

THE MONITOR

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For mankind are one in spirit, and an instinct bears along,
 Round the earth's electric circle the swift flush of right or wrong;
 Whether conscious or unconscious, yet humanity's vast frame
 Through its ocean-sundered fibres feels the gush of joy or shame;
 In the gain or loss of one race all the rest have equal claim.
 —James Russell Lowell.

OMAHA LYCHING NOT RACE RIOT

The lynching, the disgrace of which every worth while citizen of Omaha keenly feels and sincerely deprecates, was not a race riot. Thank God, it did not come to that. Thank God that the bloodshed of such a catastrophe was mercifully averted. Had the mob carried out its threats to invade the sections where law-abiding, self-respecting, property-owning colored people reside to wreak vengeance upon them for the alleged, but unproven crimes of a few suspected lawless members of the race, the casualties on both sides would have been undoubtedly high; and our city would have been bequeathed a legacy of racial hatred which it is horrible even to contemplate. We are therefore profoundly grateful that our city was spared the added horror of a race riot.

All, however, who believe in law and order, and that amity and good will should prevail among all classes of citizens, must be keenly alive to the danger that threatens when an indiscriminating and adverse sentiment is permitted to be created against any group of people because of the wrongdoing of particular individuals of that group. As an illustration of this, aside from that which our own people so obviously supplies, may be mentioned the sentiment against people of German descent during the recent war. Those whose Americanism and patriotism were beyond question were made to feel blighting proscription. What an easy matter it was to inflame passion against the most patriotic of this class of citizens by a sneering reference to their descent or parentage. Many of them doubtless felt as we do that the action or crime of some member of their race might at any moment endanger the life and property of unoffending ones.

Wholesale condemnation of a group or a class for the wrong-doing of individuals is wrong and indefensible, and it is this reprehensible thing which causes race riots.

In one of the last conversations we had with our heroic mayor, who is now deservedly an international character, he said:

"I have no patience with this wholesale indictment of a race or class, because of the crimes of bad individuals. The whole thing is wrong, eternally wrong, and all of us must do all we can to stop it. There are bad white men and bad black men, and crime is crime by whomsoever committed, and I could never see the wisdom or sense of the newspapers mentioning a man's race in connection with his commission of a crime, which is so generally the practice where the offender is colored. There can be no question that such a practice helps to stir up and keep alive prejudice, and at this time of all times, when all over the world people's nerves are unstrung and we are facing serious situations in our country as elsewhere, I do wish something could be done to stop this thing which all sensible men admit is senseless, wrong and dangerous."

These words of Mayor Ed P. Smith should be taken seriously to heart by all and from press, pulpit, bar and forum there should be sounded a clarion note of protest until the creating of adverse sentiment and the wholesale indictment of any group by the popular, prevalent methods are abolished.

There is no need of blinking the fact, indeed it were folly to do so, that in Omaha there were all the elements necessary for a sanguinary race riot that Sunday night. Those elements are still here and while it will be by no means so easy to evoke them as it would have been and seemed imminent Sunday night, nevertheless it needs to be pointed out that all of us must do our full part and duty to see to it that there is not the slightest excuse given for any suggestion of any race conflict. There is no reason for it. Even though the greatly

exaggerated reports of crimes by Negroes were true, that is no just reason why resentment should be felt against the law-abiding, self-respecting Negroes of the city. And because many Negroes keenly resent the false accusation that they are responsible for and sympathize with Negro criminals, this is no excuse for cultivating or holding ill-will or hatred against white people as white people, for thousands of them are our friends and are opposed to injustice.

We have had no race riot in Omaha. For this we all should be profoundly grateful. And all of us should show our gratitude by so living, acting, thinking and talking that anything like a race riot will be an absolute impossibility.

