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A NATIONAL WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS.

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Pioneer Infantry Bury 21,000 U. S. Soldiers

Rumored Ragsdale Was Riot Leader

South Carolina Congressman Was Unfriendly to Race; Lost Life Leading Washington Riot Is Report From National Capital.

OPPOSED EDUCATION OF COLORED FOLK

One of His Latest Acts in Congress Was to Have Provision For Howard University Stricken From Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill.

(Special to The Monitor.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 13.—While there is some mystery surrounding the death here of Congressman J. Willard Ragsdale of South Carolina, who died during the recent race riots, there are persistent rumors that will not down that he owes his death to participating as a leader in the riots. It is positively stated by those in a position to know that Congressman Ragsdale was wounded when leading a mob and subsequently died from his wounds. One report was that he died with heart failure in the house office building; another that he died at his residence. One fact is indisputable, he is dead, and there seems to be a disposition to surround his death with a veil of mystery.

He was noted for his unfriendly attitude toward the colored race and was an outspoken opponent of higher education for this people, maintaining that education was not the solution of the race problem, but only intensified it. Among his last acts in congress was the raising of a point of order on Howard university appropriation bill, which caused it to be stricken from the sundry civil appropriation bill.

GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE CAUSE OF RECENT RACE TROUBLE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—The widespread race riots in various parts of the United States are under investigation by the United States government.

Trusted agents of the Department of Justice and other governmental organizations are endeavoring to determine exactly what is behind the spread of assault and murder throughout the northern states.

The situation admittedly is very serious. Starting here in Washington there have been race clashes in a dozen other localities, culminating in the present rioting in Chicago.

Scope of Inquiry

The inquiry now under foot is designed to determine these facts:

First—Whether there actually exists a regularly organized body whose object is to stir up racial hatred in order to emphasize apparent unrest in the United States.

Second—Whether there is any connection between the present series of race riots and the pro-German propaganda that immediately preceded the entrance of the United States in the war.

Third—Whether there is any actual connection between the present race disturbance and the activities of the I. W. W., a score of whose leaders now are under severe prison sentences.

Naturally, the officers concerned in the investigation are not talking for publication. Privately they declare the less said about their work the easier it will be. However, it is generally accepted that steps are being taken to combat further spread of the disturbances. In this connection it is known that the authorities have secured possession of much important information as the result of the arrest of leaders of the recent rioting here in Washington.

YOUNGSTOWN SOLDIERS TAKE OUT CHARTER

Install Local Post of Grand Army of Americans With Charter List of Fifty.

Youngstown, O., Aug. 13.—A number of local colored men in this city who saw service in the United States army during the war with Germany took out a charter in the Grand Army of America at a meeting recently. The charter was signed by fifty former soldiers.

BISBEE RIOT FOMENTED BY LOCAL OFFICIALS SAYS LIEUT.-COL. SNYDER

Responsibility for Trouble Does Not Rest on Tenth Cavalry.

NEW YORK, Aug. 10.—A denial that troopers of the Tenth cavalry started a riot in Bisbee, Ariz., on July 3, has been sent by Lieutenant Colonel F. S. Snyder, commanding the regiment. Colonel Snyder wrote that, after full investigation, he had concluded that local officials had planned deliberately to aggravate the troopers so that they would furnish an excuse for police and deputy sheriffs to shoot them down. He charges that members of the I. W. W. had influence in this plot.

According to Colonel Snyder's account the troopers did take a pistol away from a provost guard of the Nineteenth infantry after he had taken a pistol away from a trooper without cause. He says the troopers were culpable in this instance, but in no other. In the confusion that followed, the account says, the civilian officials "then started to take pistols away from the cavalrymen and to assault and 'shoot-up' the soldiers as soon as they disarmed them." The account says that the soldiers gave up their weapons without firing a shot.

Colonel Snyder declared that the civilians fired upon soldiers who were riding in automobiles and wounded some of them. He says that affidavits show that civilians made at least four unprovoked assaults on individual troopers, attempted to kill nine by shooting, and robbed one. Several affidavits are cited, one charging that a Mexican woman was shot by a civilian and not by a trooper. There was a deliberate effort to "hunt down the troopers" and kill them, Colonel Snyder charges. The members of the Tenth cavalry had been invited to Bisbee to take part in the Fourth of July celebrations.

REWARDS OFFERED FOR CONVICTION OF LYNCHERS

(By Associated Negro Press.)

