

GROWING,
THANK YOU!

THE MONITOR

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

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LIFTING.
LIFT, TOO!

Withholding the Truth---Associated Press Abets Mob

MONITOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR ON THE JOB IN ARKANSAS

Associated Press, as Usual, Withholds Significant Facts—Vicious Whites Under Pretense of "Suppressing Negro Uprising." Mob and Kill Scores of Negroes and Imprison Hundreds of Others—Interesting Details of Motives and Causes Printed for Benefit of Monitor Readers.

(Special to The Monitor.)

HELENA, Ark., Oct. 28.—Your special correspondent, detailed to investigate the recent wholesale killings of Negroes in Phillips county, Arkansas, quietly dropped into Helena and visited the scenes of the recent troubles, talked with scores of Negroes, overheard the conversations of many whites, read the leading Arkansas newspapers, asked and got information and opinions and left the state without disclosing his identity and even being suspected of being a news writer.

The reason for this is obvious. We did not know whom to trust. We wanted to get the news—the whole truth, not to be lynched. For in the present state of mind of the white people of Phillips county, any Negro is as good as dead if he be even suspected of writing for a northern Negro publication.

Summary of Half Truth Circulated by Press

From reading the news as sent out by the white press of Arkansas, and as given to the Associated Press, we would be led to believe that the Negroes in and about Elaine, Phillips county, Arkansas, were a bloodthirsty set of ingrates who had deliberately plotted to "rise up against the white people and commit bloody slaughter;" that they had marked for slaughter twenty-one of the leading white men of the county; that a Negro organization the Progressive Farmers' Household Union, and its leaders were the instigators of a plan to force "social equality" of the Negroes on the white people, and to seize the lands of the white folks; that some Negroes wantonly fired on some white men who were on a public highway and doing nothing at all and who were wholly innocent of any impending trouble with the Negroes; that four of the leading Negroes of the state, the Johnson brothers, viciously attacked some white deputies and possemen and were killed while unlawfully resisting the officers; that the "insurrection" of the Negroes was so serious and threatening that the governor had to call on the federal government for help and the "uprising" was only suppressed by the aid of federal troops.

The Real Truth of the Organization

Here is the real truth about the whole matter. The Progressive Farmers' Household Union was a Negro organization incorporated by the state of Arkansas and authorized by the state to do business. Its charter stated that it was organized for the purpose of advancing the "intellectual, material, moral, spiritual and financial interests of the Negro race" and "to make the Negro a better farmer and a better citizen." The charter is on the public records and can be inspected at any time. The application blank is very short and asks but few questions, namely, "Do you believe in God? Do you belong to church? Who is your pastor? What is your age? Do you believe in the law? Do you believe in court? Are you married?" and a few others as to his religious beliefs. At the top of the application are the words "The Torch of Liberty

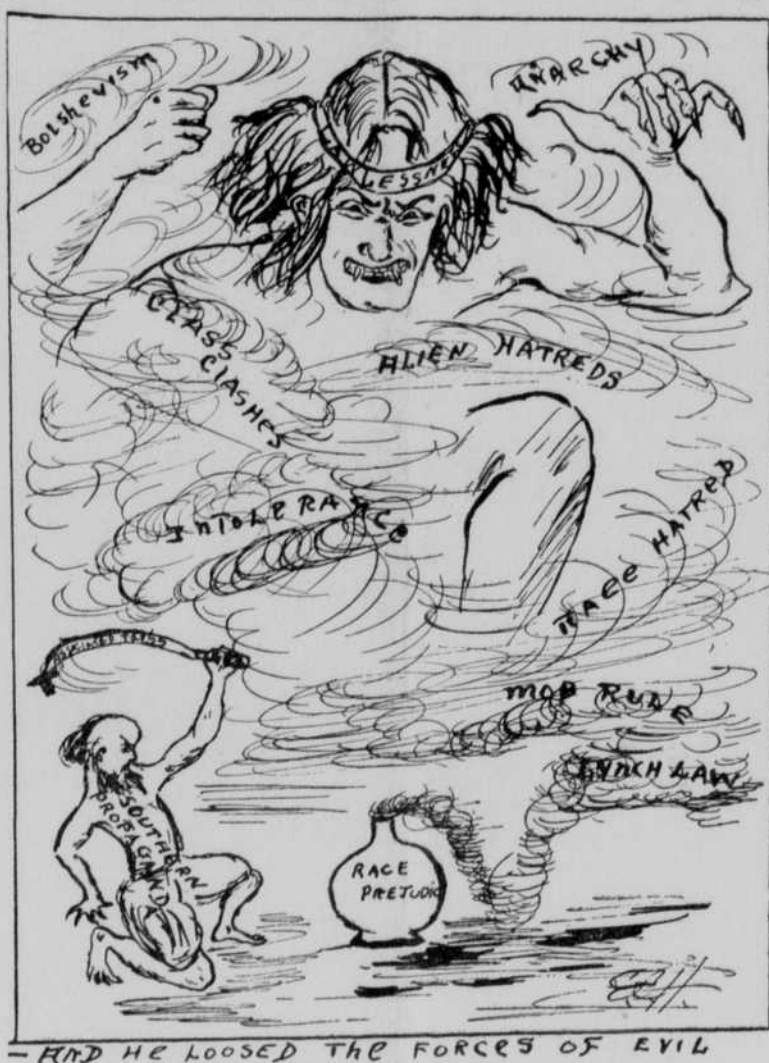
the Light of the World." At the bottom the applicant signs a pledge to obey the law and to support the constitution of the United States. I saw one of the applications and a copy was printed in the Times-Democrat, a white newspaper published at Little Rock. There is not one word in all its literature about "social equality."

