

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!

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MAJOR MOTON TELLS OF VISIT TO FRANCE

Says Our Boys Win Lasting Fame Despite Defamation and Accusations of Whispering Gallery.

MAKES CLOSE EXAMINATION

Uncovers Apparent Plan of White Officers to Besmirch the Record of Our Soldiers and Degrade Our Officers.

By Robert R. Moton, Principal Tuskegee Institute.

DURING the late summer and early fall of 1918, there were a great many rumors in and out of official circles in this country to the effect that morally the Negro soldier in France had failed, and that the statement sometimes made that "the Negro is controlled by brutal instincts," was justified.

The report was current in France that the committing of the "unmentionable crime" was very common, and according to the rumors, Negro officers, as well as privates, in all branches and grades of the service, were guilty of this crime.

How the Rumor Spread.

A letter that I saw written by a lady overseas to another lady in the United States, stated that the writer had been told by the colonel of a certain unit, whose guest she was, that he would not feel it safe for her to walk, even with him through this camp of Negro soldiers.

Another letter from a high official in a very important position with the overseas Negro troops, written unofficially to a very prominent official on this side, stated, that, in the 92d division alone, there had recently been at least thirty cases of the "unmentionable crime."

Another rumor, equally as malignant and damaging, was to the effect that the fighting units which were commanded by Negro officers had been a failure. In other words, "the whispering gallery," which was most active in France on most phases of life overseas, said that the 92d division, in which Negroes in America took special pride, with good reason, had failed utterly; that, whenever they had been engaged, the Negro officers had gone to pieces; that in some cases the men had to pull themselves together after their officers had shown "the white feather," etc.

At the request of the president and secretary of war, I went to France with authority to go anywhere and get any information from any source, so far as the American Expeditionary Force was concerned.

Meets Dr. DuBois.

It so happened that I went on the steamer assigned to the newspaper correspondents—a steamer which was one of the convoy ships for the president's party—on which Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, editor of the "Crisis," was a passenger. Mr. Lester A. Walton, of the New York Age; Mr. Nathan Hunt of Tuskegee together with Dr. DuBois and myself, in the same very comfortable stateroom. We had many frank but pleasant talks, both on the ship and in Paris, where we had opposite rooms in the same hotel. The subject that we discussed most often was, of course, some phase of the Negro question, always with a view, so far as our judgment went, to help the situation.

I purposely planned to have with me on the trip out from Paris two colored and two white men—one white newspaper man, Clyde R. Miller, of the Cleveland Plaindealer, and Lester A. Walton, of the New York Age. I also asked to go with me, Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones of the United States Bureau of Education and Phelps-Stokes Foundation, and Mr. Nathan Hunt, of Tuskegee Institute. I realized that the mission was a delicate one, and that questions which I might ask, and things which I would say might be misunderstood or misinterpreted. My purpose, however, was to get at the facts and to allay untruthful rumors. In order to ascertain the facts, I made extended inquiries of those with whom I came in contact, from the highest official down. I asked many questions with reference to the conduct and character of the colored soldiers as compared with the white soldiers.

When I reached the general headquarters of the American forces, I found that two days before my arrival a young white soldier had been sentenced to be hanged for the "unmentionable crime," but, because of his good record in every other way, the

sentence was finally commuted to life imprisonment. The opinion at General headquarters was that the crime to which I have referred was no more prevalent among Negro soldiers than among white soldiers, or any soldiers.

