "make the world safe for democracy." There is a wondrous truth in these historic words of our President. We are fighting to make the world safe for democracy, to win democracy for the world. It is a weighty and glorious task laid upon the shoulders of this generation. More than 40,000 of Nebraska's valiant sons have answered their country's call. Of this number more than 600 are the boys of our race, of whom more than 500 have gone from Omaha alone. It is noteworthy, too, that the vast majority of our boys who have gone from Omaha have been given positions of honor and responsibility as corporals and sergeants. This speaks well for the character of the men who have been called. We expect all who go to maintain an honorable record. And so The Monitor, in wishing you God-speed, boys, is confident that everyone of you, realizing what is expected of you, will do your full duty.

Good bye, boys, take good care of yourselves, and a warm and loving welcome will await you upon your return, when a righteous peace shall reign.

SCHOOL DAYS

Next week will see the schools opened for the next term. Boys and girls, determine that you will make full use of every opportunity offered you for getting an education. Be ambitious to lead your class in scholarship. Do your best.

Obvious Observations

The papers say that Unk has been after the profiteer, but somehow Unk hasn't got him yet. He is still doing business at the old stand.

Somebody said this was the era of high wages. Sure, and it is also the era of high eats.

If the Tommies will just keep the Fritzies on the run for thirty days, Mister Hindenburg will hope to eat dinner in Berlin just once more, instead of in Paris.

This 18 to 45 business has messed up things just a little, hasn't it?

Now that the stores are cleaning out straws, low shoes and sundry summer wear, you'd better invest, because next summer will make this summer look like the bottom of the chute the chutes as to prices.

Believe, muh! General Sherman knew what he was talking about when he cursed concerning war, didn't he?

Some folks have taken up the reading of fiction. They say that they get so much false fiction in the newspapers that they believe they would prefer the genuine.

It is said that Mayor Smith hasn't any time for Colored citizens. Maybe he hasn't, but from the way he talks he either thinks much of the Colored soldier or else he has Ananias beaten seven ways from next Sunday.

This paper will offer \$1,000 to the housewife who can invent some way to make a pork chop grow larger while it is cooking instead of growing smaller.

Col. Teddy was to remember some Colored school or something before he divided the Nobel money, but when he divided it he forgot.

Thanking you kindly for your acute attention, we will now partake of some chronic repose.

SKITS OF SOLOMON

The Devil

In the days that used to be, they told us that everything evil that happened on this mundane sphere was the work of Sir Beelzebub, commonly called the devil. But lately, Mr. Devil has suffered an eclipse—a total eclipse. Nobody ever thinks of him anymore. He's a back number, a frayed deck and a positive cipher. He might as well close up shop and go bankrupt just the same as thousands of other business men are doing. The war has ruined him. He has had so many little mean things charged up against him, that he might have been proud of claiming the world war as part of his handiwork, but for Capt. Satan there is nothing doing. He has had several years start on the Teuton in trying to invent a choice variety of hells on earth, but he evidently didn't have it under the hat. He's a poor simp, a four-flusher and a red bag of superheated atmosphere. In the days gone by he could scare us and make us walk on eggs, but never again. His cloven feet, fiery breath and pitchfork, haven't any place now except in fairy tale books. He has kept the people fooled for a long time, but he has at last come to the end of his trail. Man, the guy that he has been putting it over on for a million years, has up and put it over on him so heavy that he is gasping for breath. Man has created such a hell on earth that Mr. Devil has simply turned the hose on the fires, put a thousand ton Yale lock on the portals and hung up the sign, "CLOSED PERMANENTLY." He's through for good. He has found out at last that he is an amateur, a piker and a huge beef. All he does now is to sit in his office and read the reports from the Western Front. He tried as hard as he could to make life miserable for every human, but Kaiser Bill has made him look like a lone deuce in a poker deck.

LIBERTY LOAN APPROACHING

Within the next few weeks this paper will devote considerable space to the fourth Liberty loan. We receive no pay in money for the space used, but we will receive double pay in the realization that we are helping the government in the great task of winning the war. Our readers should shape their affairs so as to be ready for the country's call. Nebraska was called on to raise \$18,000,000 in the first loan, \$29,640,000 in the second and \$31,942,800 in the third, but the quota for the fourth loan will probably be over \$60,000,000. No effort will be made to secure a large over-subscription, but each citizen will be expected to do his or her share.