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 13.—Rewards aggregating \$1,500 were offered here today for arrest and conviction of the persons who lynched Berry Washington, a 72-year-old Negro, near Milan, Ga., May 26 last.

Governor Dorsey offered \$1,000 reward and to this Dr. Floyd McRae, an Atlanta physician, whose family home was in Telfair county, in which Milan is situated, added \$500. The governor's reward provides \$500 for the first arrest and conviction in the case and \$100 each for the next five.

RACE MAN ONE AMONG SEVENTY-SEVEN TO WIN HIGH HONOR

Alston Burleigh, Howard University Student, Holds Own at R. O. T. C.

Camp Devens, Mass.—The commanding officer of the recently held Camp Devens R. O. T. C. infantry camp, Camp Devens, Mass., announces in an official communication the names of certain students from the various colleges and universities of the country who have won approval by exceptional zeal, enthusiasm and aptitude displayed by them in their work at the camp. Out of a list of seventy-seven men, representing such institutions as the University of Maine, St. John's school, Clason Military academy, New Bedford High school, New Britain High school, Harvard university, Yale university, New York Military academy, Cornell university, Syracuse university and institutions of that character, the name of Alston Burleigh, a Howard university student, appears. Howard is the only one of the colored schools whose representative won this exceptional mark of approval at Camp Devens.

LIEUT. JAMES REESE EUROPE'S SISTER DEAD

New York, Aug. 13.—Ida Europe, sister of Lieutenant James Reese Europe, died July 16 in Lellevue hospital. Her remains were shipped to Washington, D. C., for burial in Harmony cemetery.

It is a wise policy to remain true and loyal to old friends.

THESE riots have a lesson which the whites should take to their souls. It is that each one of us has a responsibility to the community in dealing with our colored fellow citizens. Every time a white man insults a Negro, every time he conveys by his conduct an overweening sense of his race superiority, he contributes to the cause out of which these race riots have sprung. No race responds so to sympathetic aid as the Negro. No race can be made as easily to forget or forgive past wrongs by sincere cooperation and protection. William Howard Taft.

Lessons from Chicago Race Riots

Ex-President Taft Expresses Opinion of Causes Contributing to the Serious Conflict in Illinois Metropolis and Urges Sympathetic and Intelligent Cooperation; Disapproves Attitude of "Educated Extremists."

(From the Chicago Daily News.)

The migration of southern Negroes to northern cities, induced by the prospect of high wages and stimulated by southern discrimination in educational facilities and the administration of justice, has created a congestion and a lack of proper housing in such cities. Then the stories of the treatment of the colored troops in France, some of them unfortunately true, have been given wide publicity among Negroes in this country. Editorials dwelt on the heartlessness of race antagonisms that were active even when Negroes were shedding their life's blood for their country.

Negro leaders are divided into two classes. There are those who feel as deeply as they can the injustice and heart misery arising from race prejudice, and they would restrain as far as possible by legislation and executive action such injustice. But they believe that the real way to ameliorate conditions is to educate the Negro for life by vocational and character training, and by thus increasing his value to his community and himself to moderate and neutralize the prejudice. They deprecate much the inflaming of the souls of colored men against the white race, even when there are facts justifying indignation and a deep sense of wrong.

There are other Negroes, educated men, who with no restraint have poured out their agony of soul and sense of outrage in addresses and editorials and roused fellow Negroes as they never have been roused before. The lynchings, those horrible exhibitions of blood lust against which all good people are joining in apparently hopeless protest, have led to desperation among the blacks. The retired Negro soldier, used to arms, returning from the war environment, resenting the ingratitude he sees in all of this, is prompted to "direct action" to remedy his wrongs.

On the other side, among white people, we have those who look with suspicion on any source from which the supply of labor can be increased. The lower in the scale of intelligence the stronger their feeling against a race they glory in calling inferior. The minute there is an outbreak, the lawless and the criminals, coming out into the open like cockroaches at night, join in the quarrel with avidity and divide by color. Thus the riot beginning in a single quarrel develops formidable proportions. Innocent people of both races, frightened by reports, arm themselves for protection, and we have a situation deplorable, indeed.

The evidence seems to show, as is usually the case, that in Chicago the whites were the aggressors in stoning a Negro lad into a watery grave because he had passed a supposed line of segregation between white and Negro bathers on a city beach. Soon, however, both sides were guilty of lawless assaults and murder. As always, the Negroes suffered most.