From Chaumont we went immediately to Morbach, the headquarters of the 92d division. I asked the commanding general of the 92d division about the prevalence of the crime in question. He said it was very prevalent, and that there had been a great many cases over which he was very much disturbed. This statement was substantiated by conversation with two of his staff officers, who were present. I courteously asked if he would mind having one of the aides get the record. I said that I thought general statements were often very damaging, and, that, inasmuch as the reputation of a race was at stake, I was very anxious to get facts in order to make an accurate report, and if possible stop the rumors which were becoming more and more prevalent in France, especially in American circles, including army officers, Young Men's Christian Association, Knights of Columbus, Red Cross and other organizations. When the records were brought in and examined, only seven cases charged could be found. Of those charged, only two had been found guilty and convicted, and one of the two convictions had been "turned down" by general headquarters. Afterwards I saw the judge advocate of the 92d division, who told me that there had been eleven cases charged. Two of them were men who did not belong to the 92d division, but to other organizations. Out of the eleven only three had been finally approved as guilty by general headquarters, and one sentence out of three had been reduced from life imprisonment to taking half the man's pay for twelve months.

(Continued on Second Page.)

EPISCOPAL MINISTER USES CUSS WORD

Some Recent Practices of Democracy in Detroit Cause the Rev. Robert W. Bagnall to Use Rather Strong Language, Which is Quite Excusable Under the Circumstances.

(By Associated Negro Press.)

DETROIT, MICH., May 8.—According to Rev. R. W. Bagnall, an Episcopal minister, that "true democracy" has not arrived, that has been so much preached about in recent years.

This happened recently in Detroit, according to Rev. Fr. Bagnall: "Get out of here and go in the gallery where you belong. 'This is the greeting which a Negro lieutenant, wearing decorations for bravery and two wound stripes, received when he started to go down stairs in one of our Detroit theaters. 'It's a damned poor sort of gratitude we are getting for fighting for democracy,' he said with bitterness.

A Negro corporal with a croix de guerre on his breast, and a limp which he got when he took a machine gun unaided in the Argonne, arrived in Detroit hungry. He went into a restaurant and a foreigner who was in charge came up to him with a sneer and said "We don't serve niggers in here."

"Daily things of this sort occur in Detroit."

It seems, however, that Michigan has a better element among the whites who are determined that better things shall come to pass, for the legislature has just passed the civil rights bill which will make this kind of treatment very expensive in Henry Ford's state.

AMERICAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS CLASH

London, May 8.—In a clash at the Winchester repatriation camp between Americans and South African black soldiers, more than a score of Americans were injured, according to a local dispatch. The camp is used by Americans who served in the British army, and ill feeling between the Americans and the British blacks have existed for some time. The American whites have sought to use some of their strong arm methods of "keeping the blacks in their place," and their conduct became intolerable to the loyal Britishers. The Britishers pounced upon the Americans with sticks, and things were quite lively for awhile, until the troops and police took a hand. It is believed, however, that the uppish Americans have learned their lesson, and they will hereafter leave the native sons severely alone.

National Conference Opposes Lynching

Delegates From Various Sections of Country Unanimous in Demanding Drastic Action For Removal of America's Disgrace.

DEMAND CONGRESSIONAL
INVESTIGATION OF EVIL

Launch Educational and Publicity Campaign to Arouse Conscience of American People; Stirring Speeches By Prominent Speakers Disclose Intense Earnestness.

NEW YORK, May 7.—The first national conference on lynching, in response to a call signed by more than 120 of the country's most representative citizens, opened with a great mass meeting in Carnegie hall Monday night. Moorfield Storey, the eminent Boston jurist, national president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and chairman of the conference, presided. Delegates from various sections were in attendance. Telegrams and messages were received from several who were unable to attend, endorsing the movement and pledging moral and financial support. Among these was a ringing message from Omaha, which aroused enthusiasm.

