

GROWING,
THANK YOU!

THE MONITOR

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

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

LIFTING.
LIFT, TOO!

\$2.00 a Year. 5c a Copy

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, JANUARY 4, 1919

Vol. V. No. 1 (No. 182)

Publishers Remove Objectionable Title

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Score Another Important Victory.

NEW YORK.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, through its secretary, John R. Shillady of New York, announces that through the efforts of the Association the publishers of a song entitled "Nigger War Bride Blues" have been induced to change the name of the song to "War Bride Blues." The letter written by the publishers in answer to the Association's protest against the original title follows:

Houston, Tex., Nov. 15, 1918.

Mr. John R. Shillady,
70 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 7th inst. at hand and note your remarks regarding Nigger War Bride Blues.

In selecting a title for this song there was no intention on our part to reflect on the Colored race in any way and the term was never used for that purpose. The composition is a typical southern "sob song" and owing to its originality has swept the entire south and developed into the biggest Blues hit ever published. The word that you object to is more generally used among the Colored people themselves than among the white population, in fact, we have yet to hear any white person using this term, it being a general practice to address a Colored man as "George" if you do not happen to know him.

At no time in publishing and exploiting of this song has the thought occurred to us that we were giving cause for offense to anyone. The piece itself was originally published under the title of the Rice Hotel Blues. We furnished several Shrine bands in our section with band arrangements and same were played at the different Masonic conventions at Buffalo and Minneapolis, and immediately we began to receive orders for the number. Having received a number of requests for a song arrangement we decided to issue same with words and at the same time eliminate the local title of Rice Hotel Blues. The various titles were then submitted by the composer and author but none of them we found suitable. It was by accident that the writer happening to look across the street noted that Nazimova was being featured on an electric sign at a moving picture house in War Brides and this gave us the cue for a title. The composer immediately mentioned "there is our title" as inasmuch as same was a southern song and distinctly typical of the Colored people the suggestion was made by the authors to have the title "Nigger War Bride Blues."

It may be of interest for you to know that the writer of this letter is a northern man, a native of Boston, with all the tradition of New England ancestry back of him regarding the Negro. In his boyhood days, time and again, he has heard his parents and grandparents tell of the stirring times in Boston when Garrison, Sumner, and Phillips held the center of the stage of that time and is thoroughly acquainted with the speeches and writings of these pioneers of freedom.

We also beg to advise that a co-director of our firm is a New Englander, a native of New Britain, Conn., and a Yale man. In conclusion we want to say that we are proud of what the Colored soldier has done in this war for world freedom and prouder still of our country for producing and developing such good citizens and soldiers. As a token of our appreciation of the Colored men we have decided to eliminate the objectionable word in question from the title of our song and hereafter will have same issued under the new title of War Bride Blues. We are now preparing to issue a new edition and will notify our printers accordingly. If you will refer to the lyrics of this song you will note that the objectionable word does not appear in same.

In conclusion we want to say that the title and song were written in a spirit of humor and is not to be taken seriously by anyone even with the old title. We thank you for your courteous letter.

Hoping matters have been explained and adjusted to your entire satisfaction, and with best wishes for the success of the organization, we beg to remain, yours very truly,

THOS GOGGAN & BRO.,
(Signed.) Per Wm. J. Kearney,

HAYNES SPEAKS BEFORE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

New York, Jan. 1.—Dr. George E. Haynes, director of Negro economics, department of labor, delivered an address before the American Academy of Political Science on "The Effects of War Conditions on Negro Labor." Dr. Haynes divided the subject into three divisions: (1) The change in the relation of Negro wage-earners to white employers, north and south; (2) the change in the relation of Negro wage-earner to white workmen; (3) the change in the Negro himself. The address was a most excellent study of the labor situation as it affects the Negro and was well received. Many prominent Americans were in attendance and addressed the academy.

COLORED DOCTOR SELECTED AS DELEGATE

New York, Jan. 1.—Over one hundred chiropodists assembled at the meeting of the New York division held at Terrace Garden on Tuesday evening to elect delegates to a state convention to be held here in the city on January 13, 1919. Dr. Valentine Thomas was among those selected. Ten were elected out of fourteen candidates. All were white except one. Dr. Thomas received the second highest number of votes.

PITTSBURG GIRL WINS JUMP CHAMPIONSHIP

Pittsburg, Jan. 1.—Miss Corrine Mason, Wylie avenue, has just been awarded the girls' national championship for the running broad jump. Miss Mason is a member of the auxiliary of the Scholastic Athletic association and is well known locally as one of the very best female basket ball players in the game.

