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A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

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National Negro Business League

Holds Most Successful Convention in History of Great Organization Which Has Encouraged and Developed Racial Enterprises.

WELCOMED BY THE GOVERNOR

Stirring Addresses by Government Officials and Others, and Splendid Reports of Achievements Characterize Sessions.

ATLANTIC CITY.—What is regarded as one of the most significant events of the year and an epochal one in the annals of the race was the nineteenth annual session of the National Negro Business league, which met in this city August 21 and ended Friday evening, August 23, with one of the most notable social functions of the season.

The outstanding features of the sessions were the addresses of welcome by Governor W. E. Edge, Mayor Bachrach, Dr. R. R. Moton and Hon. Emmett J. Scott, special assistant to the secretary of war.

In delivering the welcome address on behalf of the state of New Jersey the governor spoke of the great progress made by the race in the face of the blind prejudice which confronts it. He said that the attaining of education first was the stepping stone to the business of the country. He gave a clear definition of democracy and said that it must be emphasized at home as well as abroad. He said:

"We have among the troops white and Colored and men of every nationality, now all Americans, of course. We have nearly every race thrown together and properly so. They are going to be more tolerant of one another's viewpoint when they come home to take up again their civic responsibilities. I hope then that this class prejudice will be eliminated for all time." (Prolonged applause and cheers.)

Mayor Bachrach

Mayor Bachrach followed the governor. After paying a high tribute to the Negro as a citizen he dwelt upon the men of color who readily responded to the present draft and also when a call for twenty or more men was made ninety or more always responded. His rendering of the poem entitled, "A Little Service Flag," moved many of the visitors to tears. His gift of the key of the city to the league was greeted with applause which lasted five minutes.

President Napier in accepting the key said that since the organization of the league, in its annual sessions from city to city, Atlantic City leads, as this is the first key that has ever been presented to the National Negro league.

Dr. Moton's Response

With his native witticism and eloquent manner of reaching his audience, Dr. R. R. Moton, the recognized leader of his race, ably responded to the welcome address of Governor Edge and Mayor Bachrach. He singled out inspiring facts revealing the intense loyalty of his race and cited the thrilling events of the battle of Carrizal. He gave a plain interpretation of what democracy meant and asserted that the Negro was unswervingly loyal to his country and expected his contribution to bring him things that have been long deferred.

His masterly presentation of certain phases of the Negro's life and his constant devotion to his country despite his proscriptions and his inspiring optimism, combined with his happy way of reaching his applauding audience, demonstrated that he has the confidence of the leaders.

Hon. J. C. Napier, president of the body, ably presided and was assisted by Charles Banks of Mount Bayou, Miss., and Charles H. Brooks of Philadelphia. His annual message was

(Continued on Page Five.)

TO OUR READERS

We are glad The Monitor pleases you. It will also please your friends and neighbors. Show them your copy and get them to subscribe. Help us double our circulation this year by getting one of your friends or neighbors to subscribe.

Folk Lore Songs Thrill Audience

Great Chorus of Singers Under Direction of Madame E. Azalia Hackley Pleases Large Audience and Nets Handsome Sum for Mercy Hospital.

PREPARES PATRIOTIC PAGEANT

Imposing Spectacle Will Be Given in the Arcadia, Which Is Said to Be the Finest Casino in the World.

DETROIT, Sept. 12.—A chorus of local singers numbering perhaps 300 assembled and directed by Mrs. E. Azalia Hackley, was the inspiring event on the evening of August 24 at Army Hall—a folk song festival under the auspices of Mercy Hospital.

For ninety minutes the principals and chorus gave adequate and illuminating expressions to the quaint old tunes and hymns and crooning love lyrics which have in earlier days enlivened the evenings in "the quarters," and have lent their potent influences to repel the shadows of darkest slavery, to vocalize and revive a beaten but blindly resilient hope to give new breath to a faith so bitterly torn as to have lost all visible form of being—and in a more important way to symbolize the spirit or essence of whatever the strange thing may be that was sufficient to keep the dusky faces turned gropingly and falteringly forward through the storm.

Of distinct educational value in such a grouping of the crude, but always melodious songs that had their birth, who knows how far back in the pitiful story, and that have come down unpened from the lips of one generation to the quick ears and sympathies of the next. The story of the race is in a sense told in the spontaneous and sympathetic minstrelsy—a race that, a generation away from illiterate and irresponsible slavery, and not so many generations from actual savagery, has already given us orators like Frederick Douglass, poets like Paul Laurence Dunbar, composers, physicians, teachers and patriots.