The Motive Behind the Hullabaloo

All the hullabaloo was raised to conceal and camouflage certain vicious conditions existing in Phillips county and in all southeast Arkansas, which were about to be exposed in the courts. All the white plantation owners had a system whereby the Negro tenants and share croppers are "furnished" their supplies. They get all their food, clothing and supplies from the "commissary" or store operated by the planter, or else they get them from some store designated by him. The commissary or store charges from 25 to 50 per cent interest on the value of the money and supplies advanced or furnished. If anyone doubts this statement, let him ask any planter or store keeper. As a rule they admit it. They boast that the commissary is the safest and best paying department of the plantation. A northern white man bought a big farm in Mississippi, not far from Helena and across the river from his Arkansas white neighbors. Of course he had a "commissary." When the season was over he complained that he had made but little money. His southern neighbors asked him questions as to his methods, etc., and found that he had charged the cost price for his supplies and had added ten per cent for profit, and had settled with his hands at the actual market value of the cotton at the time it was sold. They said "Hell, man, you haven't got the right system. You don't make money down here on your cotton except in good years. You make your money off your niggers a statement of their accounts. If you do, you will ruin every nigger in the country. Just tell them what they've got coming and pay them off and don't let 'em argue or ask any questions." That is only part of the "system." The landlord takes the cotton, gins it, sells it at the highest market price and settles with his tenants at the lowest market price for their "share" of the crop. They play both ends against the middle and get the Negro going and coming. If a Negro objects, he is classed as "an insolent nigger" or a "bad nigger." He is beat up by the "agent" or "boss man" and either driven off the place, or else he admits he is wrong, becomes thoroughly cowed and then is allowed to remain.

White Lawyer Hired to Take Cases to Court

That was the situation in 1918. Many Negroes had their cotton taken by the planter in October, 1918, but did not get a settlement until July, 1919. They had never been able to get a statement of their accounts from month to month, hence when July came, how could a man dispute an account made the year before? How could he say that he did not get certain supplies in June, 1918, when he did not know until July, 1919, what he was charged with? The Negroes got tired of it. Sixty-eight of them got together and decided to hire a lawyer and get statements of their accounts and a settlement at the right figures. They decided not to hire a Negro lawyer because they knew that it meant



mobbing and death to any Negro lawyer who would have the presumption to take one of these white planters to court. They were afraid to trust any white lawyer in Phillips county for fear their attorney would lay down on them and fall to get results after getting their money. They canvassed the situation and found that the firm of Bratton & Bratton, white, of Little Rock, was a good, reliable firm, and would fight for a Negro client to the last. They made contracts with this firm to handle all the sixty-eight cases at \$50.00 each in cash and a percentage of the moneys collected from the white planters. Also some of these Negroes and their friends planned to go before the federal grand jury and charge certain white planters with peonage. These men had meetings from time to time for the purpose of collecting the moneys which were to be paid in advance and to place the same in the treasury; also to collect evidence and gather facts which would enable them to successfully prosecute these cases. These meetings had to be secret to prevent harm and danger to the men concerned and to their families.

Cotton Pickers Ask Higher Wages

Meanwhile another organization sprang up. The Negro cotton pickers organized a union to raise the wages of cotton pickers and refused to pick cotton until they received higher wages for their work. These meetings were secret. Also, at Elaine were a great many Negroes who worked in the saw mills and who received fair wages, and who refused to allow their wives and daughters to pick cotton or to work for a white man at any price. They did this as a measure of protection to their wives and daughters, who were subject to the advances and insults of white men on the cotton farms.

All these movements became known to the white planters and they resolved to break up the whole business and put the Negro "in their place." It is the unwritten law of the cotton planter that his Negro tenants "must not take the boss man to law." Woe

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THE ORIENT SPEAKS TO THE OCCIDENT

Li Moy Charges Hypocrisy in Practice of Democracy.

A Chinaman, Li Moy Foo, of New York, wrote to the New York World, a letter which we reprint and respectfully refer to hypocritical Caucasian Christians of the U. S. A.:

"If a Chinaman may be permitted to suggest, would it not be possible to found a better and more lasting peace upon the Ten Commandments than upon the fourteen points? * * * Why does not the west now, after 1900 years, try the experiment of founding a state upon the teachings of its Christ?"

