

GROWING.
THANK YOU!

THE MONITOR

LIFTING.
LEFT, TOO!

A NATIONAL WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS.

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"What Does the Negro Want or Expect?"

Question Asked Recently by Prominent and Well-Meaning White Southerner at Important Meeting Held in New York.

PROFESSOR HAWKINS REPLIES

Answer Unequivocal, Straightforward and Clean Cut Demand for True Democracy at Home.

NEW YORK, Nov. 20.—The General War-Time Commission of the Federal Council of Churches of America, has created a committee on "The Welfare of Negro Troops." At a meeting of this committee in New York, Monday, November 5, 1918, very interesting reports were made by those who have been delegated to make a survey of the conditions existing in and around the camps where our troops are quartered; and plans were discussed for extending the survey—even to France.

Several important questions pertaining to the work of our troops and their treatment were frankly discussed; and a sub-committee was appointed to report the work of this committee to the proper authorities of the war department.

One of the most important features of the meeting was presented in the form of a general statement, sent to the committee by a representative of one of the important agencies in connection with war activities. This representative thought it well to call the attention of the committee to certain matters bearing on the relationship between the white and colored races in certain sections; and to get some expression as to what is best to be done in the interest of all concerned. The author of the statement—a white man, whose name was withheld—set out:

FIRST: That there was a manifest feeling of unrest among both white and colored people in his district—a thickly populated section of one of the southern states.

SECOND: That there seemed to be a growing feeling of mistrust toward the white people, on the part of the colored people.

THIRD: That the white people were keenly interested to know as to what the colored people were thinking about; and somewhat disturbed over the fact that there was a seeming disposition on the part of the colored people to keep the whites "in the dark" as to their thoughts.

FOURTH: That Negro preachers and speakers were encouraging their people to expect a new adjustment of things under the application of the principles of DEMOCRACY.

It was generally admitted that this particular statement was a fair summary of the situation or conditions existing very generally throughout the south; and the matter assumed definite shape in the form of the question at the head of this article: WHAT DOES THE NEGRO WANT OR EXPECT?

THE ANSWER.

I cannot, and do not claim the authority to speak for the twelve millions, or more Negroes in America; but as one of them, I beg to submit the following in answer to the above question.

For the sake of convenience and directness let us follow the style of President Wilson and reduce our reasoning to what may be termed FOURTEEN (14) SPECIFIC ARTICLES AS A BASIS OF DEMOCRACY AT HOME.

I. Universal Suffrage.

The Negro wants the right to vote and the privilege of exercising that right in casting his ballot, because he knows this to be one of the fundamental rights of the citizens of a republic; and that any set of people who are denied the privilege of exercising this right will be rendered powerless in helping to shape civic affairs in the community, state or country of which they are a part.

Let the south be fair and apply the standard of elective franchise to white and colored alike and the first step will be taken towards removing the Negro's feeling of mistrust.

II. Better Educational Facilities in the South for Negroes.

The Negro wants this because he recognizes education as the lever by which a people are lifted up. He is capable of receiving it, is anxious for it, and needs it to help make him a better citizen. He meets every requirement in the way of taxation for



THE BLACKSTONE, OMAHA—ONE OF THE HANDSOMEST HOTEL BUILDINGS IN THE UNITED STATES Gives Employment to Several Men and Women of the Race—Colored Man One of the Stockholders.

Omaha's Exclusive Family Hotel

The Dining Room Crew and Other Employees Giving Satisfaction to Guests and Management; Gives Employment to 25 Men and Women.

HOW would you like to own one hundred and eightieth part of one of the finest and most exclusive family hotels in the United States? Well, there is one colored man in Omaha who has this distinction. He owns \$5,000 worth of stock in the Blackstone hotel, which in beauty is surpassed by no structure in the country and in richness of furnishings and equipment is said to be equalled by only one other in this country and that a hotel in Boston, Mass. So to find anything in the way of select family hotels to equal the Blackstone, Omaha, you have to travel as far as Boston.

As a citizen of Omaha this is something you ought to know, and it is a safe guess that not one in a thousand of our best informed citizens are acquainted with this fact. It is equally a safe guess that not one in ten thousand ever dreamed that among the stockholders of this palatial building is a colored man.

Well, stick a pin in these two facts. And since the Blackstone is valued at approximately \$900,000 the stockholder holding \$5,000 worth of stock owns one hundred and eightieth part of the hotel. In other words, if you could find 179 more of our people who have \$5,000 to invest they could own a building like the Blackstone.

In our present economic state there are scores and scores of other enterprises in which we could pool our interests and invest our money to a

much better advantage than would be the case were we to invest it in some one big hotel proposition of this kind. One of the points to stress now is this: It is significant that among the race in Omaha are to be found men who, when great fiscal agencies like the Bankers' Realty Investment company offer bonds for sale to build, equip and finance some big enterprises, are in a position to take advantage of this class of investments.