Stirring addresses were made by the Hon. Charles Evans Hughes, former justice of the United States supreme court; the Hon. Emmett O'Neal, former governor of Alabama; General John H. Sherburne, who commanded the 167th field artillery, Ninety-second division, in France; Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, honorary president of the National Woman's Suffrage association, and James Weldon Johnson, field secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. The Monitor hopes to publish full reports of these ringing addresses in subsequent issues. Much interest attached to the speech of the Hon. Emmett O'Neal, former governor of Alabama, who spoke as the representative of the new, better and awakening "South, which fully endorses this movement to suppress the evils of lynch law." He said in part:

Former Governor of Alabama. "The United States today stands solitary and alone among the civilized nations of the world that tolerates the cruelty, savagery and infamy of mob violence. "It is no longer confined to any state or section. It is not peculiar to the South alone. The record of race riots and mob violence in the North during the last decade shows that neither section can point at the other the finger of scorn. It is folly to make comparisons between sections, for we all admit that the curse of lynching has grown until it has become a national evil, a blot on our national life and a shameful reproach to our civilization. It is a horrible wrong, for which the whole country must bear its just share of responsibility.

"The mob is but a wild beast, and when it puts to death an individual it at the same time lynches the law and brings shame and dishonor upon the state. The country which now, under the full blaze of the civilization of the twentieth century, encourages or permits lynching, either openly or tacitly, and refuses to visit the death penalty on the lyncher when his guilt is established by that full measure of proof the law requires, is but inviting a spirit of lawlessness which makes life and property insecure, checks all investment and immigration and threatens the very existence of orderly government.

"Lynch law is but a relic of savagery and barbarism most unworthy of a self-governing people, and America can only prove her loyalty to the true spirit of democracy by creating a public sentiment so strong and overwhelming as to end forever this hideous reproach to our civilization. We boast that we have made democracy safe in the world, but all our labors would be largely in vain if we were unable to make life and property safe against mob violence in the country which proudly claims to be the very citadel of democracy and free government.

Best Sentiment Endorses Movement. "I bring you this message tonight: The thoughtful, intelligent and dominating sentiment of the South fully endorses this movement to suppress the evils of lynch law. "We of the new South are determined to purge our section of the taint of lawlessness and to make it what it was in the past—a section where the

law is supreme; where life and liberty and property are safe and secure under the protection of wise and just laws impartially administered; a section where two separate and distinct races, dwelling side by side in peace and concord, from whose hearts have been purged all hate and prejudice, will go forward in amity, in sympathy and mutual co-operation to work out their mutual destinies and to solve justly the mighty problems of the future."

Johnson Presents Startling Statistics. James Weldon Johnson clearly refuted the widely-quoted accusation that the lynching of Negroes in the South and the crime of rape go together in his carefully prepared address, in which he gave statistics which made the startling revelation that in the single county of New York, which is only a part of New York City, there were more indictments for rape in the first degree for one year than there were lynchings of Negroes in the whole country on the charge of rape in five years. Mr. Johnson said:

False Impression Prevalent. "The impression has been fostered in this country that the lynching of Negroes in the South and the crime of rape go together. When Negroes have protested against lynching Southern newspapers have called upon them to condemn the crime which leads to lynching. Such editorial sentiments are intended to foster in the mind of the public at large the idea that rape and the lynching of Negroes in the South bear the relation of cause and effect.

New York versus Whole Country. "In the single county of New York, which is only a part of New York City, there were more indictments for rape in the first degree in one year than there were lynchings of Negroes in the whole country on the charge of rape in the last five years.

"In the five-year period, 1914 to 1918, 325 Negroes were lynched in the United States and only twenty-eight of these were charged with rape. In 1917, in New York county, the grand jury indicted thirty-seven persons for rape in the first degree. This is nine more than the total number of Negroes lynched on the charge of rape in the entire United States during the five-year period, which includes 1917, and within thirteen of the total number of charges of alleged attacks of every character upon women, including rape.

Cannot Lead Moral Forces.

"I ask not only black Americans, but white Americans, are you not ashamed of lynching? Do you not hang your head in humiliation to think that this is the only civilized country in the world—no, more than that, the only spot on earth where a human being may be tortured with hot irons and then burned alive? The nation is today striving to lead the moral forces of the world in the support of the weak against the strong. Well, I'll tell you it can't do it until it conquers and crushes out this monster in its own midst.

