

RACE PROBLEM IN AMERICA

By Samuel Barrett.

(Installment No. 3.)

BUT, strange as it may seem, the Negro owes a moral duty to the white man. And this moral responsibility cannot be evaded, even though we may feel justified in doing so. Our moral duty as a race is that we treat the white man fairly and squarely in all of our relations with him. Too often we are inclined to overlook and ignore the moral law when white people are involved, forgetting that only in proportion as we show a high appreciation of the moral law as we come into contact with them can we ever hope to change their attitude in this respect, at least toward us. In other words, we must deal fairly and justly with our white brother in our social, our economic, our business, our industrial and our political relations. Let him see our magnanimity and largeness of heart at all times and under all circumstances. The time may come when he will see the utter folly of approaching the problem by eliminating the demands of fair play and justice.

Nor must we overlook our moral duty to our own race, if we would solve the problem. Negroes owe moral duties to their own race that cannot be lightly considered, and which are as obligatory and binding as the Decalogue itself. And no member of the race will be able to escape the ultimate penalty of indifference, selfishness and race dereliction. In the face of crime, juvenile delinquency, the social evil, questionable moral behavior on the part of those who ought to set good examples, illegal miscegenation, peonage, race division, the lack of business and industrial progress, disfranchisement and lynching, no man or woman of moral accountability ought to feel satisfied with anything less than a full dedication of himself or herself to the eradication of all of those things which keep the race from advancing to its highest in America. Whether a man enters the fight—for it is a fight—as a radical or as a conservative is immaterial. The one thing each and all of us should bear in mind is this: I owe a moral duty to my race. And if this idea becomes a fixity it will grow and eventually it will become a passion for moral duty and service.

The moral duty to the race falls upon the rich as well as the poor, the prominent as well as the practically unknown; in a word, it falls upon all. No matter who you are and what you are, you owe a moral duty to your race, and no amount of reasoning or false philosophy can excuse us.

In the solution of the problem I believe the race must play a distinct part—a part that no other race can play for us. But we shall never play the part we should and must play until we first realize our moral duty to one another. To get the rank and file of the race to see its moral duty to one another is one of the most difficult phases of the problem, and one that is going to tax the combined ability of all of our leaders. And yet this phase of the problem is so vital that I believe a definite propaganda ought to be inaugurated by the leaders of the race throughout America in order that the masses might see the necessity of moral responsibility.

We must rid ourselves of selfish individualism and work for the greatest good to the greatest number if we are to be saved.

(To be continued.)

DES MOINES WANTS NEGRO FIRE COMPANY

(By Associated Negro Press.)

Des Moines, Ia., July 16.—A petition for the erection of a new fire station to be officered and manned entirely by Negroes was presented to the city council Monday by George H. Woodson, attorney of Buxton, Ia. Woodson proposed to select the crew entirely from Negro officers and enlisted men who served during the war.

POLLYANNA DANCING SCHOOL

The Pollyanna dancing school which is held every Saturday afternoon is quite popular. The children are urged to attend regularly in order that they may be prepared for their public recital.

The Monitor's Phone Number Is Douglas 3224

NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE

Many Race Delegates Present—Take Prominent Part in Proceedings—Have Definite Opinions, and Programs as to Demands of Privileges of Full American Citizenship.

(By Associated Negro Press.)

Atlantic City, N. J., July 16.—Among the delegates in attendance at the national conference of social work here were many Colored men and women. They sat with the white delegates, and conferred with them upon matters of common interest as well as upon those of peculiar importance to their race.

One of the interesting features at a meeting devoted to a discussion of the Negro's problems was the statement of a white woman from San Antonio, Tex., that in that part of her state, the Negro was coming into his own. He was being provided with better educational facilities and was able to go into business or buy land on the same terms as white men.

A white man, a native of South Carolina, who had been in China for six years, said that on his return he had talked with a Negro friend about conditions. This man said that what the Negroes of the south wanted is an out-and-out-voice from the pulpits against lawlessness; no taxation without representation; abolition of legalized robbery in the use of the school funds; the removal of discrimination such as that the Negroes encounter in traveling.

Many of the Negro delegates protested vehemently against segregation of any sort. One said it was worse when practiced in the north than in the south, for while the south, contrary to the general opinion, does not understand the Negro, it often has an affection for him. In particular, housing conditions were complained of. Negroes are compelled to live in discomfort and worse because they are not admitted to good neighborhoods. They want admission to the schools, to the settlements, to the neighborhood club houses on the same conditions as whites of varying nationalities. They want work on equal terms with the whites.

RESPONSIBILITY OF PRESS IN RECONSTRUCTION CALLS FOR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION

Tulsa, Okla., July 17.—A. J. Smitherman, editor of the Tulsa Star and president of the Western Negro Press Association has issued a call for its fifteenth annual convention. The association meets in the Masonic temple, 18th and Woodland streets, Kansas City, Mo., July 25 and 26, and expects in addition to its regular program to feature the discussion of important public questions affecting the interests and welfare of the race in the United States of America.

President Smitherman in his announcement says:

"I earnestly urge all newspaper and magazine owners, whether members of the association or not, to send representatives to this meeting, which will be one of the most interesting in the history of our association.