WAR SONG WINS COLORED GIRL FIRST PRIZE

Louisville, Ky., Jan. 1.—Miss Nannie G. Board, graduate of Howard university in the college class last year, and now a teacher in the Agricultural and Industrial of this city, won first prize in a recent song contest held here.

The contest was concluded by the war work campaign committee and there were a large majority of white entrants.

The song is a march with a faint echo of the fife and drum through the whole piece. It may possibly prove to be one of the most popular war songs of the year.

COLORED DOCTOR APPOINTED DEPUTY

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 1.—Dr. C. A. Tolles, 2005 Hillside avenue, was recently appointed a deputy to succeed Dr. Edwin Knox, 1406 Fletcher avenue, by Dr. Paul Robinson, coroner elect, who takes office on January 1, 1919.

Dr. Tolles is the only man of color appointed by Dr. Robinson in this capacity.

DENIES NEGROES WERE ORDERED TO LEAVE

(Special to The Monitor.)

New York, Dec. 26.—John R. Shillady, of the N. A. A. C. P., received the following telegram from the Wyoming Capital, December 16th, relative to the lynching of Woodson.

Cheyenne Wyo., Dec. 16, 1918.
John R. Shillady,
70 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Replying to yours of 13th, Governor Houx absent. Yours will be laid before him on his return. Report Negroes forced to leave Green River erroneous. No violence there after hanging of Woodson. Prosecutor of Sweetwater county states he will call grand jury to investigate lynching.

JOHN C. THOMPSON, Secy.

WHITE RED CROSS SANTA TO NEGRO CHILDREN

Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 1.—The Junior Red Cross of the Industrial High school made the children of all the Colored soldiers happy Christmas day by playing Santa Claus to them. D. D. Kennedy, chairman of the Junior Red Cross, had charge of the work and funds were collected from the public in the same manner as prominent society women were collecting for the white soldiers. A large sum was realized and the plan carried to a happy conclusion.



The New Omaha Athletic Club Building

"I Resent it in the Name of Democracy, in the Name of Liberty, in the Name of Brotherly Love"

An Open Letter to President L. H. Bissell, Illinois College of Photography, by Sergeant Watkins, An Honorably Discharged Soldier of Excellent Character, Who Was Denied Admission When His Racial Identity Became Known.

SERGEANT LUCIAN B. WATKINS, who ranks high as a poet and writer and was recently honorably discharged from the army for physical disability, after seventeen years of service, has written an open letter to the president of the Illinois College of Photography, which should be given the widest publicity. Broad-minded Americans need to have the truth presented to them as Sergeant Watkins presents it. No man of broad-mind and sympathy can read this letter without admitting the crying injustice of which this case is representative and illustrative of the difficulties confronting loyal and aspiring Colored Americans in the United States of America. Sergeant Watkins is a personal friend of the editor of The Monitor and is a Christian gentleman of the highest character, a fact which must be evident to those who read this letter.

649 Stirling St., Baltimore, Md.,
Christmas Day, 1918.

Mr. L. H. Bissell,
President of the Illinois College of
Photography,
Effingham, Illinois.

Sir:

Since receiving your letter of December 14th, in which you heartily advised my enrollment as a student in your College of Photography, for the vocational training granted me recently by the Federal Board for Vocational Education, Washington, D. C., I have been informed by that board as follows:

"We have just been advised by the Illinois School of Photography that colored men are not taken in their school."

I was honorably discharged April 15, 1918, at Camp Funston, Kansas, by reason of physical disability, incurred in the line of my duties as an American soldier. My case comes under the provision of the United States War department, through which disabled soldiers are granted such vocational trainings as they may elect, that are suited to their several needs in civil life. Sir, this proviso of our Government is an impartial document, but it seems that you would limit it in its application.

I elected a course in photography as my vocational training, this being a subject in which I am especially interested. I sought admission to your school that I might obtain this training. So far as I know, yours is the only institution of its kind in America. I understand that you are its founder as well as being its president. I wrote you relative to my enrollment in your college. You replied in the following words, to-wit:

"Effingham, Ill.,
December 4, 1918.

"Mr. Lucian B. Watkins,
No. 649 Stirling St.,
Baltimore, Mo.

"Dear Mr. Watkins:
"Your valued favor of recent date received and we are pleased to hear from you and to learn that you have decided to take a course in our school."
"Upon enrollment we will take pleasure in advancing you as rapidly as possible in high-grade photography.

"We know, Mr. Watkins, that you will be delighted with the work as we teach it, as it is pleasant, interesting and highly profitable.

"The demand for photography is enormous and a well conducted studio is a splendid paying investment.