NEGROES AND ASSAULT

It has been given wide publicity that assaults and attempted assaults by Negroes upon white women and girls had so inflamed the public mind that summary vengeance was inevitable. It is true that there have been many reports in the press of such crimes, some of which when run to earth were found to be groundless or unsubstantiated. The report of County Attorney Shotwell on the status of assault cases which was given to the press last Saturday throws a rather startling and unexpected light upon the situation, which should have a sobering effect upon those who are disposed to believe that Negroes are chief offenders in the commission of this heinous crime. It is a matter of record that there are now awaiting trial in district court seventeen persons held for this crime. Of this number FOUR are Negroes and THIRTEEN are WHITE MEN! One, a white man, Alfred J. Ramsey, who was accused of attempted assault upon a sixteen-year-old colored girl, was found not guilty by a jury, and Jerry Dennis, a Negro, is serving a term in the penitentiary for attempted assault upon a young white woman. No Negro accused of this crime has been admitted to bail, and only three white men accused of attempted assault have been released under heavy bonds.

COURTESY ON STREET CARS

SINCE the insistent demands for women's rights, which includes the franchise and equal pay with men for equal work, to all of which The Monitor believes women are justly entitled, there has been a noticeable decrease in chivalry and courtesy towards women. This is very noticeable on street cars. Men are inclined to keep their seats and let women stand. We deplore this. And we urge upon the men of our race, old and young, no matter what other fellows do or do not do, to set an example to others in that courtesy which always marks the gentleman and shows good breeding. Give up your seat to women on the street cars, all women, white or colored. One of the things that won favor for that splendid body of young men who attended the officers training camp at Des Moines among all citizens of that community was their good conduct and courtesy on the street cars. This may seem a little thing, but in the observance of it will be found a powerful leverage of public sentiment and good will.

ONE EXCEPTION

THE Omaha Excelsior, a society weekly, is the only newspaper of any kind published in this city, so far as we have seen, that in any way attempts to defend or excuse the mob which disgraced Omaha. We are surprised that Clement Chase should endorse the sentiment of Senator John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, which is, if taken at its face value, an invitation to anarchy. The views expressed by Mr. Chase do not comport with the name of his long-established publication. In his advocacy or de-

fense of lynch law this publication is on the lowest, not the higher grounds. We are quite convinced that sober thought will show the Excelsior the fallacy of its reasoning. We hope so.

CURTIS RESOLUTION IN CONGRESS

THE bill introduced by Congressman Curtis of Kansas for federal investigation of lynchings and riots is in the hands of the judiciary committee of the senate. The united sentiment of the country should be back of this bill. The federal government must take action. The Monitor has no doubt about the attitude of Senator Norris and Congressman Jefferis toward this important measure. Speaking for our people in Nebraska, we are unitedly for the bill and want it passed. We look to our congressional delegates to record their votes on the right side.

GENERAL WOOD

GENERAL WOOD'S marked ability and forcefulness of character was manifested immediately upon his coming to Omaha. None wiser or more acceptable could have been placed in charge of the situation. His absolute fairness and impartiality was apparent to all and his grasp and control of the situation disclosed traits not only of a soldier but also a statesman.

MONITOR IN GREAT DEMAND

LAST week's issue of The Monitor was in great demand. Requests were received from all parts of the country for copies. We have received many gratifying letters and messages commending us for the manner in which the situation here was covered. All this is most gratifying.

MAYOR SMITH'S RECOVERY

THE news that has come from Mayor Smith's sick chamber is encouraging. Before we go to press it is believed that he will be able to go home. His physician urges that he take at least six weeks' vacation to insure his complete recovery. We are profoundly grateful for his recovery.

Flashes of Most Anything

The Glory of the Conquered.

THE schemers schemed and plotted, men's passions were inflamed, reason and sanity went on a vacation, and for a day Omaha, fair gate city of the west, went down in the dust conquered. For wild, lawless hours justice was slain. Sunday, September 28th, became a day when outlawry and mob violence and lynch law reigned.

And then real Omaha, sane Omaha, asserted herself and looked at the ruin of her fair name and shuddered at the havoc anarchy had made in the few short hours of her conquest.

Out of the shame and humiliation and self-depreciation and the just flaying administered by her own hands and that of others, she sets herself the task of arising. Once for all she will place law and order on the throne.

