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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, APRIL 19, 1919

Vol. IV. No. 42 (W. No. 197)

Commissary General for Colonial Troops

French Government Is Successful in Finding Competent West African Who Is Eminently Qualified for Important Office.

MEMBER CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

Interesting Sketch of Praiseworthy Career of Monsieur Blaise Diagne Whose Services Have Proven Most Valuable to the Senegalese and France.

By Chas. W. Farquhar.
AFTER noticing in West Africa for October that the French government had created an office of commissary general for colonial troops, and that Monsieur Blaise Diagne had been appointed to the post, I feel like effecting a purpose I have conceived for months, viz, to write for the readers of the Weekly News an impression of Monsieur Diagne's visit to Conakry in February last.

My attention was attracted to the distinguished and, probably most famous African of our day, at the time when he began his canvas of the electors of Senegal for the post of deputy. I forward to this paper a translation of his election manifesto—a document, which, in every line, breathed a spirit of evolved manhood. M. Diagne's election over the heads of white and Colored competitors was a grand race triumph. When the fact was announced a howl of execration was heard from Senegal down to this place; only native rejoiced. Nothing more was heard of the deputy until the war broke out and then we learned that in the chamber of deputies he had claimed the right for his compatriot Senegalese to take their places in common with other citizens, among the fighting forces of the republic. The idea was hailed by the government and recruitment was actively prosecuted in the four ancient communes of St. Louis, Dakar, Goree and Rufisque. It followed naturally that as the one responsible for the enlistment of and draft to France of his compatriots, M. Diagne should take steps to ensure to them the best treatment in housing, food and dress and so mitigate the rigours of the northern climate.

Then, at the beginning of the year, there appeared a need of a large augmentation of the man-power of the republic and of a more extensive and systematic scheme of enrollment of its African subjects. The government appointed a commission of recruitment and placed M. Diagne at its head. With him were associated a colonel, a Senegalese sub-lieutenant, European sergeants, photographers; a European and a colonel surgeon, etc. A battle cruiser took the party to Dakar and, thence, the commission passed through Senegal and upper Soudan, recruiting en route. Taking the Canakry-Niger railway at its eastern terminus the distinguished party arrived here on a memorable day in February. The town was beflagged; there was a guard of honor at the station and another at the quarters assigned to the head of the commission. Native chiefs with their musicians and dancing girls filled the town. When the deputy emerged from the gate—a fairly tall spare figure dressed soberly in a brown traveling suit with deputy's tricolor sash across his breast, the populace gave him a most enthusiastic welcome. I thought his acknowledgment was a little cold. Being a Joloff he is quite black, but residence in France has slightly paled the characteristic pigment of the Senegalese.

In the afternoon the deputy held a reception for native chiefs at government house and entered fully into the objects of the commission—later I shall give a brief summary of his pleading.

Naturally, resident Joloffs were exceedingly proud of their countryman and wished to testify their appreciation in a public way. They, accordingly, organized a grand vin d'honneur at the Hotel Dubot for the following evening and invited the administration and representatives of all sections of the community—Europeans, Syrians, Sierra Leoneans, Susus, etc. The terrace of the hotel was an animated scene at 6 o'clock when the guest of the evening appeared with the governor and his adjoint, some two hundred invitees rising to receive them. Joloffs in different departments of the civil service presented addresses after which there was a perfect fusillade of champagne corks, precursory to the drinking to loyal toasts and to

the honored guest.
M. Blaise Diagne then rose and addressed the audience which, with the crowd packed before the terrace, must have numbered several thousands. He spoke on the war and the diabolical aim of the Central Powers, egged on by Germany, to dominate the world. He described the enemy as the common foe of mankind—of Africans no less than Europeans, Asiatics and others. He claimed that France's need was Africa's opportunity to advance from the status of subject races to that of free citizenship. France would ever be grateful to all who aided her in her day of stress and strain, and who mingled their blood with that of her brave sons on a common battlefield. Chiefs should see to it that they send forward their sons in preference to their domestics otherwise they would find after the conclusion of peace that their erstwhile slaves had become masters in the land. He warned his hearers that education and culture were necessary conditions of citizenship and stated that France was about to establish medical and industrial schools for African youths, and schools of obstetrics for young women; that in future it will be possible to train doctors on the spot and so help to break down the common prejudice against treatment in public hospitals by European practitioners. There would be nothing to prevent deserving sons of the soil from aspiring to the highest position in their homeland: Men of culture, probity and experience might hope to become administrators and chief doctors.

