

THE MONITOR

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans.

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THEN welcome each rebuff that turns earth's smoothness rough.
Each sting that bids nor sit; nor stand; but go.
Be our joys three parts pain;
Learn, nor account the pang;
Dare, never grudge the throe.
—Browning.

PRESENT NECESSITIES

PERHAPS there never was a time in the history of the American Negro in which the necessity of leadership and the demand for it were greater than they are at the present. A terrible war has been raging in Europe, and like all wars, it has left behind it gigantic problems, growing out of the building of a new and better regime upon the ruins of the old.

Progress is the distinctive part of man's existence, the key which unlocks his destiny. But always in the history of mankind have there been those who sought to clog the wheels of progress and zealously have fought to maintain entrenched wrong.

America today is face to face with her problems of reconstruction. Problems that must be solved and solved immediately, if her national existence is to be maintained and her unity remain intact. In formulating a right reconstruction program she can no more get away from facing the Negro problem with frank, fearless, democratic spirit than she can the other vital questions of democratic control of industry, socialization of health, conservation of public resources, and educational and religious reform.

Many of America's best thinkers realize the importance of this particular problem. They clearly understand that the harmonizing of racial groups must precede any real attempt at a strong national existence. The title of American and the rights of citizenship belong to those, and those only, who earn the right by loyalty and allegiance and work. Any denial of opportunity, any subversion of justice, that bases itself upon race antagonism makes for disloyalty and dissolution and rears up the structure of a state upon quicksand.

This is the time then, when we, who as a group of 14,000,000 Americans stood loyally behind our nation in times of stress, should show an united front and join with all those who fight for principle and make of America a consistent democracy for all men.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is the most effective instrument for attaining our purpose which is at hand. In the name of high heaven, let us use it! The enemies of true democracy are organized and at work. Last week in Georgia the Klu Klux Klan set fire to five churches, two school houses, and a lodge hall. The reactionists are making use of a distinct propaganda of intimidation and publicity.

The exigencies of the time are upon us. Unity of action is imperative. Purity of leadership is a prime necessity.

Where rank unscrupulous leaders—too dense to see that the death knell of pettiness has sounded—seek to raise themselves at the expense of the group, crush them as snakes with poisonous fangs are crushed. The day has passed, when, like sheep, we can afford to follow the demagogue. Passion and emotion and unreason as stimuli to action must be cast aside. In their stead there needs must come sanity and calm deliberation as a sequence to clear, constructive thinking.

If unity of action is not ours, we render ourselves powerless and impotent by disorganization, and suspicion. We play into the hands of our enemies, and we lose the golden opportunity that is ours today of making a substantial and effective advance toward the achievement of a democracy that is safe for us and the world.

GIVE SCOTT THE SPINGARN MEDAL

THE Spingarn medal is awarded yearly to the American citizen of African descent who has rendered the most distinguished service to his race and humanity. The Monitor believes that this medal has been wisely and most deservedly awarded hitherto. We do not know whom the committee on award may be considering for this honor, but our own opinion is that no member of the race has rendered more distinguished service than Emmett J. Scott. The Monitor nominates Emmett J. Scott for the Spingarn medal.

A WORD ABOUT LABOR

OMAHA has a teamsters' strike. They claim they are striking for higher wages. It is claimed, however, that their real purpose is for "a closed shop." Their tactics seem to support this contention. The principle of organized labor is fundamentally right. The application of this principle is at times open to fault. The closed shop principle is fundamentally wrong. It violates the principle of personal liberty, which is autocratic and undemocratic. But the right of labor to organize cannot be questioned.

Into the merits of the local strike it is not our purpose to enter. What concerns us now especially is the propaganda being spread by Teamsters' Local No. 211, by means of circulars evidently intended to create prejudice against the Colored race. The circular reads as follows:

Warning to Citizens!

Law-abiding citizens of Omaha shall at once take steps:

To protect their wives and daughters from the horrors of East St. Louis.

To safeguard their homes, their valuables and their lives!

Do you want to suffer from an influx of Negroes and disreputable like Omaha experienced in the summer of 1917?

We are reliably informed that a carload of Negroes is again being imported from East St. Louis, in order to break the strike of the Omaha teamsters who are fighting for a living wage and the right to belong to a union.

