

# THE MONITOR

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## FREDERICK DOUGLASS

AS the years recede the magnificent figure of Frederick Douglass looms larger upon the vision of the race of which he was such an able champion and conspicuous representative. His labors and sacrifices for the cause of freedom and the enfranchisement of our people is becoming more and more fully appreciated.

We shall best honor his venerated memory by striving to attain those heights as a people where the banner of his hopes were set.

Let our children memorize and frequently recite the poem of Paul Laurence Dunbar entitled "Frederick Douglass."

## MAKE THE RAILROADS DO IT

THE MONITOR stands uncompromisingly for fighting to a finish the Jim Crow car system, in vogue, in direct violation of the fundamental law of this land, in certain sections of this country. It must be fought because it is unlawful and shamefully, outrageously indecent, unsanitary and dishonest. We speak of the system as a whole and that from first hand knowledge, furnished us by reputable men and women of character, culture and refinement who have had to endure its humiliations, discomforts and injustices.

The Jim Crow car system is unlawful and in direct violation of the constitution of the United States, which expressly declares that "NO STATE SHALL MAKE OR ENFORCE ANY LAW WHICH SHALL ABRIDGE THE PRIVILEGES OR IMMUNITIES OF CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES."

No sane or truthful man will for a single moment contend that the Jim Crow laws do not abridge the privileges of citizens of the United States.

The system is indecent because it makes no provision for that privacy which good taste and breeding dictate, men and women being compelled to use the same common conveniences and women being forced to hear ribald jests and indecent language.

The system is unsanitary for the reason mentioned in the above paragraph and because the coaches are dirty—and dirt is a breeder of disease—and because of the promiscuous crowding of all sorts and conditions of people in the limited quarters of the car or section of the car set apart "For Negroes" or "For Colored."

The system is unqualifiedly dishonest for the reason that Negro passengers are COMPELLED TO PAY FIRST CLASS FARE FOR ANYTHING BUT FIRST CLASS ACCOMMODATIONS. Will anyone with even a passing respect for that which is just contend that there is anything honest about this?

And yet the government of the United States is permitting this species of robbery—for it is nothing else—to continue. The government is in charge of the railroads and could change this condition at once if it would. Mr. McAdoo wiped out the "color line" in the wage system, when he declared that "there shall be equal pay for equal work on all railroads." The same thing can be done, should be done and must be done with reference to passenger rates. Eventually the government must decree that there shall be equal accommodations for equal fares.

The law now says this, but in no case on no railroad where the Jim Crow system obtains is this done.

How shall it be remedied? Congressman Madden has introduced a bill in congress which it is hoped will meet the issue. The bill is carefully and well drawn and will be effective—IF PASSED AND ENFORCED. We shall discuss it in a subsequent issue.

The most effective way, however, in our opinion, in eliminating the unlawful Jim Crow system, would be to make the railroads do it. The railroads should be compelled to do what the law says they must do, to provide equal accommodations for all passengers. This would mean modern coaches, dining cars, Pullmans, etc., for both races. Were the railroads compelled to go to this expense, their splendid legal talent would fight for the repeal of the Jim Crow car laws and those laws would be repealed. It is along this line that the fight must be waged. Let the railroads do it.

Pressure should be brought to bear upon our senators and congressmen from the north to see that the Madden bill is passed and then see to it that the railroads "PROVIDE EQUAL AND IDENTICAL RIGHTS, ACCOMMODATIONS AND PRIVILEGES TO ANY PERSON WHO SHALL PAY, OR OFFER TO PAY, THE UNIFORM CHARGE MADE FOR SUCH EQUAL AND IDENTICAL RIGHTS, ACCOMMODATIONS AND PRIVILEGES."

This is the "fight that must be waged and there must be no compromise, no surrender.

## PROPOSED MANDATORY GOVERNMENT FOR AFRICA

IT is reported by the Associated Press that the peace conference is in accord respecting the disposition of the German colonies and the following has been given out as the probable solution of the whole African problem: "On the other hand, colonies like those in Central Africa would require a mandatory with large powers of administration, responsible for the suppression of slave trade, liquor, ammunition and arms traffic, and the prevention of exercise of military authority on the part of the natives except for native police purposes."

