

IMPORTANT BILL IN N. Y. LEGISLATURE

Urges Eligibility for Commissions for Negroes Who Fought in France.

(By Associated Negro Press.)

New York, March 6.—The one big subject of discussion here, by Negroes and whites alike, is the wonderful effect the returning of our soldiers is having upon the minds and thoughts of the American people.

Every great daily in the east and west has taken up the cause of cheering the good will, and this beginning has been taken up by the organizations and people generally. The big effort is to see that something of a lasting nature comes out of all the era of good will that is now being manifested.

A measure has been introduced in the legislature of New York to definitely make all of the officers of the Fifteenth Regiment of New York national guard Negroes, and to make all those who fought in France eligible for commissions. To this is added an appropriation for a permanent armory and club house.



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INGALLS' EULOGY OF GRASS

Brilliant Piece of Writing by Famous Kansan Will Forever Hold Place in Literature.

"Lying in the sunshine among the buttercups and dandelions of May scarcely higher in intelligence than the minute tenants of that mimic wilderness, our earliest recollections are of grass, and when the fitful fever is ended and the foolish wrangle of the market and the forum is closed, grass heals over the scar which our descent into the bosom of earth has made and the carpet of the infant becomes the blanket of the dead. Grass is the forgiveness of nature—her constant benediction. Fields trampled with battle, saturated with blood, torn with the ruts of cannon, grow green again with grass, and carnage is forgotten. Streets abandoned by traffic become grass-grown like rural lanes and are obliterated. Forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish, but grass is immortal. Beleaguered by the sullen hosts of winter, it withdraws into the impregnable fortress of its subterranean vitality and emerges upon the first solicitation of spring. Sown by the winds, by the wandering birds, propagated by the subtle agriculture of the elements which are its ministers and servants, it softens the rude outline of the world. It bears no blazonry of bloom to charm the senses with fragrance or splendor, but its homely hues are more enchanting than the lily or the rose. It yields no fruit in earth or air, and yet, should its harvest fail for a single year, famine would depopulate the world."

This classic by John J. Ingalls, was first printed in the Duluth Herald, says the Kansas Magazine, when Senator Ingalls was one of its owners.

"CARAVAN KITCHENS" TO STAY

Introduced as Wartime Measure in England, They Have Demonstrated Their Usefulness.

One of the most successful wartime experiments has been the caravan kitchen, says a London (Eng.) dispatch.

Owing to the fact that so many mothers had to leave their families of young children to fend for themselves while they went out to work to make ends meet, Miss Horsborough conceived the idea of catering to the needs of these children by means of a caravan kitchen.

Assisted by three or four other women, she paraded the poorer quarters of London, cooking en route all kinds of toothsome and nourishing dishes. The kiddies came running out with their plates at the blowing of a tin trumpet, and were served with a piping hot and appetizing dinner in return for a trifling sum of money, which had been left with them for this purpose by their mother.

The fame of the caravan kitchen soon spread abroad, and within a short space of time was paying its way, 33,000 dinners a week being served in one district alone.

So successful has been this traveling caterer it is likely the work will be continued on a larger scale, and become a permanent institution, instead of a wartime measure.

Bird Welcome on Board Ship.

Wearily of wing and starved, a tiny linnet alighted aboard the four-masted schooner Sophie Christensen 1,000 miles from San Francisco, according to Capt. Bob McCarron.

A tramp steamer was hull down on the horizon when the linnet reached the schooner, and one of the theories as to its long flight was that the bird had been a pet on the vessel and yearning for land, had sought to fly to the far-away shore.

Aboard the schooner is a canary and as though by instinct, the linnet flew to the cage of the canary, perching precariously while the schooner heaved and tossed. Captain McCarron opened the door of the cage and the linnet soon recovered. The canary welcomed the linnet and they are now chums.

Black Fox Industry.

The number of foxes in the ranches of Prince Edward island at the beginning of the pelting season in 1917 was approximately 10,000. From December 1, 1917, to January 31, 1918, 2,500 foxes were killed and their skins marketed. Raising ranch-bred foxes is an industry that is being carried on extensively in all the Canadian provinces, in at least a dozen of the northernmost of the United States, and beginning in Japan and Norway, all lying in much the same climatic belt adapted to domesticating the black fox under the most favorable conditions.