Prettiest Mile Revolver club, take notice!
Conference Committee Teamsters' Union, Local 211.

Here is unquestionably an adroit appeal to stir up prejudice and the local does not care one whit, so long as it serves its purpose, whether the so-called information upon which it is based is true or false. As a matter of fact this "reliable information," which has been traced down by The Monitor is absolutely false and has been manufactured for a purpose. There are no Negro strike breakers being imported into Omaha and Mr. Rooney of the Teamsters' Union knows it. Why not be fair?

The Monitor desires to go on record as not being opposed to organized labor, if it does not discriminate, but it wants it to be distinctly understood that it is here to expose and oppose any effort by organized labor or any other agency to discredit the Negro race or to incite riot. There is entirely too much of a disposition to make sweeping and unsupported charges upon most flimsy information. Organized labor needs friends not enemies. It cannot afford to appear in the attitude of encouraging lawlessness and racial strife.

A VALUABLE VOLUME

THE Monitor acknowledges with gratitude the receipt of a copy of a most interesting and valuable book. Its title is "History of the American Negro in the Great World War." The author is the vigorous, versatile, veteran of the tripod, W. Allison Sweeney, whose pen work has commanded the admiration of hundreds of thousands for more than four decades. The book is written in Mr. Sweeney's pleasing and fascinating style, not the vitriolic style and diction used when he is eviscerating hypocrisy, injustice and sham, either individual or national, but when writing on pleasanter themes. One is conscious of this when he reads the author's delightful "Foreword," a prose poem which charms, pleases, entertains and pulsates with vital thoughts. The book grips and holds attention from "Foreword" to "Finis," which is written on page 307. It is profusely illustrated and abounds with valuable information not only concerning the part played by Negro soldiers in the great world war, but throughout America's history. It is a valuable volume which should have a place in every library. The work is pre-empted by a spirit of sunny optimism which The Monitor notes with pleasure and surprise.

ROBERT COWELL

THE Monitor joins with the thousands of friends who not only know and esteem, but love Robert Cowell in wishing him many years of well-earned leisure from business cares. His retirement from business as head of the well-known firm of Thomas Kilpatrick & Co., which has just been announced, has come as a decided surprise. It is hard to realize that this vigorous, sunny, versatile man has been in business fifty years, so wonderfully has he seemed to preserve his youth. Surely he has earned the right to retire from business. But retirement from business cannot mean for one of his temperament inactivity. We are quite sure that he will never be contented unless he be up and doing something for the common weal. Robert Cowell will always be accounted one of Omaha's first citizens. He is succeeded as president of the firm of Thomas Kilpatrick & Co., by William F. Baxter, another remarkably strong broad-visioned, liberal-minded and progressive man, who has grown from boyhood to manhood with this firm and who, too, has made his influence felt in this city. The Monitor extends hearty and sincere congratulations to Mr. Baxter.

NEW EXCHANGES

WE welcome to our exchange list two excellent new publications, The Houston Reformer and The St. Louis Independent News. Both of these publications take advanced ground in race journalism. Their editorials are sane and fearless, their program definite and pronounced, their news columns timely and well supplied and their advertising patronage bespeaks prosperity. Clinton F. Richardson is editor and publisher of the Reformer and Walter Lowe is editor-in-chief of the News, with an able corps of assistants. The Monitor cordially welcomes these splendid publications into membership in the growing family of much-needed and appreciated race journals and wishes them abundant and well-deserved success.

"WOMAN LOST THREE SOLDIER HUSBANDS"

IN the news columns appears an article headed: "Woman Lost Three Soldier Husbands." It is funny and appeals to one's sense of the ridiculous upon first reading, but soon one is compelled to give more serious consideration to an all too prevalent practice of marrying much and often that detracts from the sanity and sacredness of marriage. There were too many women of all colors and conditions that entered, lightly, into this sacred relationship during the recent war period. There were too many soldiers, who heedlessly, rushed into these entanglements, and the social fabric is the worse because of this.

THE PERISCOPE

Woman's Suffrage.