This plan is rather significant of the fact that Europe doesn't intend Africa to have any "self-determination" and further that she will be careful to keep liquor and ammunition out of the hands of the natives, as well as to prevent any military organization. Is it possible that Europe is afraid of the natives? We imagine so and especially since she has had the glorious opportunity of seeing them fight. We venture the opinion that the white man in Africa would be far safer if the colonies did have a form of self-government, because the continuation of present conditions merely piles up the interest upon the debt that must be paid someday and paid with blood.

Anyway, Africa can afford to wait. She and her children were there thousands of years before Europe, as it is today, was dreamed of, and she will still be there and flourishing when the peace conference is memory. The Hague dust and the great nations of Europe a wilderness of ruins.

## THE PITTSBURG COURIER ON MOTON

THE Pittsburg Courier, one of the greatest race papers of the country, comes out in its issue of last week with a long editorial condemning certain of the Negro press for its attacks upon Dr. Moton and his mission to France. With much that the Courier says we are in accord, but inasmuch as The Monitor was one of the papers which regarded, rather sarcastically, the doctor's mission, we do not believe it out of order to defend our past position and to show why there is some excuse for those other of our large press family not to wholly approve the alleged words or policy of the eminent head of Tuskegee.

To begin with, the race throughout America knows Dr. Moton to be an apologist. We further know that Dr. Moton could not well be anything else and retain his position at the head of the greatest Negro industrial school in America. Emmett Scott might have become the head of Tuskegee had he been able to squelch his manhood and become an apologist, but he was unable to do so. Booker T. Washington Jr. was recently driven out of Alabama because he was not an apologist and because he dared to speak out against the wilful murder of race members of the south. Therefore, we all understand why Dr. Moton became head of Tuskegee, why he apologized because his high-spirited wife resented being Jim Crowed and expelled from a Pullman and why the administration considered him the best man to send to France to talk to the Colored soldiers who are about to return to America.

It matters little to us just what Dr. Moton said or may not have said, because we all know from his record that all which he might have said, when summed up, was a verbal effort to prepare the Negro soldier to come back and find and accept the conditions the same as when he left.

The doctor is reported to have said that the relations between the races "are better," but when saying this did the doctor mention in the speech that more than 100 lynchings have occurred since the declaration of war, this report having been issued from the school of which he is head? Did Dr. Moton tell the boys over there that the son of the founder of Tuskegee had been forced to leave Alabama because he spoke against lynching? Did the doctor inform the men that the Ku Klux Klan spirit was being revived in the south and that it was directed especially against the returning Negro soldier?

We say that to tell the Negro soldier that conditions have changed when, in fact, they are in a way more serious, is not only untruthful but absolutely harmful inasmuch as they may have the tendency to bring bitter results which might be avoided by telling the sane and simple truth.

Couple with the fact of Dr. Moton's mission the fact that certain race men and women who wished to attend the congress of the darker races in Paris were denied passports by this government and it is a natural conclusion that the doctor's mission was to be favorable to the government and that what the delegates might say at the congress would be considered inimical. Yet the delegates would have spoken only the truth. Is it logical then, to conclude, that if the latter would speak only the truth, the former must have been, as he has always been, an apologist and sent to prepare the Negro soldier to return to a land that would treat him the same, in spite of the fact that he had fought for those ideals of liberty and justice which carried this nation into war.

## THE KANSAS CITY POST AND THE NEGRO

IT will be a source of pleasure for many of the race to learn that the Kansas City Post, one of the greatest dailies of the west, has thrown aside the dictum of American usage and capitalized "N" in the word Negro. This may not appeal to many as anything strikingly new or especially deserving of praise, inasmuch as the common sense usage of English should dictate a capital for any proper noun, yet on the other hand American opinion has purposely held the race in more or less contempt and this contempt has even gone so far as to attempt to belittle twelve millions of Americans by using a small letter in classifying them as to their ethnic relations. Thus it is that Dr. Burris A. Jenkins has had the manhood and temerity to ignore what the national white press considers correct and to substitute what is correct, thereby earning for himself the respect and praise of the American Negro.

We thank the editor of the Post for this departure from the accustomed path of American prejudice and hope that other editors will realize the justness and fairness of his position and follow his lead.

## LAX LIVING

IT is the solemn teaching of history that no race or people with a low standard of morals long survive. Lax living, loose morals carry with them the seeds of decay. Would we be a truly great people, we must always stand for and cultivate the highest moral ideals. We need never fear coming into our own place in this or any other country so long as we are true to God and His righteousness and set our face as a flint against all that is sensual, low and degrading. We owe it to ourselves, to our race and to the community in which we live, wherever that may be, to steadfastly stand for the right and to see that no one can truthfully charge us with lax living or loose morals. A moral people is an invincible people. Let us as individuals realize our personal responsibility for achieving and maintaining the highest moral standards. This is the royal highway to individual, racial and national greatness. It is also the pathway of safety.