"A great deal has been said about the atrocities committed during this terrible war by Huns and Turks; but there are millions of intelligent Americans who do not know, who are not concerned with the fact that every year atrocities are committed in this enlightened land that would cause envy in the heart of the most benighted Turk."

Want Congressional Action.

Tuesday morning the conference formally organized for business and discussed constructive measures to prevent lynching, which was continued in the afternoon sessions. The measures proposed and adopted include a proposal to make lynching a federal offense, congressional investigation of the lynching evil in the United States, and as an educational campaign for arousing public sentiment against the evil, investigation of every lynching by a trained staff and the widest publicity in press and periodicals, in pulpit, on rostrum and by pamphlets. Important representative committees were appointed to press the work of the conference.

Another inspiring mass meeting was held Tuesday night in the Ethical Culture hall, at which Desha Breckenridge, editor of the Lexington (Ky.) Herald, presided, and addresses were made by former Congressman Martin W. Littleton, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Dean William Pickens of Morgan college, Moorfield Storey and others.

FORGOT HE WAS NOT IN DEMOCRATIC FRANCE

Returned American Soldier Beaten Into Insensibility With Baseball Bat Because He Wanted to Purchase Soda Water.

(By Associated Negro Press.)

Atlanta, Ga., May 8.—That there is going to be a show-down for "equal rights" and a consequent clash of races in the event of them not being granted is more and more apparent from day to day.

Benjamin Herne, a returned soldier from France, went into a drug store to make some purchases. On his way out, possibly thinking of the delightful surroundings of France and forgetting that he was in the hate-clime of Georgia, he stopped at a soda fountain and asked for a refreshing drink. Forgetting all Biblical admonitions with reference to "if thine brother ask you for a drink," one Powell, a white clerk, seized a ball bat from beneath the counter and proceeded to pound it against the soldier's head. Herne was picked up insensible, taken to Grady hospital and later to his quarters at Camp Gordon. Powell was arrested for "disorderly conduct."

One daily newspaper of Macon, telling of the story, says:

"While this is the first police court case growing directly out of an attempt on the part of returned Negro soldiers to force 'race equality,' so far as is known, it has not been passed unnoticed for several weeks by patrons of street cars, people in railway stations and other public places in Atlanta, that here is a marked difference in the deportment, the attitude and the general bearing toward the white race on the part of the Negro soldier as he was prior to 'going across' and the Negro soldier who has come back from abroad."

WOUND WHITE ROWDIES WHO TERRORIZE RESIDENTS

(By Associated Negro Press.)

Philadelphia, May 8.—Serious fighting near Twenty-fifth and Pine streets between Negro tenants newly moved into the district and a gang that has long terrorized residents resulted this morning in the serious wounding of nine white men by the residents.

Seventy-five whites and about forty of our people participated in the fight, which began when a mob broke open the doors at 2435 Pine street, of a Race of Citizens who has always lived uprightly in the community, and tried to eject his family. The citizen, George Graham, moved there about a week ago. A number of the men were arrested.

JUDGE OFFERS \$5,000 REWARD FOR PRISONER

(By Associated Negro Press.)

Easton, Md., May 8.—Judge Adkins of this county has offered a reward of \$5,000 to any man or group of men who would bring Isaiah Fountain charged with assault, into court uninjured. He instructed the sheriff to swear in every man in the county as a deputy to "Protest this prisoner even to the point of death, so the honor of this county may be vindicated."

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ENLIST FEW VOTES

(By Associated Negro Press.)

Raleigh, N. C., May 8.—The effort of the race people to get in on the municipal elections in this city was defeated by themselves, aided and abetted by Col. J. H. Young, an old time, shrewd white politician who is regarded as an adept in handling our people.

There were 582 of our registered voters, and the highest number of votes received did not amount to 200, which plainly indicates that the others remained away from the polls. The daily newspapers frankly state that if the entire number had voted together, there would have been "something doing."