Those who could justly appraise the speech told me it was couched in French the most elegant and cultured. The impression made was excellent, bursts of applause greeting each point made by the speaker.

As I looked upon the scene I tried to picture a similar one in an English colony but I could not envisage it. Frenchmen are logical; Englishmen are not. Suppose England needed to raise a large African army, she would not dream of appointing a black man as head of a commission of recruitment over the heads of white men. She would see too many lions in the way. She would remind herself of the unimpeachable fact of one swallow not making a summer of one shower not constituting a rainy season. She would foresee the possible aversion of local authorities to the selection and sympathize with fears of an unsettlement of the crude native mind through seeing one of themselves on such a pinnacle of greatness. The rulers of France probably saw all the objections to the selection, but being logical, they argued, "here is something to be done and here is the very best instrument for doing it. Our choice falls upon a man whose skin-tint will offend some of the other human instruments of our colonial administration, but that same skin tint is his prime recommendation; and so they brushed aside all objections and misgivings, and, having confidence in the discretion of M. Diagne himself, they sent him forth with the powers and dignities of an envoye extraordinaire, with the result that in a few months he recruited 75,000 native troops; and now most fittingly, he has been appointed their special protector. Vive la France! Vive Depute Diagne! Conakry, December 6, 1918.

P. S.—Curiously enough I heard last night that somewhere in the province of Nigeria the commissioner entered British territory and that its distinguished head was refused the comfort of a sleeping car because the law says no black man shall enjoy the privilege. I sincerely hope the report is only a canard; if it is true then, surely, nothing more disgraceful and discourteous has ever been perpetrated under the sanction of British law—Sierra Leone Weekly News.

JEWISH RABBI SPEAKS ON TRUE DEMOCRACY

(By Associated Negro Press.)
Indianapolis, Ind., April 10.—Rabbi M. M. Fuerlicht, in a recent address here at the Y. M. C. A., on the subject of "True Democracy," declared that the time has come for frankness and open court in dealing with the problems of race adjustment. He said that this country must mete out equal and exact justice to all if it proves true to its ideals.

MASON FOR HALF CENTURY
Detroit, Mich., April 10.—Commemorating his Masonic life of half a century, a banquet was recently tendered James Francis Rickards, of this city, thirty-third degree Mason. He was the recipient of many valuable gifts.



ROS COE CONKLING SIMMONS
Famous Orator and Brilliant Journalist, Who Has Just Returned From Protracted Visit to Europe.

Mob Violence Versus Jim Crowism

The Latter More Subtle and Subversive of Human Rights Than the Former—"Mob Violence Is the Leaping Disconnected Tongue of Flame From a Moral Conflagration, But Jim-Crowism Is the Smoldering of the Body of Fire in and About the Very Foundation of Our Racial Integrity."

By Ailey W. Lewis, LL. B.

BEFORE the oceans were mapped and chartered it must have been a desperate predicament for one to have found himself between the devil and the deep blue sea and having to take to the latter.

In some such and similar predicament it might be said one is who attempts to persuade that jimcrowism (as it applies to railway transportation) is an offense meeting out greater detriment to our race than mob violence.

Your writer feels so positive this is so easily true that all the minor forms of jimcrowism are not considered for the purposes of this discussion.

It is admitted that mob violence is barbarous and fiendish; that it lies on the very border's edge of treason and anarchy, if it does not constitute both of these offenses; that it is an offense against the nation, state and community wherein committed. It is an offense against our race demanding consideration and opposition because approximately 98 per cent of the total victims are of our race, and because lynching in its inception and present existence is an arch form of race oppression the effect of which is the humiliation and vilification of the race.

The fact that one or two out of every two or three hundred lynched persons are white does not alter the point of view. The fact, if it be a fact, shows that lawlessness founded on the limitations of prejudice may grow to be a habit recognizing NO limitations.

If one offense is more aggravating than another, there must be a difference in them, and in the difference must lie the elements and circumstances that make one offense worse than another.

So by comparison we find certain differences. Mob violence takes place sometimes, jimcrowism is continuous; mob violence may be prompted by a pretended or reported provocation, not so with jimcrowism, which is always without provocation; in mob violence the victim may sometimes be guilty of the offense charged, but in jimcrowism there is no charge and consequently no guilt.