Wedding-Ring Custom to Stay.

Jewelers say that the war-time custom in England of brides buying their own wedding rings has come to stay. It had to be done when the bride groom only reached England an hour or two before the wedding, and now the custom has too many advantages to be given up quickly, for obviously a girl knows better than any man the size of ring that she requires.—Edinburgh Scotsman.

Lemon Tree Bears Oranges.

From the Journal of Heredity we learn of a rather novel case of a lemon tree which proceeded to produce oranges. The tree, supposedly of the ordinary Italian lemon variety, was transplanted to Egypt. When it bore fruit it was noticed that the lemons were more spherical than lemons usually are and bore an orange-colored stripe. One branch bore a large fruit which was unmistakably an orange.

MY CREED

I hold it, that a man is more a man, For having met the world and fought it square

He most can value sweetness of content

Who first has quaffed the bitter of despair,

'Tis better far to strive and know defeat

While youthful hopes arise to win or die;

For faith and courage vanish with the years,

And neath the ruins of our souls we lie.

Behold yon sapling gainst the stormy wind—

It bends in meekness, yet doth hold its own,

Each hostile gale but serves the better end—

Embeds it firmly in the native loam.

There is a power which holds man to the earth,

Though soar he may unknown realms of Thought,

Instilled within each breast ere human birth—

Things undefined, Ne'er could nor will be taught.

I hold it, that a man is more a man, For having met the world and fought it square,

Each one can do what'er he wills to do,

Success is wealth to which mankind is heir.

Forge to the front! Nor count the journey made

'Till you shall stand above, supreme and unafraid!

EVA A. JESSIE,
Muskogee, Okla.

MICHIGAN ONCE HAD SLAVES

Only in 1836 Did Human Chattels Become Unprofitable to Their Owners in That State.

Few Detroiters of the present generation know that Michigan was once a slave territory, or that the city of Detroit, for a period of nearly one hundred years, included a considerable number of slaves in its population, observes the Detroit News. The early French settlers lived largely by trading with the Indians. At first they bought furs only, but each spring the Indians of Michigan would make war raids into territory south and west, and they would bring back captives whom they sometimes killed by torture, but later they found it more profitable to sell them to the white settlers as slaves. Most of these Indian slaves were from the Pawnee tribe.

Later negro slaves were bought in the East, principally in the state of New York. When the British took possession in 1790 they found quite a number of slaves, Indians and negro, and they continued the practice. The census of the district in 1773 showed 46 men and 39 women slaves in a community that numbered less than 300 adult white men. In 1872 there were 179 slaves in Detroit. The ordinance of 1787 forbade slavery in the Northwest territory, but Detroiters paid no attention to this Constitutional act. There were enough negroes in Detroit in 1807, slave and free, to enable Governor Hull to organize a company of colored militia.

In 1818 the assessor for Wayne county made slaves taxable property, and this proved a discouragement to slaveholding. By 1832 there were only 32 slaves left in Michigan territory, and in 1836 the last one had been manumitted. Less than 20 years later Michigan, having found slaveholding unprofitable, became ardently abolitionist, and Detroit was converted into a terminal of the "underground railway," through which runaway slaves from the South found their way to freedom in Canada.

ANIMAL HEROES IN WARFARE

Some Praise Should Be Spared for the Dumb Brutes Who Gave Their Lives for Liberty.

There was one factor for victory in the war which we overlook in passing out the praise and medals.

To the dumb animals who bore much of battle's brunt, to the horses, mules and dogs, great credit is due.

Patient, plodding, brave, obedient creatures of faithfulness!

Wondrous fine the steed of officer, but equally grand the sturdy haulers of caisson and gun carriage!

But of limitless jokes, the long-eared, lean-legged, tuft-tailed army mule has glorified himself. Endless the supply trains he tugged fagging distances, across shell swept spots and through fierce fire.

The Red Cross dog, too, and the sledge dogs in the Alps have been canine heroes, leaping into the jaws of death on missions of mercy or pulling precious packsleds among mountain peaks and passes.

Perpetual pasturage would be a just reward for our four-footed fighters, with freedom from further work. To Fido, allot choice bones to gnaw and if you'd make his home dog heaven rid the world of fleas for these, the "dogs of war."