This handsome structure is of fire-proof construction, the building materials being steel, concrete, brick and terra cotta, with concrete floors throughout and fireproof gypsum block interior partitions. It is eight stories high above the basement and contains 237 guest rooms, which are subdivided into 131 suites. All suites have private bath, telephone and other conveniences. Besides the living apartments there is also a large public lobby, hotel office, four dining rooms, two kitchens, a billiard and card room, party rooms, reception rooms, ball rooms, all being the last word in elegance of style and equipment. Perhaps the handsomest general rooms in the building are the large ball room, in old rose and ivory, and the Oriental room, which are two of the large apartments on the eighth floor. The value of the building, conservatively estimated is placed at \$9,000,000. Such a building is an asset to any city.

The Blackstone gives employment to some twenty-five or more colored men and women. The dining room crew consists of the following persons: A. T. Jordan, head waiter; E. A. Lee, second waiter; S. H. Dorsey, Leonard Gamble, James Taylor, Warner Saunders, W. Edgerton, J. S. Williams, Allen Kennedy, E. L. Reid and R. C.

Monroe, waiters; Melissa Terry, Cora Haywood, Blanche Murrell and Fern Martin, waitresses. Miss Murrell is captain of the waitresses and Miss Martin is secretary of the dining room staff. The bakery is in charge of Robert Byrd and Mrs. Brown, experts in their line. The check room is in charge of Mrs. Alice M. Smith. The doorman and housemen are also colored. All these employes subscribed to the United War Work campaign.

The Blackstone management is well pleased with its colored employes. Mr. A. T. Jordan, the head waiter, has established an enviable reputation for his taste and skill in decorating and serving private parties. He is a native of Memphis, Tenn., where he served as one of the head waiters at the Peabody hotel and also of the Business Men's club. Subsequently he went to St. Joseph, Mo., where he served in the same capacity at the Rubidoux hotel. From St. Joseph he came to Omaha, where he has resided for the past five years, where he has won a good reputation. This was no small factor in his securing the important position which he now holds at the Blackstone.

GIVEN CHANCE FOR FRENCH EDUCATION

Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 21.—Our troops will have an opportunity to go to school and study French, French history and other subjects when an armistice is declared and they are waiting to be sent home. This is done through the efforts of the Y. M. C. A. who are trying to reduce the illiteracy among our boys. Public schools in this city will be utilized for the vocational education of crippled soldiers after the war.

FRANCE GIVES CITIZEN RIGHTS TO ALGERIANS

Paris, Nov. 20.—A bill giving an important extension of political rights to native Muslims and Algerians was adopted by the chamber of deputies today. Tribute was paid to the fighting of Algerian sharpshooters in the present war, and it was recalled that in the Franco-Prussian war the Algerians refused to surrender at Sedan. In that battle, after fighting their way through the German lines, they rejoined the French army.

Full citizenship rights are given natives if they are twenty-five years old, monogamous or single and have never been condemned for political crime.

NEW YORK HOTELS HIRE COLORED WAITERS

Special to The Monitor. New York, Nov. 21.—More than 500 colored waiters, cooks, pantrymen and caterers were employed by the Vanderbilt and Plaza hotels of New York City last week to supplant white strikers.

MOB LYNCHES MAN FOR STEALING MULE

Raleigh, N. C., Nov. 21.—A mob composed of prominent citizens of this city took Geo. Taylor from the sheriff and strung his body to a tree and riddled it with bullets. He was accused of stealing a mule.

TWO KANSAS CITYANS KILLED IN ACTION

Kansas City, Kas., Nov. 21.—News received here announces the death of Lieut. Hoppole and Lieut. Meriwether, colored, both of this place, killed in action October 6 in France.

GENERAL SCOTT OF TEXAS PRAISES NEGRO SOLDIERS

New York, Nov. 21.—Brig. Gen. W. S. Scott, who reached New York from France today, gave a lengthy interview to a Sun reporter upon the Americans in France. Commenting upon the Negro soldier, the general said:

"The spirit of the Negro in doing his war work is admirable; he is not only willing but anxious to do his share, and his never failing good humor lightens his task and those of others who come in contact with him. Probably the best soldiers come from the smaller towns, cities and the country; the south and the west and in parts where there is not the first generation of the foreign element. The second generation, born on the soil, make almost equally good soldiers, because they have absorbed the American spirit, are beginning to live up to American traditions and pride.

JAPANESE PAPER DOUBTS POWER OF PEACE LEAGUE

Tokyo, Nov. 21.—The Kokumin Shimbun, discussing President Wilson's proposed league of nations, doubts whether such a league will be able to maintain the peace of the world against an ambitious and mighty nation. It says that while Mr. Wilson proposes the removal of economic walls and restrictions of armament as necessary factors, according to a similar line of reasoning it must be argued that the removal of racial discrimination is important to the future preservation of the world's peace.

Says Removal of Racial Discrimination Is Important to Avoidance of Wars.