Mob violence affects directly only its few victims; jimcrowism affects directly the hundreds of thousands who are compelled to accept that mode of transportation. Mob violence in its publicity, as a rule, is not as far-reaching as jimcrowism. Mob violence is confined practically to Southern

states and rebel communities. The news of the event are no doubt quite emphatic in the immediate vicinity where committed, but the racial vilification consequent thereto outside of that community is minimized in proportion to the distance remote from the scene that newspapers must carry it. Not so with jimcrowism. It does not depend upon newspaper notoriety—it's quite prevalent (and pardon the digression, it's everywhere—a living physical menace). It is a most conspicuous and unmistakable label of inferiority forced upon a race, and every class and condition of foreigners may be impressed with the spectacle as of fact to spread the impression to all quarters of the globe.

Mob violence may be looked upon by visiting peoples of other countries as an accident, but no foreigner, however dense or biased, could consider jimcrowism anything other than carefully planned purpose.

Mob violence is the leaping, disconnected tongue of flame from a moral conflagration, but jimcrowism is the smoldering of the body of fire in and about the very foundation of our racial integrity.

Mob violence is unlawful, but jimcrowism has the sanction of law and in this state lies crouched the green-eyed monster that mocks our moral standing, upon which it feeds.

Mob violence is a legal offense against two races, while jimcrowism is considered no legal offense against either; hence, relatively, mob violence must be considered the weaker offense as against our race. Because there are two races to fight against mob violence makes it weaker against us; because we are to fight jimcrowism alone makes it stronger against us. We have only a moral fight against mob violence, but we have both a moral and legal fight against jimcrowism.

Now, while the points of comparison are not exhausted, it is trusted this will suffice to arouse a greater vigilance concerning the hindrances to the advancement of the race. So beyond the pale of this comparison I further trace the evils of jimcrowism to the extent of greater offense.

If two wings of an army can be shut off from communication one with the other, or if that communication can be minimized, it is a victory for the forces that obstruct or limit that communication, for the effect of such ob-

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RACES UNITING FORCES TO ROUT ROWDYISM

Recent Riotous Occurrences in Harlem Has Called for Decided Actions Upon the Part of New Yorkers to Prevent Further Outbreaks.

(By Associated Negro Press.)
New York, April 17.—New Yorkers of both race divisions are getting their heads together in a frank and open way, as the result of the recent occurrence in Harlem, where a crowd of more than 300 people waited for a motorman, who had flagrantly mistreated a Negro soldier.

There is no intention to minimize the effects of this state of affairs. In talking to the Negroes of the Harlem district, it is learned that there is no disposition to permit Greeks, Jews, Italians, Irish and other foreign elements to carry on their nefarious conduct of exhibiting color prejudice.

There is no disposition on the part of the Negroes to agitate disorder, but there is a burning determination to see that everybody gets fair play and a square deal. There may be other outbreaks in New York if conditions are not improved, is attested by conservative leaders of both races who are willing to discuss present conditions.

A studied program of insolvency has been carried on here for some time. Not only has there been a plan to keep Negroes out of certain lines of business, which money grabbing whites may be in, but when once the Negro gets into business, all sorts of schemes are resorted to, in order that his chances of success may be impaired. Mistreatment of Colored women and children by white ruffians, has been tolerated in some instances to the breaking point, and particularly is this true with reference to discharged soldiers who faced German guns to "make the world a decent place to live in."

SUPERVISORS GIVE NEGRO MUSICIANS PLACE ON PROGRAM

National Conference of Musical Supervisors Holds Twelfth Annual Session and Emphasizes Importance of Musical Education.

(Special to Monitor by Staff Correspondent.)

ST. LOUIS, MO., April 10.—A convention of far reaching importance was in session here all last week. It was the twelfth annual session of the Music Supervisors National Conference, which was organized at Keokuk, Ia., and now has a large membership from all parts of the United States. Daily sessions were held from 9 to 12 and 1 to 5 with special features and entertainments occupying the nights. Practical tests to show the result of a musical education, the value of music in every day life, its importance in the army and many other phases occupied the conference.

Tuesday night the program was devoted to Negro musicians and composers as spokesmen and no feature of the conference was more interesting than this. The efficient, intelligent and diversified rendition of the program was a revelation to the vast audience present.