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TOLEDO COLORED BANK HAS A PROSPEROUS YEAR

Toledo, O.—The Star Building and Loan Association of Toledo, O., the only Negro banking institution in the whole state, had its installation of officers December 4. The officers for the ensuing year are:

Marion E. Author, president; W. A. McCoglin, vice president; John L. Rochester, secretary; Giles L. Davis, treasurer, and Harrison Fisher, attorney. The board of directors included the above officers and in addition: Dr. B. F. Williams, Elvin B. Wanzo, Mrs. Ida Jones, Mr. Thomas Maddox, Mr. Charles Thomas, P. H. Wood, C. W. Headen, I. J. Greenhow, John Harter, and Albertus Brown.

This institution is unique in that it is the only one of its kind in the state. It has an authorized capital stock of \$100,000. It is the depository of fraternal and civic organizations in the city. It has money loaned on first mortgage security throughout the state. Its officers and directors are composed of Toledo's most prominent citizens and business men and women. Its shares of stock are worth \$200 each, payment \$1 a month.

MANY WOUNDED NEGRO SOLDIERS REACH N. Y.

The Celtic Arrives With 2,122 Soldiers Who Saw Active Service.

New York.—Amid the sounding of sirens and other noisy salutation the big liner Celtic made her way up the harbor and docked shortly after 8 o'clock today with 2,122 troops from "over there."

Most of the soldiers on the Celtic were Colored members of the 814th pioneer infantry. Among them were many hospital cases. The liner also brought a number of officers of white organizations.

SOLDIER DECORATED FOR BRAVERY

Shelbyville, Ind., Dec. 31.—Corporal Albert Taylor, Colored, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Taylor of this city, has been decorated with the French Croix de Guerre for bravery in action. In a letter to his parents he tells of his being made a "noncom" and also of the decoration. He states that his regiment was doing its hardest fighting on the Toul sector when the armistice was signed.

Emmett Scott to Remain at His Post

Secretary Baker Points Out the Problems of Future Are as Numerous and Perplexing as Those of Actual Warfare—Efficient Special Assistant.

By R. W. Thompson

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The success that has attended the labors of Emmett J. Scott as special assistant to the secretary of war is one of the outstanding features of the participation of the Colored American in the war which is now approaching a triumphant close, with democracy well assured for many of the oppressed peoples of the world.

Mr. Scott has just finished the first year of his very satisfactory administration of the great trust reposed in him as the official representative of the 12,000,000 Colored citizens of the republic. It is conceded upon all sides and by both races that the practical results achieved by Mr. Scott in his particular and trying field, and the intricate problems he has met and so intelligently mastered, amply justify the secretary of war's decision to create the office.

Mr. Scott Urged to Remain at His Post

All questions as to the tenure of Mr. Scott in his office as special assistant in the war department are effectively set at rest by a recent letter, written to Mr. Scott by the Hon. Newton D. Baker, secretary of war, who makes plain his appreciation of the fine services rendered by Mr. Scott during the months that he has been at his side as a helper in the solution of some of the knottiest problems that the war department has been called upon to face.

In the communication referred to Secretary Baker expressed the hope that it will be possible for Mr. Scott to continue his work in the war department through the period of the demobilization of the troops. The secretary of war took the view that the problems ahead of us are just as numerous and perplexing as those that have been dealt with during the past year, and indicated that it would be most helpful to all concerned if he could have Mr. Scott's continued counsel and advice in connection with the important questions that are bound to arise in the adjustment of the issues of the future.

Glowing Tribute Paid by Director of
Committee on Public Information

A further testimonial to the worth and far-reaching effect of the work that has been carried on by the special assistant comes from Mr. George Creel, chairman of the committee on public information, in conjunction with whom Mr. Scott has kept the country fully informed as to the activities of the Colored people in the countless agencies that have been engaged in the winning of the war. Mr. Creel's letter, which explains itself, is here given:

THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

Washington, D. C., Nov. 27, 1918.
Mr. Emmett J. Scott,
Special Assistant to the Secretary of War.

My Dear Mr. Scott: Before completing the work of the committee on public information, I wish to write you a very sincere letter of thanks for your very real contribution to the cause of national unity. As special assistant to the secretary of war, with specific duty to maintain the morale of the Colored population of the United States, you have discharged a delicate task with discretion, the very highest intelligence, and the very greatest devotion to your people and to your country.

I can truthfully say that the committee on public information, in its fight for unity, has been helped immeasurably by you. It has become a pleasure to work with you, and I want to say a very sincere personal word of my deep appreciation. It must be a matter of pride to you to know that no portion of the population has been more loyal than the people of your race. Not the least of the strength of the war purpose of America has proceeded from the courage and devotion of the Colored people. Believe me, very sincerely,
(Signed) GEORGE CREEL,
Chairman.

Smoke John Ruskin 5c Cigar. Biggest and Best.—Adv.