The paper affirms that in case Japan becomes a party to such a league, the discriminatory treatment of the Japanese in America and Australia should cease. It expresses unshaken confidence in Mr. Wilson's sincerity and expects a change of policy on the part of the American government.

FIRST CHINESE ASSISTANT BISHOP

The "Record" reports the election of the first Chinese Assistant Bishop of the Chung Hua Sheng Kung Hui (Church of China), which took place on December 11, 1917, in the Synod of the Chekiang diocese. Archdeacon T. S. Sing, who was elected, is the eldest son of the late Rev. E. T. Sing, the first Chinese to be ordained to the priesthood in the Anglican Church. The confirmation of Archdeacon Sing's election is expected to take place in the general synod, which meets in April next.



POROS COLLEGE BUILDING, ST. LOUIS, MO.

The staff and readers of The Monitor are cordially invited to visit and view this building during opening week, November 24 to December 1, 1918. Each evening's program will feature some of the best orators and artists of the race.

This \$250,000 structure is 142 feet by 137 feet, three stories, mezzanine floor, basement and roof garden. Fire proof and steam heated throughout. Ninety-five dormitories and office rooms; ladies' parlors; emergency hospital rooms, latest model ice and refrigerating plant with circulating ice water. Local and long distance phones in each room. Every room an outside room due to two spacious courts. Steam laundry, electric passenger and freight elevators. Auditorium; pneumatic carriers.

Thirty-one private rooms for shampooing, hairdressing and massaging, manicuring and chiropody.

A Colored Millionaire In France Entertains Boys in Trenches

The real colored millionaire is M. Louis de Lancour, a man of forty or forty-five, who lives on the Boulevard de St. Antoine, in a magnificent stone mansion. Monsieur Lancour is reputed to be worth over thirty million dollars in our money and is very prominent in the civic life of Paris.

I was entertained at his house about a year ago. I had been wounded in the trenches and was in Paris on a leave of absence. Monsieur Lancour is very patriotic—he loves France as a man would love a woman—and wanted to make it pleasant for all the wounded soldiers in the capital.

I will never forget that entertainment. There were over two hundred of us present, men of all nationalities and languages. It was a melting pot, a real brotherhood of man. Some of us were Negroes, some Slavs, some Gallic, some Celts and some Anglo-Saxons. We smoked and ate together and sang in our fashion "The Marseillaise" and the ditties of the trenches. Monsieur Lancour and his wife, Madame Lancour, the daughter of a rich Lyons merchant, moved in and out among us making it pleasant as they could for us. Lancour is a true democrat and shows it much better than he does his Negro blood. He is light complexioned for one of his race, has a shaggy mane of hair, black eyes and heavy lips. He is in appearance what I suppose Dumas was.

During the latter part of the evening he found me alone on the veranda, a little weary of the soldier's hilarity. He sat down beside me, his immaculate evening dress a contrast to my sergeant's khaki. "You are a Canadian, are you not," he asked. "Yes," I replied. "You are a Negro, are you not?" "Yes; and I am proud of it." "I am glad to hear that. I, too, am Negro, though it is very seldom that I am aware of it. It is true I have very little Negro blood in me, hardly enough to count; but in our sister republic I understand I would have to suffer all the humiliation of one who is classed inferior."

"I don't know about the humiliation you would suffer," I replied. "But I am certain you would raise our people in the estimation of the world were you to dwell in America. Your money would do wonders toward making Negro life in the United States endurable." "You have been in the States?" "Many times. I was a railroad porter before I joined the army. I have been in Chicago and New York and in several of the southern cities. I know what it means to be a Negro. These few months in the trenches are the only moments of heaven I have ever had.

"They say the Yankees are hard on our people, something like the Russians on the Jews. I have read Booker T. Washington's 'Up From Slavery,' and DuBois' 'Souls of Black Folks,' and know a little something of conditions over there. If I didn't have so much on my shoulders in trying to aid my own country in prosecuting the war I would contribute a fund for the benefit of our people in the United States."

We smoked a while in silence. "Sergeant," Lancour said, his eyes closed as if in a dream. "Do you know how I made my wealth?" "No, Monsieur," I replied. "Munitions. I am a parvenu rich. My father who was an army man left me a hundred thousand francs. I married the daughter of a Lyons silk manufacturer, who brought me an equal amount of as dowry. Two years before the war I bought a bankrupt munitions factory and made considerable supplying the Balkan nations with war materials. When our own war broke out money poured into my coffers and I awoke to find myself a millionaire.

"I am rich. I have everything man could wish. My wife loves me. I have one child who will be a credit to the Lancour family and France. My only hope and desire is to see Germany crushed and the people free from all foreign menace."

Madame Lancour came out on the veranda at that moment. "My dear," said Lancour, as he struck her slender white hand. "I was telling the sergeant that I have everything man could wish. I have you."

Madame Lancour laughed softly.

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