NORFOLK, VA., TO HAVE

BANKING INSTITUTION
Norfolk, Va., Aug. 29.—The property at 738 Church street, between Queen street and Highland avenue, has been acquired as a location for the Tidewater Bank and Trust Company, and a modern banking house with distinctive features will be erected upon the site as permanent home of the institution. The location selected is in the heart of the up-town business section and is regarded by the promoters as being ideal for the purpose for which it has been chosen.

RACE AND THE WAR

One of the issues of the war is race prejudice. The Germans have this trait in so marked a degree that it ought to share the growing unpopularity which now accumulates around things distinctively German, whether good, bad or indifferent. Ever since the Germans took from Frenchmen like Gobineau, Englishmen like Hous-ton Chamberlain, and Slavs like Treitschke, the legend that the world's civilization was the creation of a single race—the Teutonic—they have been unendurable. The bulk of German books on history, politics and sociology for the last few decades have been devoted to the elaboration of this great Teutonic myth. Slavs were barbarians, Latin nations were decadent, Celts were futile, the yellow races were "monkeys," black men were not human, Jews were enemies of the state; only the Teuton was tall, blond, handsome, virile, virtuous, reverent, honorable, practical, idealistic, scientific, thrifty, continent, just, brave, self-respecting, and capable of self-government. The fact that many Frenchmen, Russians and Irishmen had all these qualities and that some Germans had none of them (not even the blondness) did not prevent the Pan-Germans from identifying the imaginary "Teuton" with the German nation.

The moral of this pitiful collapse of German humor and common sense before the mirage of Teutonism should keep us from similar follies. Let our enemies have a monopoly of racial egotism. It is true, of course, that the Germans are not hereditarily superior to any of their neighbors, but it is nonsense to talk (as some of us do talk) of the Germans as natural barbarians whose atrocities but echo the deeds of Alaric and Attila, their forefathers. As a matter of actual history and ethnology the people of western Germany are brothers of the people across the North Sea in England and lowland Scotland. They are at least first cousins of the peasants of Normandy and Flanders. The eastern Germans (the "Prussians") are a mixture between the west German type and the Slavic and Baltic peoples of eastern Europe. The south German and Austrian is rather closely related to the north Italian and the man of central France, perhaps even to the Welshman.

But the war raises the question of race prejudice also in a broader form; not merely the claims of the Teutonic

super-race but the claims of the "white race" itself to eternal and inevitable superiority. Germany has no doubt on the matter. Inferior as are the non-Teutonic peoples of Europe in German eyes, they take rank above the "native" races of Asia and Africa to such a degree that slavery or the sword is the just wage of the latter. Note the German fury at the allies for seeking the aid of Japan and for employing African troops on European battlefields. Remember the day when the kaiser preached against the "yellow peril" in the spirit of yellow journalism. Read any good book or article on Germany's system of rule in her overseas colonies. It is true that private plantation owners in Belgian and Portuguese Africa, and even in a few parts of French Africa, have been excessively cruel to the native laborers in their employ. But nowhere have the officials of a government been so systematically oppressive as in German Africa. The atrocities in the Belgian Congo were the work of a soulless capitalism. The atrocities in German Southwest Africa were the work of bureaucrats inspired by racial arrogance and measureless contempt of those whom they ruled. If the preacher of race hate from the Mississippi valley or the Pacific coast were to migrate to the banks of the Elbe he would not only relive us of his presence but would find an appreciative audience and a true "spiritual home."

Race prejudice is pro-Germanism. If the hideous example of racial arrogance afforded by Germany does not suffice to cure us of our prejudices there is another fact which should make us reflect. Who are the allies? At least five nations among them—China, Japan, Siam, Liberia and Haiti—have no white population worth mentioning. An absolute majority of the people of the British Empire live in India; "white" men certainly, but also "natives" and non-Europeans. France and its colonies, if taken as a whole, contain nearly as much black as white, and French Indo-China contributes numerous yellow men to swell the total. Italy, Belgium, Portugal, Brazil, Cuba and others of the allies have many non-white subjects and citizens. The United States with its ten million Negroes and mixed bloods, its Indian tribes, its Pacific colonies, cannot claim to be a racial unity. If we sum together all the peoples who are fighting against Germany it seems probable that at least three out of four of them are "natives;" that is, people not descended from the races of Europe. Of course, the white race is the most largely represented on the actual battle line, but, since an army is only the delegate of a people, we should learn to think of the war as a league of all the races of mankind against the common foe of all humanity.—New York Independent.

Hindenburg has evidently changed his mind and since he was unable to dine in Paris, he hopes to be able to eat his Christmas dinner in Berlin. Help our Allies speed the parting guest.

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