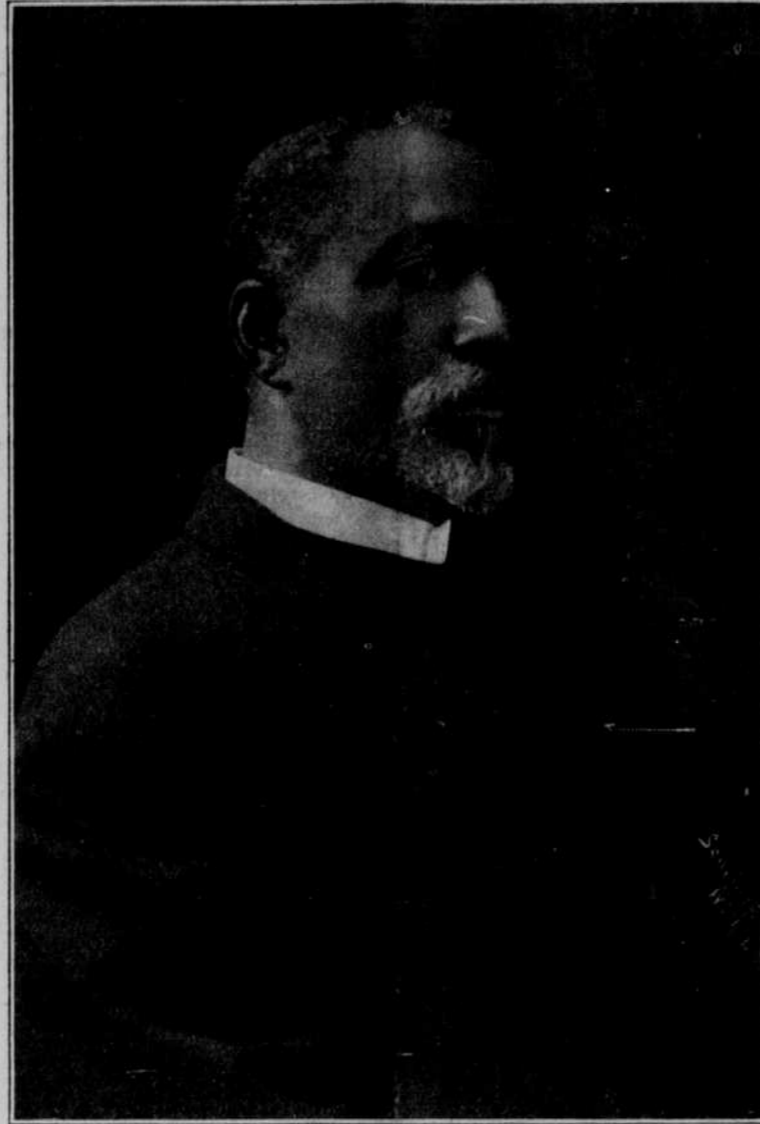
The chorus was made up of 300 singers, Colored singers who are rated for their rich musical voices.

The names of a number of race composers were seen on the program, including H. T. Burleigh, J. W. Johnson, W. A. Marion Cook, Abe Rogers, Lester A. Walton.

Mrs. E. A. Hackley is justly proud of her success in the conduct of the great musical festival. She was greeted by 2,500 people, and who, according to the demonstration, were well entertained. She will stage a patriotic pageant at the Arcadia September 26, the finest casino in the world.

PORTO RICO POLICE WOMEN

San Juan, Porto Rico.—A call has been issued for several thousand women in Porto Rico to form a police woman's reserve corps, to aid in correcting "the decidedly immoral conditions" which are said to exist not only in San Juan but elsewhere.



THE RT. REV. HENRY BLANTON PARKS, D. D.

Bishop of the Fifth Episcopal District of the Methodist Church, Who Will Preside at the Forty-third Annual Session of the Kansas Conference Which Convenes in St. John's A. M. E. Church Next Wednesday Morning.

The Negro and German Propaganda

(Editorial in St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette, September 9.)

THE busy enemy-aliens propagandist is having a hard row to hoe these days. So many of his plans have slipped up and so many of him are filling the concentration camps, for, while Uncle Sam is very quiet about it, he has a keen eye and long arm. Quite unexpectedly, out of the blue, the poor spy feels a heavy hand on his collar, and his usual haunts know him no more. In his confinement behind the bars, or while he is hoeing the corn for better men to eat, he hasn't even the satisfaction of gloating over his misdeeds. Too many of them have failed.

With that boasted German efficiency of which we once heard so much the propagandist tackled the American Negro. Here were a people ready to his hand, simple, kindly, unsuspecting, with so many grievances against the government that it would be easy to incite them to riot and disorder, thereby seriously hampering war work.

They tried it. They tried it again. They took another angle and tried it. Gott in Himmel! These people were loyal! They might complain among themselves, or to the powers that be, against their wrongs and oppressions, but America was their home, and the Stars and Stripes their flag—and God help the person who dared suggest that they act as traitors to either!

Then the busy little German bee began another flight, and worked up feeling among the ignorant whites against the Negro. (Continued on Page Four.)