At the entrance of this Paradise park or preserve, place a shaft to record for posterity a tribute to the war's 42,311 animal dead.—Toledo News-Be.

A NEW SPIRIT IN THE MOVIES

Negro Men, Women and Children, Being Featured in Some of the Great Releases.

ARE you a movie fan? If so, haven't you noticed a new spirit in the movies, a spirit that is so vastly different from the old? It is queer that the editors of the country have not taken notice of this most encouraging sign. A few years ago when the Birth of a Nation was going up and down the country, every Negro newspaper was giving column after column of news matter bitterly denouncing that play and fighting for its suppression. Lately there seems to have come over the movie business a new spirit and we notice that play after play is featuring Negro men, women and children, in most pleasing light. Why doesn't our press say something about it? True we have many wrongs that should be righted and it is up to us to keep constantly on the job to right them, but why make our readers feel as though the whole world is against us? It isn't so. Even taking the world as we find it, there are always some things that deserve commendation and a word or two of mention, and we feel that these should be mentioned along with the rest.

Quite recently there was released a new big reel called, Carmen of the Klondike. It tells the story of the discovery of gold in Alaska and the great rush to the frozen regions. In this picture there is a Negro who takes rather an important role. He is a gold seeker like the rest. He leaves Seattle as a waiter and works his way. When the crowd arrives at their destination and finds that all the claims in a particular region have been staked, it is he who keeps up their spirits and the moment that there comes word of another big

strike, it is he who waves his hand to the crowd and leads them on. He strikes it rich and later on when two white men are looking over the stakes and one of them recognizes the Negro's name, he says to the other with a laugh, "This belongs to the big dark spot who came up with us on the boat." Later the big dark spot shows up in Juneau in a big fur coat and a silk hat, with oodles of money. He enters the great bar room and yells out, "Come on, you big bunch of camels and name your pizen!" Straightway the surging crowd of men and women rush him to the bar, shouting and congratulating him upon his luck.

Every movie fan knows Baby Marie Osborne and knows that Baby Marie always plays opposite a little Colored chap who is about as funny as boys can come, but now there enters a new child actress, Mary McAllister, and here again Colored actors take part. Among the tenement crowd which Mary picks up and carries to her mansion to dine is one little Colored girl and when they are all gathered about the table eating ice cream and cake, none shows their appreciation any more than the little Colored girl who decorates her entire face with ice cream. In the same picture, Mary turns a trick on her nurse and after the entire household starts after her, she runs into the kitchen and into the arms of the Colored cook, who grabs a rolling pin and cries out, "Don't you dare tech this poor innocent little child!" True there isn't anything innocent in the trouble Mary has caused, but the household retreats in confusion before the rolling pin and Mary remains in the cook's lap with her arms about her black protector's neck.

Another very commendable picture is the great war film, "The Greatest

Thing in the World," just recently released. In this picture both black and white soldiers are shown and in one scene two soldiers, one black and one white, get caught in a pocket. The white soldier is wounded and as he cries for water, the black soldier raises his canteen to the wounded man's lips. Suddenly a bullet hits and mortally wounds the black soldier. He lays dying and in his delirium calls upon his mother to kiss his lips. The white soldier listens and as he sees the light of life flicker out of his companion's eyes, he leans over and kisses him tenderly upon the lips and the black soldier dies in the thought that his mother has really kissed him.

And so we might continue on and recall many, many such scenes from the movies, but let these suffice. What we want to call attention to is the fact that there is a new spirit animating the movies and that it is contributing much to the amelioration of prejudice. Who is responsible for this and what is the motive behind it? We are not sure that we are correct in our conclusions, but we would have our readers remember that the movie industry is largely controlled by Jews in this country and we have an idea that the Jews are responsible for these subtle shafts against race prejudice. As to the motive, we can find but one and that is the desire to make ridiculous racial prejudice and to show up a feeling of fellowship among all races. There can be no idea for financial gain, because in portions of the country the picture houses do not cater to Colored business and others would rather not. Yet Colored characters are in the plays and in nearly every instance are playing commendable parts.

Think it over. Do we owe this gradual change to the Jews of America?

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