Woman's suffrage, as a national privilege, is now put up to the various legislatures to vote on the amendment, the 18th to the United States constitution, in order to make the privilege lawful. The south is against suffrage, for the principal reason that a clear and definite way has not been found to completely eliminate the women of our group. The south is frank about it, and one of the prominent senators in a recent address declared that while they were able to get away with disfranchising the men, he was not so sure that they could repeat in disfranchising the women. "Therefore," he declared, "it is best to let well enough alone." The south, undoubtedly, is most presumptuous to think that forever and a day, it will be permitted to hold the yoke of oppression against the majority of its population. The time is most certain of coming when the women and men of the Negro race will have the right to vote, and have their votes properly counted. The white south's claim to "superiority" must be met in a square, and not a crooked, contest. Upon such a basis we are willing to stake our all, and if they are not they are either cowards or poor sports, or both.

The Passing of Booze.

From all indications, it seems that the great national event of the "Passing of Booze," will occur on schedule time, July 1. At least, those who are most concerned, the brewers, distillers and saloonists, are preparing for nothing different. They may be talking hopefully, but as fast as they can, they are shutting off the faucets and clearing out the refrigerators, and preparing to take off the white jackets and aprons.

The one big thing about all this, so far as we are concerned, the states where we live in large numbers, and where the thing called "drink" has been discontinued for any length of time, we are the most prosperous and aggressive; the morality is high and the good will between the people of both races is commendable. If this is any argument for continuing the traffic, eyes have not seen or ears heard."

SOME TIME

SOME TIME, when all life's lessons have been learned,
And sun and stars forevermore have set,
The things which our weak judgments here have spurned,
The things o'er which we grieved with lashes wet,
Will flash before us, amid life's dark night,
As stars shine most in deeper tints of blue,
And we shall see how all God's plans were right,
And what most seemed reproof was love most true.

And we shall see how, while we frown and sigh,
God's plans go on as best for you and me;
How, when we called, He heeded not our cry,
Because His wisdom to the end could see;
And e'en as prudent parents disallow
Too much of sweets to crying babyhood,
So God, perhaps, is keeping from us now
Life's sweetest things because it seemeth good.

And if sometimes, commingled with life's wine,
We find the wormwood, and rebel and shrink,
Be sure a wiser hand than yours or mine
Pours out this portion for our lips to drink;
And if some friend we love is lying low,
Where human kisses cannot reach his face,
Oh, do not blame the loving Father so,
But wear your sorrow with obedient grace.

And you shall shortly know that lengthened breath
Is not the sweetest gift God sends His friend,
And that sometimes the sable pall of death
Conceals the fairest boon His love can send.
If we could push ajar the gates of life
And stand within and all God's workings see,
We could interpret all this doubt and strife,
And for each mystery find there a key.

But not today. Then be content, poor heart!
God's plans, like lilies pure and white, unfold;
We must not tear the close-shut leaves apart;
Time will reveal the inner heart of gold.
And if, through patient toil, we reach the land
Where tired feet with sandals loosed may rest,
Where we shall clearly know and understand,
I think that we shall say God knew the best. —L. E. Hall.

A CONSIDERATE ACT

Mayor Smith is a busy man. But he was not too busy to take time to write a much appreciated letter to John A. Singleton, who recently received favorable notice because he was not a party to the examination scandal in which ninety-eight dental students figured. Mr. Singleton is a graduate of Howard university, not of Creighton. The mayor's considerate act in writing the following letter will be appreciated by Monitor readers:

June 13, 1919.
Mr. John Andrew Singleton,
111 South 14th Street,
Omaha, Neb.

Dear Mr. Singleton:
I want to congratulate you upon your successful completion of the course in the Creighton Dental College, and especially congratulate you on the fact that you completed the course with honor and without stooping to some of the practices indulged in by other members of your class.

It is to be regretted that any young men who have enjoyed the advantages afforded them by Creighton university should in any manner bring reproach upon themselves and on Creighton university by resorting to dishonorable practices at the very close of their school work.

I want to congratulate you upon the fact that your record is clear. I wish you success in your profession and again congratulate you on your clean record.

With personal regards, I am, yours very truly,

ED P. SMITH,
Mayor.

CARD OF THANKS

We desire to thank our many friends for the kindness shown our daughter, sister and granddaughter, Olga Watkins, during her serious illness, and the many floral tributes that were sent at her death. Respectfully,
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tucker.
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Brooks.
Mrs. Charlie Watkins.
Horace Henderson.

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