Bar Association Holds Convention

Decides to Continue as Auxiliary to National Negro Business League; Elects Officers; Will Enlarge Scope of Work.

WANT MONUMENT FOR HARLAN

Memory of the Late Chief Justice, Whose Decisions on Matters Affecting Rights of Race Were Always Fair, Venerated by Jurists.

ATLANTIC CITY, Sept. 12.—The National Bar association, after deliberating for three days, decided that it would not sever its relations with the National Negro Business league as an auxiliary during the next twelve months. There was a very large attendance, especially from the east and north, and many matters of importance were taken up.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing term: President, Perry W. Howard, Mississippi; first vice president, James A. Cobb, District of Columbia; second vice president, J. T. Settle, Tennessee; recording secretary, S. D. McGill, Florida; corresponding secretary, W. H. Harrison, Oklahoma; treasurer, W. T. Andrews, South Carolina.

A movement known as the John M. Harlan Memorial was started under way and the committee was appointed to the memory of the late Justice John M. Harlan, who stood as one of the best of the jurists that this country has ever known. The committee appointed to take up this work is headed by Judge Robert H. Terrell of Washington, D. C.

A complete roster of the attorneys of the country is being made, and the same will be published by the National Bar association. The association has decided to enlarge its scope of work to the end that it may meet the increasing demands during the reconstruction period to follow the closing of the war.

CANDIDATES FOR CONGRESS

New York—Three Colored candidates filed their petitions here and were qualified to enter the fall campaign for nomination. Dr. R. C. Ransom will run for United States congress from the Twenty-first congressional district, and E. F. Johnson and John C. Hawkins for the general assembly at Albany.

THE NINTH CAVALRY ARRIVES IN RUSSIA

It is reported that the Ninth Cavalry Colored Troopers, who were stationed on the Philippine islands, have been sent to Vladivostok, Russia. This shows the value of these men for strategic purposes as they have shown it in the Boxer uprising on the island and in other guerilla warfare.

NEXT WEEK

"The Menace," by Fred C. Williams. Watch for it!

Colored Troops Rout German Foe

Take Sandemont, Recourt, Bertincourt and Other Towns, and Capture Several Hundred Hun Prisoners in Fierce Fight; Receive Great Praise.

'ARE AIMING TO REACH BERLIN'

Statement of Sprightly Officer as He Leaps Over Parapet of First Line Trenches to Lead His Command Into the Thickest of the Fray.

WITH the American Army in France, Aug. 31.—Since August 21 the Colored divisions of troops, both the Ninety-second and Ninety-third, have shoved forward on the enemy's line by 12,000 yards, and continue to advance daily. It is a fact that America's Black Devils are sounding the death knell of trench warfare. The Colored troops are forcing open fighting upon the enemy since the failure of the German drive in July. The Huns seem to be greatly inferior at the style of fighting that these Black Americans put up. The Germans had been used to fighting a while and resting a while, but with the Colored troops there has been no resting, but continued fighting with the fierceness of tigers.

Early today one division of Colored troops advanced 600 yards without a single loss. It is a noticeable fact that the Germans fear the American black troops because of the fierce manner in which they combat the enemy with their bayonets, shouting and singing as they charge on the fleeing enemy. When they began their attack on the towns of Sandemont and Recourt they ran the Huns from their trenches and kept them on the run until they captured both towns and several villages on the other side of Recourt. It was then that a command was given them to halt or retire to receive rations and rest, but not a man obeyed the command until they had driven the enemy out of sight.

Monday, August 26, both Colored divisions almost annihilated four fresh divisions of German reserve troops who had been sent into the enemy's line to drive back those Black Americans in their attack on the town of Bertincourt, but the town was soon taken by the Negro troops, capturing 800 Hun prisoners.

"What we're aiming to do," said a sprightly young Colored officer, "is to push our way right on into Berlin without stoppin', as we promised the folks at home we'd do, and we don't aim to be long at it, either," he continued, as he leaped from the first line trenches to join his comrades in the thickest of the fray, just as they were getting ready to make another savage attack on the enemy, and from the way they were going at it it won't be long before they will enter Berlin.

WILSON COMMUTES DEATH SENTENCES IN RIOTING CASES

Washington, D. C., Sept. 6.—Death sentences of ten Negro soldiers who participated in the riot at Houston, Texas, August 23, 1917, have been commuted to life imprisonment by President Wilson.

In six other cases the president affirmed the death sentences because the condemned men had been found guilty of having deliberately and with great cruelty murdered civilians.

This action, announced today by the war department, concludes the cases of twenty-nine Negroes given the death penalty for their part in the riot. Thirteen were executed and the president was called upon to review the findings in sixteen cases.

The president found that the ten whose sentences he commuted had not been convicted of personally and directly causing deaths. The soldiers involved were not named in the war department statement.

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