WANT ENTIRE DIVISION AND COLORED OFFICERS

(By Associated Negro Press.)

Boston, Mass., May 8.—A meeting was held in Tremont Temple, under the auspices of the National Association of Colored People, to advocate the creation of a division of Colored troops with all Colored officers, as part of the American army. Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, Major J. E. Spingarn, and Chas. Edward Russell, who was on the Russian commission, were the speakers. Dr. S. M. Crothers, presided.

COLORED MUSICIANS CAPTURE WINDY CITY

Three Great Organizations Play Simultaneously For Immense Audiences Which Give Players an Ovation; Marvelous Musical Awakening.

FUTURE BRIGHT
FOR MUSICIANS

Music Having Important Part In Raising Status of Race, Opinion of Many Leading Artists; Directors Cook, Europe, Jones and Soloist Sissle Distinguish Themselves.

(By Associated Negro Press.)

CHICAGO, May 8.—Chicago has had a marvelous awakening during the last week, and the awakening is having a most favorable effect. On Monday night there was an occurrence which a year ago even would have been regarded as a "pipe dream."

Three great musical aggregations of our people, two of whom had been across the seas and thrilled the people of England and France, were playing their soul-stirring music within gunshot of each other, so to speak, right down in Chicago's great "loop" district. The first, the New York Synchronized orchestra, under the direction of Will Marion Cook, was playing its third engagement of the season in the famous Orchestra hall before an audience of 3,000, more than 1,000 people being unable to purchase seats. The second, the wonderful band of Lieutenant James Reese Europe at the great Auditorium, which seats 5,000 people, and the third the band of the 365th infantry, under Sergeant Albert Jones, playing off Michigan boulevard at the magnificent and spectacular Victory arch, illuminated at night with 3,000,000 candle-power lights.

Chicago has literally gone "music mad" over the offerings of these rare and pioneering musical aggregations. Even when the 365th band marches through the downtown streets thousands of people follow it all the way. The audiences listening to the concerts are mixed, and the very elite of Chicago white society are ever present in boxes and other parts of the audience, where there is no discrimination in securing seats.

"This effort, though very expensive, is having the most wonderful effect in helping our race," said Will Marion Cook, to the Associated Negro Press. "We are showing the white people that we have arrived and are capable of doing equally as well as any, if given an opportunity." Every daily newspaper critic in Chicago has said, without any strings, that the Colored musical organizations have it "all over the whites" when it comes to presenting music. They have said that the race has not only the technique, but the soul and inborn love for music which are not equalled by any others.

Lieutenant Europe said to the Associated Negro Press: "Our efforts will be more and more appreciated as time goes on. People who never before had any serious opinions concerning us have awakened to a realization that we are human, as all others.

"There is a great future in the musical world, greater than ever before. The war has brought out the fact forcibly that music has its great place in the life of the nation. To the young people I send out the word, Prepare! But prepare efficiently and with serious intentions."

Lieutenant Noble Sissle, the soloist of the Europe band, distinguished himself in the marvelous selections, composed by Mr. Europe and himself, "Patrol of No Man's Land." Lieutenant Sissle is about to issue a booklet entitled, "Thirteen Commandments," a poetical review of the second battle of the Marne, "all of which he saw and part of which he was."

SPECIAL TRAIN FOR TUSKEGEE COMMENCEMENT

(By Associated Negro Press.)

Chicago, May 8.—Special arrangements are complete for taking a special train to Tuskegee institute during the commencement. This will be one of the most interesting trips ever undertaken, and the party will make a side stop at Nashville on the return. Delegates from Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, St. Louis and Kansas City will join the party, which is being made up from Chicago. Those interested in making the trip are invited to write Phil A. Jones, business manager, The Chicago Defender, 3129 State street, or Claude A. Barnett, director The Associated Negro Press, 312 South Clark street, Chicago.