## WHAT ABOUT IT, SENATOR?

IN his recent speech on woman suffrage, Senator Hitchcock said he favored universal suffrage, but he believed it was a state right and that the matter should not be regarded as proper for a constitutional amendment. A while before that the eminent senator voted to make the nation dry, failing to consider the question as to whether the same should be a state matter or national matter. What about it, senator?

## SKITS OF SOLOMON Passports

A passport is a handsome piece of stationery all decorated with ink, whereby a guy can leave the U. S. A. and travel about foreign countries without getting pinched as a spy or a Bolshevik. Some days ago a company of Colored friends went to the state department at Wash on the D.

C., and asked for a bit of said stationery so that they could go to gay Paree and meet a few other friends and talk over much jargon concerning the future of the cullud races. When they hit the front door and reached the mahogany, the chief of staff almost threw a fit. He wanted to know the why of the whereas and what they were going to jangle over, but the brothers and sisters were as mum as a bunch of oysters buried in ten feet of ice. Sir staff specialist hot footed it to the big boss and buzz buzzed in his ear, and pronto the big boss got the cold shivers and told the staff specialist if the cullud folks were given passports to go across the pond, they sure would speak right out in church and by the time the French dailies got hold of the red pepper palaver, the delegates would have President Wilson writing out explanations by the car load. "Nevaire, Nevaire!" screamed the big boss, and so the staff specialist toddled back and after ensconcing himself safely behind the broad topped mahogany, bowed politely and said: "Sorry, indeed, ladies and gentlemen, but there is nothing doing in the line of passports today. The guy what issues 'em has gone fishing for deep sea food and ain't likely to be home before a month or so. Come back then and we'll fix you out all humtiddidy."

What did you say? A free country? Umh!

## Obvious Observations

Never again! Two weeks ago we said we wanted cold weather and we got it with a vengeance.

We thought the European nations were going to have a peace conference? They are having a conference all right all right, but there doesn't seem to be much peace about it.

If labor and capital would stop, look and listen, to what John D. Rockefeller Jr., has to say about things they might learn something.

Please don't forget to dig up that subscription coin.

"Nations shall maintain navies commensurate with their colonial boundaries," says the press. Gee, but isn't the League of Nations a good joke?

Somebody took a punch at old H. C. L. recently and a few things went a tumble in price. We wish that somebody would go about ten rounds with him and knock him cold in the tenth.

Was the U. S. A. scared that the Colored brothers and sisters would let the cat out of the bag if they got to Paris and began to tell how President Wilson carries out his ideals of liberty and equality at home? We rec' and spec' it was.

Thirty thousand laborers in Pennsylvania are going to strike July first on the platform, "No beer no work!" Wow! Some platform, believe muh, Mable.

Where in the heck did that robin go which you said you saw last Sunday week, Clarice?

Thanking you kindly for this wonderful exhibition of patience, we will now treat the typewriter for rheumatism and give it an oiling up.

St. Benedict's Catholic League dance at U. B. F. hall, 24th and Parker streets, Friday, February 28. Perkins orchestra. Admission 25c.

## The Kiddies' Korner

MADRE PENN

PRICELESS

Da' she sits, da sweetest chile, Dat eber blessed a mammy's life; Jus' look at how she counts dem toes, An' looks around as if she knows.

Hush! Listen to dat baby croon, I bet de angels taugt dem chunes, A whispering 'round ma baby's head When I done laid her in ha' bed.

Come heah to yo mudder, chile, Look up at me, let's see you smile; Dere ain't no money in dis world Could buy you from yo mudder, girl!

## TO MY VALENTINE

'F u luvves ME Like I Luvves U, No knife can cut R luve in 2.

Boys and girls, where did Valentine day gets its name? The best letter of the origin of Valentine day will be published in the next issue of The Monitor.

Get busy and write us a letter, telling us what you know about this day.

Put this on your envelope: The Monitor, Room 304 Crouse Block, Omaha, Neb. Mail your letter so it will reach us by Monday, February 16.

## A Classified Directory of Omaha's Colored Professional and Business firms

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