Today the Grand Jury will convene. All look to see the firm, strong hand that will create in the mind of the law-breaker a lasting fear of the majesty of the law and the sure, swift punishment of an outraged justice.

It seems she has learned well her lesson. Never again will fallacious argument persuade her to inaction. He that puts poison in the common well, from which we all must drink, may fill the graveyard with his enemies, but, he also digs a pit for his own poison-eaten flesh. The law of wind and fire is such, that fire set in the roof of a hut will jeopardize the walls of a castle.

Hate, fear, torture, prejudice, proscription will increase and not reduce friction. American democracy is on trial. Before the civil war the nation was swamped with fallacious argument that went to any lengths to justify the iniquitous system of slavery. Since the war a Bourbon south has gone to any lengths to justify the treatment accorded black Americans. Intent upon keeping him down, she stayed down in the mire with him, juggling with the inevitable laws of the universe. She boasted that she knew how to handle the Negro. Her boast was so loud and insistent that many believed her falsehoods and winked at her lawless methods.

But contagion spreads as contagion will, and Omaha was conquered by the disease.

It is Omaha's to rise, chastened by her lesson. And in the glory of a mistake made, acknowledged and corrected, so conduct herself, in this trying hour, that she will teach other communities and the nation, to the end that the practices of men be based on the laws of God. No problem can ever be solved until solved on the basis of law and order and justice and right.

For Monitor office call Doug. 3224.

LEADING EDITORIALS

THE DAY

A Surprise to Omaha.

Gen. Leonard Wood seems to have been something of a surprise to the people of Omaha. The thousands of men and women who had a part in the murderous rioting of Sunday night, the lynching of the accused Negro, and the attempted lynching of the mayor for daring to intervene, had settled down contentedly, after public exchange of congratulations over their work. Gen. Wood arrived, and immediately began collecting evidence an ordering arrests. It was a painful awakening for the law breakers. There was no concealing their identity. They had been proud and boastful about their share in the crime. Confirmatory evidence was at hand in the shape of photographs showing the mob at work; and Gen. Wood immediately announced that every person who had had a hand in the lynching or in abetting the lynchers was to be arrested and brought before the grand jury. And this when the leaders of the mob, as well as those who constituted it, had expected to go scot free.

Nebraska has no lack of laws punishing murder, attempted murder, arson, assault with intent to commit bodily injury, and all the other crimes which the mob committed; and Gen. Wood has taken over the command of the situation to see that the laws are enforced. Guards patrol the streets; soldiers are bivouacked at many points; and army trucks, artillery and machine guns are at hand, for use as needed. Gen. Wood defined his policy succinctly in the words: "Those who attempt to interfere with the military authorities will find themselves fighting the United States army."

The most encouraging utterance which has come from any citizen of the mob-disgraced city is the appeal sent out by the Rev. John Albert Williams, Negro pastor of St. Philip's Episcopal Church of Omaha, and state president of the American Association for the Advancement of Colored People, urging all members of his race everywhere to be patient and calm and to commit no reprisals. In words that should be long remembered, he says:

"In this crucial hour, it is our duty in common with others, to manifest courage, patience, self-restraint, soberness of thought temperateness in speech, and considerateness for the rights of all, despite temptation to do otherwise. In matters of reprisal we must always be found upon the side of law and order."

These are words of truth and soberness—the more commendable because spoken in the face of danger and under extraordinary provocation.—Editorial Boston Herald, October 2.

Not Race War.

The disturbance at Omaha has been referred to as a "race war," but that is a misnomer. It was an anarchistic outburst. The start of the movement which terminated in violence may have been due to slackness of law enforcement.

The uncertainty as to a horrible crime being punished caused a feeling of resentment and anger in many people. When a move was made toward an unlawful act which the authorities did not meet with decision and firmness, the crowd which had gathered to avenge the assault upon the girl, was joined by the thieves and thugs and malcontents in general who welcomed the opportunity to give vent to their criminal passions, and to destroy property and kill persons, even those not accused of any crime.