Dr. Moton, the wise and able head of Tuskegee, anticipating the possibility of such distressing outbreaks, described in a commencement address at Hampton last May a state of things at Birmingham some weeks before. He said that rumors spread that the Negroes of the neighborhood were getting arms and drilling with the purpose of attacking the whites on a certain Saturday night.

It gave him and others great concern. They investigated. They could find no basis for the report of such a plan. But they did find that Negroes and white men alike, stirred by the re-

ports, were arming themselves and that the supply of small arms and ammunition in the shops in Birmingham had been completely exhausted. A committee of leading white men and colored men met and did everything possible to allay alarm, and the dreaded Saturday night passed without incident or outbreak.

The number of the dead and wounded in Chicago should lead the authorities of every city with congested Negro quarters and population to call together leaders of both races, who, acting jointly, should take appropriate measures to stop hysteria, to allay alarm and to arrest loud-mouthed agitators and criminals before trouble begins. The editors of the colored press should be reasoned with to cease publishing articles, however true, having inciting effect.

The educated extremists among the Negro leaders must certainly see that however great the injustice done to their race through blind prejudice, "direct action" is the worst possible remedy. The more white victims the greater the colored victims will be, and in the end the feeling out of which this evil has come will be increased and the slow and steady improvement in the agricultural and industrial status of the Negro shown by statistics will be obstructed. Such leaders should use every argument to quiet their followers and to condemn further lawlessness as an offset to white outrage. Those who suffer from such riots are often, one might almost say usually, not participants in the fighting, but bystanders who happen to be in the line of fire, either through unwise curiosity or because they can't help it.

These riots have a lesson which the whites should take to their souls. It is that each one of us has a responsibility to the community in dealing with our colored fellow citizens. Every time a white man insults a Negro, every time he conveys by his conduct an overweening sense of his race superiority, he contributes to the cause out of which these race riots have come. No race responds so quickly to sympathetic aid as the Negro. No race can be made as easily to forget or forgive past wrongs by sincere cooperation and protection.

If this trouble spreads to all the large cities, the authorities and the prominent and trusted leading citizens of these cities must have foresight and take quick action. No doubt must be left of the intention of the city and state to suppress lawlessness. Troops in impressive and overwhelming force must be summoned at once. Meantime the joint measures of wise and leading whites and Negroes to give the Negroes to know that the state will protect them and that they are not to be abandoned to the mercy of hoodlums and gunmen will do much by way of prevention.

Another lesson of the Chicago riots is in making clear the responsibility of the large employers of labor who invite southern Negroes into their plants for their proper housing. They owe it to the community in which they live to see to it that they are not thus sowing seed plots of riots and lawlessness in their quest for labor.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT.

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 13.—The biennial session of the Supreme Lodge of Knights of Pythias and the Supreme Court of Calanthe, eastern and western hemispheres, will be held here the week beginning August 25.

Preaches at Union Vesper Services

The Rev. Thomas A. Taggart, Pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Delivered Admirable Address to Hundreds at Syndicate Park Last Sunday.

AN UNUSUAL BUT MERITED DISTINCTION

MANY hundreds of people of both races crowded Sunday evening around the grandstand at Syndicate park, Twenty-first and F streets, to listen to one of the most timely and remarkable addresses ever delivered to an audience of such a character.

During the summer months all the various denominations of white churches on the South Side have been holding, instead of their usual services, a vesper service Sunday evenings



at Syndicate park. Rev. C. F. Holler, chairman of the committee of arrangements, announced the services for August 10 in the following manner:

"South Omaha people will reflect credit on themselves by being present on this occasion to hear Rev. Thomas A. Taggart, who has accomplished wonderful things in the building and equipment of the fine Bethel Baptist church, and has gathered into the kingdom of Christ over 800 Negroes. The entire congregations of the various churches are requested to note the change of time to 7:45 sharp and be on time."

The congregations of these various churches were out, and in addition all the members and friends of Bethel Baptist church. The weather was ideal. Underneath the sky and trees the people, with bared heads, worshipped together.