Never before have the opportunities seemed so bright for the Colored newspaper man as now; and never before have the attending responsibilities been so pronounced as those now devolving upon us.

It is for the Colored press to blaze the way for the race through the veiled future of a great reconstruction period, and to meet these grave responsibilities, to act wisely and timely, is one of the big problems we will attempt to solve at this meeting.

DOUGLAS B. McCARY OF OMAHA DENIES NEGRO BLOOD

Testifying in district court of Omaha in the suit of his son-in-law for annulment of marriage on the grounds of Negro blood in his veins, Douglas B. McCary, former cashier of the Capitol Savings bank of Washington, D. C., of which John R. Lynch was president, denied, in his testimony on the witness stand, that he had Negro blood or that his father or mother were Negroes or of Negro delineation. McCary's testimony brought to a close the trial of the suit of Francis P. Dwyer of this city, for annulment of marriage on the grounds that his wife, Clara McCary-Dwyer was of at least one-eighth Negro blood which under a Nebraska statute is sufficient for annulment; and that he was unaware of the fact until so informed by a physician following the birth of a child.

Dwyer testified on the witness stand that they were married in the Catholic church in 1916 after a courtship of year during which time he did not see his wife's father. When informed at the birth of the baby, by the doctor that the baby had Colored blood, he said he left his wife and she moved from their apartment to her parent's home. He entered the army. On returning, he filed suit for annulment.

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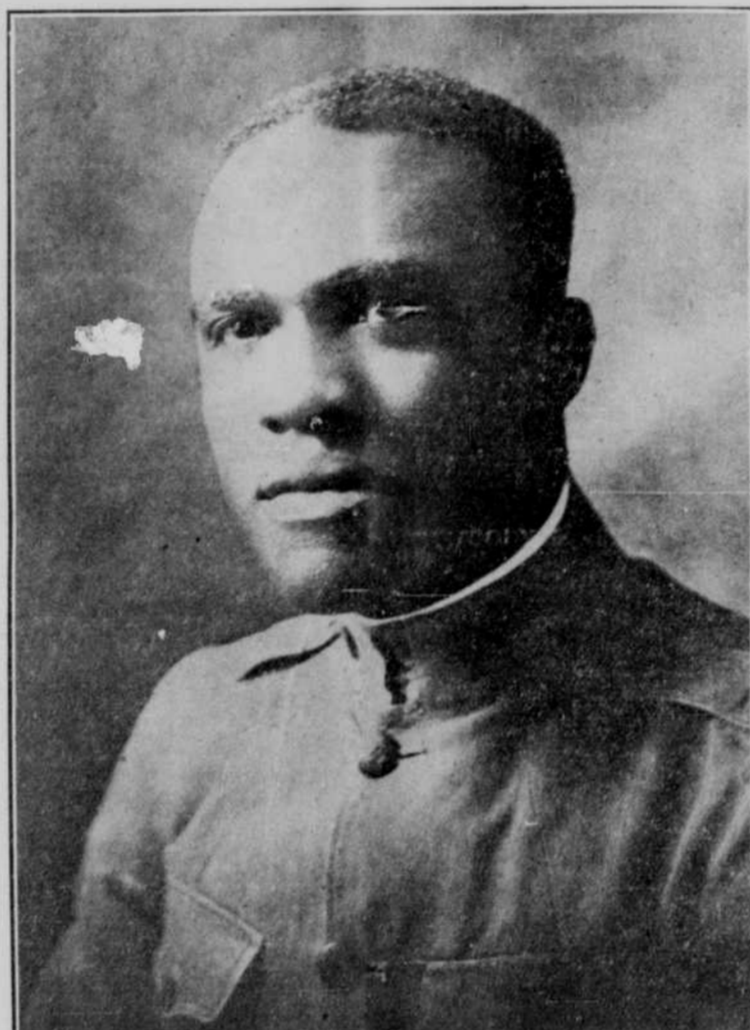


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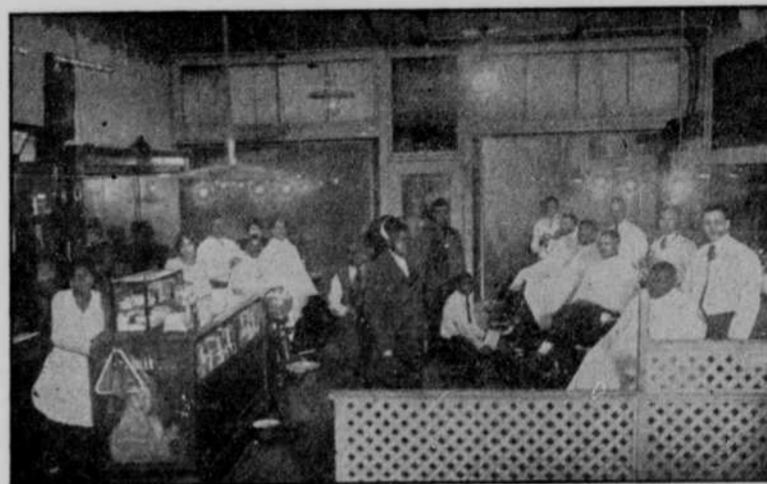
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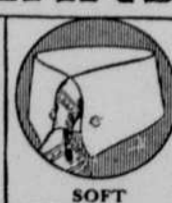
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