The Chicago rioting was more like a race war, because blacks and whites were armed and fighting each other. The same was true in Washington. But in Omaha, the only members of the "inferior race" who figured in the disturbance, aside from the prisoner whom the officers were weakly trying to defend, were innocent persons fleeing from the blind rage of the mob. Members of the "superior race," the race of greater intelligence and with thousands of years of civilization back of them, committed the acts of violence, law-defiance, pillage and arson.

The Omaha disturbance cannot be correctly called a race war. The crowd who attacked the mayor and attempted to murder him were all whites. A colored man would have been unsafe in that company. Those who set fire to the court house and fired upon the officers were all whites. They would not have tolerated the presence of a member of the "inferior race." It was distinctly a party for members of the "superior race" only, and the color line was drawn clearly. No black man would have been permitted to so much as throw a stone through a window of the court house, and the honor of putting a noose about the neck of the chief executive of the city was reserved for members of the "superior and dominant race," bent upon vindicating and upholding its dominance and position of superiority.

If a large party of colored men had looted stores and secured arms and

marched against the mob in front of the court house, the riot might have run into a race war. But this was not done. A few peaceable colored men proceeding about their business in an unoffending manner were set upon and beaten and were rescued only with difficulty. But there was no clash of whites against blacks, which is essential of a race war. The arson, pillage, murder, attempted murder, at Omaha last Sunday were all achievements of the white people.—Beatrice (Neb.) Daily Sun, October 2, 1919.

LIFT BAN ON STORES AND MOVIES

Colonel Morris, who is in charge of policing Omaha by civil and military authorities, lifted the ban on stores and movie houses in the neighborhood of Twenty-fourth and Lake streets Thursday night. Sunday ball games were permitted.

Colonel Morris said that he did not expect further trouble, but should any arise he said that he would have ample forces to handle all situations.

Buy a home.

Dental Hygiene and Care of the Teeth

By Dr. W. W. Peebles



By Dr. Peebles.

PREPAREDNESS

We use the above heading because of its very inclusive significance. Preparedness will mean prevention; thus if one is prepared to meet adversity we may rest assured that there will be little of which to complain. And this statement refers not only to preparedness as relates to the oral cavity but holds good in all conditions of life.

To be prepared one must possess one's self of implements of defense; and of these the tooth-brush and the many dentifrices, powders, pastes and mouth-washes are the ones I desire first to center your attention upon. No new theory is advanced when it is stated that the mouth is the harbor of many different germs. Some of these germs are very virulent in their action producing poisonous by-products which are actively engaged in tearing down the normal structures of the mouth. Others, not so active in themselves but only wanting the proper unsanitary condition to exist

in order that they too shall begin their work of destruction. To put the mouth then in a good clean condition, and to maintain that cleanliness, is the first necessity in the prevention of diseases in the mouth, for it is a well known fact that germs do not thrive and become active in a clean area. Then, too, it may be added that the poisonous substances produced in unclean mouths do not solely stay there to cause discomfort and trouble, but are carried down into the stomach oftentimes causing tonsillar and bronchial troubles on their journey and ending in many systematic complaints which ultimately are the active contributing causes of death.

Thus, in the prevention of these diseased conditions we fight our first battles with the tooth-brush. Very few conditions manifest themselves in the mouth which make it inadvisable to use this weapon, but if there we shall speak later of how to handle the situation. As soon as the young ones are able to take their nourishment unassisted they should be supplied with a tooth-brush and taught to brush their teeth after each meal. A small, soft brush should be used and the child taught to brush its teeth with a short rotary stroke. The inside of the teeth should also be brushed, care being exercised not to injure the gums. The rotary motion will remove particles from between the teeth thus eliminating the necessity of tooth-picks, which should never be used by the youngsters. The writer advises any reliable tooth powder for the children in preference to the different pastes.

Children soon grow fond of the taste of the paste and the pleasure of playing with the tube and therefore use more than is necessary, thus acquiring a habit of useless expense and accomplishing no material good. The Most powders are tasteless and so correct this extravagant practice.

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