In the midst of hundreds of both races Rev. Mr. Taggart spoke on the theme, "Am I My Brother's Keeper?" This he handled in his own inimitable fashion. He said:

"God made of one flesh all the nations of the earth to dwell in unity and harmony on the face of His earth, glorifying each other as brethren and glorifying Him as Father. It is the thoughts of self that create trouble in the world. The mad, insane rush for money, place and fame that makes us go to any end to get ahead and create false boundaries to aggrandize ourselves.

"Love of self, self-worship, has caused all the hellishness we have ever known or shall ever know. Let us stop our foolishness and learn to live together in unity and peace. Christianity of the head that never reaches the heart is vain, a snare and a pit to him who so deludes himself."

He struck the keynote when, in his message, he mentioned the propaganda of the press, which keeps stirring strife among the blacks and whites, by putting out false news and then, after finding the truth, they fail to publish it and keep the public blind.

He continued: "We should live as Christians and pray and reason things out without getting our innocent sons and daughters killed while the press which stirred the strife (and those behind who pay it) sit off and laugh."

He urged his white hearers, who could get nearer the press, to see to it such practice should be stopped. He did not fail to tell his people to put away nonsense and use their brains.

Some who heard the sermon came away, saying that they felt that God had sent the message to awaken them to the real truth of Christian service.

Nearly 21,000 Bodies of American Soldiers Were Gathered at the Argonne and Buried by the 816th Pioneer Infantry in Largest Military Cemetery in the World.

NOT ON THE FIRING LINE, BUT GAVE GOOD SERVICE

Composed of September Draftees, This Was One of the "Minute" Trained and Equipped Organizations Which Arrived Overseas Shortly Before Armistice Was Signed—Built Railroads and Buried the Dead—Many Nebraskans and Western Men in Regiment.

BREST, France.—By the time this reaches you the boys are hoping they will be on the seas en route for the United States, for all are anxious to be home again. The 816th Pioneer Infantry is composed largely of western men. Several Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota men are in our outfit and all pine for the ozone of our western prairies. Among the Nebraskans are Letcher of Nebraska City; Frank Blackwell, Rufus Long, Cecil Wilkes, Shelley Cook and others from Omaha. What we have been doing is told in the following article from the local press:

Dame Fortune did not destine the 816th Pioneer infantry to be a fighting outfit to come to France to win its spurs amid shot, shell and machine gun bullets, nor did as much as offer the privilege to members of this organization to witness the big game from a distance when the war was on. Afterward, however, the regiment had the opportunity to see the aftermath quite fully and completely.

Minute Trained Outfit

The 816th, like many of its sister outfits, was one of the "Minute" trained and equipped organizations and was brought up in the states under the command of Colonel L. A. I. Chapman, formerly of the cavalry, regular army. The men were selected from the September draft, half of which reported for duty to the regiment two days before October 2, 1918, the time of departure from Camp Funston. Arriving in Camp Upton on October 5, the mad rush for equipment, inspection and squads east was finally ended and on October 12 the regiment embarked.

Life on the rolling sea was none of the expected pleasures of a sea-going voyage, and after 13 days and nights the Ceramic, Baltic and Talthibus, carrying the regiment finally discharged its cargo in Liverpool on October 24.

Railroad Work

Resting a few days at Camp Knotty Ash, they crossed England and left for France via Le Havre arriving, finally, at Foulain (Meuse). The 816th was attached to the first army and with its sister outfit, the 815th, was almost forgotten in the city of Verdun after the armistice. Several days later it was assigned to railway work to open the Eix tunnel and rebuild the line from Verdun to Audun, and the line from Verdun to Sedan.

February 1 saw the end of railway construction in this area and the regiment was split, six companies under the command of Major Robert Blaine leaving for the intermediate section. In March the 1st battalion was moved from Verdun to Romagne to work in the cemetery.

Argonne Cemetery

When this job was finished the organization moved to Romagne and established headquarters, Camp Romagne. The 816th in company with other organizations, making a total strength of approximately 10,000 men, holds the reputation of being members of the largest undertaking establishment in the world.

To June 30, 20,890 bodies of American soldiers were gathered from the trees and brush of the Argonne and concentrated in the Argonne cemetery, the largest military cemetery in the world.

Will Soon Go Home

While the 816th Pioneer infantry did not appear in action, or even reach the zone of advance until the war was over, it still prides itself on many accomplishments with the pick and shovel that will last in the memories of the folks at home. It performed a great and important work in the Argonne cemetery, and arriving in Brest on July 6, it hopes to soon say good-bye to France, feeling that it has really done something worth while overseas.