John Wesley Work, professor of Latin and history at Fish university, Nashville, Tenn., addressed the meeting on "The Development of the Music of the Negro from the Folk Song to the Art Song and Art Chorus."

The study of Negro melody by the music teachers is in connection with their study of the development of music that is typically American. It is the belief that such music had its origin with the Negroes and Indians.

A musical program was arranged by Gerald Tyler, assistant supervisor of music for the Colored schools of St. Louis, and included two of his compositions, besides work of Harry T. Burrell, S. Coleridge Taylor and Nathaniel R. Dett.

FIRE CAUSES HEAVY LOSS

Birmingham, Ala., April 10.—An entire Negro block recently burned at Bessemer here, causing the loss of more than \$50,000. The majority of the houses were owned by the tenants. The cause is unknown.

BUFFALO DAILY OPPOSES OPPROBIOUS EPITHETS

Buffalo N. Y., April 10.—The Buffalo Commercial, daily, is backing strongly the nation-wide movement for the abolition of the terms "wop," "dago," "nigger," "shine," and other similar characterizations.

Roscoe Conkling Simmons Returns From Paris

Distinguished Orator, Brilliant Journalist and Keen Observer Does Not Bite His Tongue About Things He Learned While Abroad.

SOLDIERS BRAVE; STATESMEN STUPID

Glory Won by Troops Being Dimmed by Fingers-Crossed Barn-Stormers—American Negro Has Reason to Hold Up Head and Ask Fair Treatment at Home.

CHICAGO, Ill., April 18.—Roscoe Conkling Simmons, orator and journalist, has returned home from an extended trip at the peace conference in Paris, where he went as special foreign representative of the Chicago Defender. In a statement for the Associated Negro Press, he said:

"What I saw, I saw, and what I heard I remembered, and just as I saw or heard I will speak. Our soldiers, black and white, were the bravest that fought in that terrible war, and our statesmen are stupid as any that ever set at a table of diplomacy. Much of the glory our boys won is being daily lost by the 'fingers-crossed-tag-on-you' barn-stormers in charge of our business. The poor American people, being the bravest, are the 'goats' of the day. No blunder has cost us as dearly, in all our history, as that made when Theodore Roosevelt was not permitted to go to France, either during this war or immediately after the armistice was signed. Roosevelt, dead, is the standard American in France.

The American Negro has reason to hold his head up and ask his government, "What now, is he to be free or continue to tread the wine-press while everybody else enjoys the nectar?" Against odds that even slaves ought to have been spared, our boys taught warriors how to fight and Christians how to die. They won the hearts of France in the face of the words of even many of their white commanders that 'they ain't nothing but niggers.' They taught white American fortitude while white America held classes in nerve stretching. 'I'll say' that today and not tomorrow is the time when our thoughts should turn to liberty. We have got to save the American white man from himself."

BISHOP DEMBY SEES RAINBOW OF PROMISE

Philadelphia, Pa., April 10.—Bishop E. T. Demby, one of the two Negro bishops in the Episcopal church in this country, in a statement issued here, said in part: "There is a tendency as never before to wipe out race prejudice; and things like Jim Crow cars and schools, will go in a few years." Asked what is responsible for the change, he said: "Chiefly the cheerful spirit with which our Colored youths marched away to war, and the wonderful record they made for themselves while over there."

WILL ESTABLISH DEPARTMENT STORE

Organize Company With \$20,000 Capital to Open First Store of Kind in Community.

(By Associated Negro Press.)
Macon, Ga., April 9.—A company with a paid in capital of \$20,000 has been organized here, with some of the wealthiest and best known Negroes as stockholders, for the purpose of opening a department store. It will be the first of its kind here, and will afford an example for other cities to follow.

PROPERTY OWNED RUNS INTO MILLIONS

Atlanta, Ga., April 10.—Rev. B. R. Holmes, president of Holmes institute, in a recent address, declared: "The Colored people of Atlanta pay taxes on nearly \$3,000,000 worth of property and those that live in rented houses are valued at more than \$7,000,000, which makes the property owned and rented by Colored people valued at more than \$10,000,000."

MARRIES IN TORONTO

Miss Mildred Bryant, daughter of Charles Bryant of Omaha, was quietly married to Robert C. Rudd at Toronto, Ont., March 12. Mrs. Rudd was born and reared in Omaha. She has been living in Toronto for the past year.