"We Chinamen believe that trade restrictions beget war. The west had been at war for and because of its markets ever since your modern civilization was created.

"When the guns of Germany worked destruction to the cathedrals of France, we heard you weeping aloud in your market places because of the loss of the architectural beauties of Rheims and Louvain. Not one voice was raised in honest protest because of the desecration of the inner tabernacle.

"I attack not your Christian religion, nor would I compare it unfavorably with our Confucianism. You, however, do not practice your religion. With you a commercial relation comes first in all things; the moral relation is forgotten.

"Lasting peace will come only when you accept honestly the teachings of the Christ whom you now only pretend to worship."

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LYNCHING QUESTION

White Clerk Dismissed for Insulting Colored Woman—Headlines in Associated Press Dispatches Conspicuous by Their Absence.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 28.—Mrs. Ida Dorsey, colored, employed in the adjutant general's office of the war department, was insulted by a white clerk, who indecently and wilfully exposed himself to her. Mrs. Dorsey called for assistance. The would-be assailant was placed under arrest and then released. The matter was later brought to the attention of Secretary of War Baker, who summarily dismissed the clerk.

BUYS 35,000 ACRES IN ARKANSAS

Kansas City, Oct. 30.—H. P. Ewing, a Negro, who has a 1,000 acre farm near here and is known locally as the potato king and originator of the back-to-the-farm for Negroes movement, has acquired control of 35,000 acres of northern Arkansas land.

He is getting together responsible men of his race and returned Negro soldiers whom he will settle on the land with the understanding that they will buy it as they develop it.

COLORED WOMEN PROVED ABILITY FOR LEADERSHIP

Mrs. Eva D. Bowles, National Y. W. C. A. Worker, Makes Interesting Report.

NEW YORK—In reporting the work of the Colored Work Committee at the final meeting of the War Work Council of the Young Women's Christian association, held recently at National Headquarters, 600 Lexington avenue, Miss Eva Bowles was heartily applauded when she declared that the war gave opportunity for colored women to prove her ability for leadership, and that she had her chance and made good, and that the time has passed for white leadership for colored people.

Miss Bowles, during her report said: "As we report our achievements we find ourselves facing the future that will test all of our powers and conserve the work already launched, and the problem of promotion is our immediate task. All the problems that faced any girl in war time were ours, together with the more serious problems of race relationship and understanding.

"We have ministered to our problem from three outstanding ends; (1) The immediate one of the hostess houses in camps which was so acute and the most picturesque of wartime activities; (2) the colored girl as she entered the industrial field; (3) in communities affected by camps and cantonments where abnormal conditions affected the life of the girl, here were organized club and recreation centers.

"Today this committee with the other committees of the national board, is facing the great problem of reconstruction. The giant task that lies ahead now that the world has been saved for democracy is to make democracy safe. The colored women leaders stand ready to do their part. The war has given opportunity for the colored woman to prove her ability for leadership; she had the chance and she made good.

"With all the strength of having suffered she will be able through the patience born of suffering to lead the women and girls whom only she can lead. The time has passed for white leadership for colored people. As white and colored women we must understand each other; we must think and act, plan together, for upon all of us rests the responsibility of the girlhood of all nations."

OFFERS TO PAY FOR WEDDING RING AFTER THIRTY-SIX YEARS

Batesville, Ark.—Thirty-six years ago Charles Mosby, now a local jeweler, extending credit to a Negro, then in his employ, for a ring which the man wished to give to his bride. Soon afterward Mr. Mosby moved to one town and the man to another, and the man did not pay for the ring. This week the man came to Batesville, hunted up Mr. Mosby and offered to pay for the wedding ring which his wife had been wearing for thirty-six years. Mr. Mosby refused to accept the money, but instead gave the man another ring as a reward for his good intentions.

BALTIMORE Y TO HAVE \$7,500 SWIMMING POOL

Baltimore, Oct. 28.—The Y. M. C. A. will close a campaign this week and add some other features to its \$100,000 building. Rev. J. Milton Waldron, of Washington, delivered an address at the association Sunday afternoon.

MORGAN COLLEGE PURCHASES FORTY ACRES OF LAND

Baltimore, Md.—Morgan college recently purchased an additional tract of forty acres. This purchase enables the school to minister more effectively to needs of its student body. Dean Pickens has brought many desirable changes to the college.

INDIANS AGAINST SEGREGATION

Three hundred members of the American Society of Indians, in annual convention at Minneapolis, voted for the abolition of the U. S. government Indian bureau.

The reasons given by speakers are that Indians should be regarded the same as other American citizens and do not need supervision.

FIRST FOUR SENTENCES IN RIOT CONNECTION

Lester Price, Colored, Given Thirty Days for Carrying Concealed Weapons—Three Plead Guilty of Complicity in Disorder—Get Maximum Jail Sentence—Seven More Held for Murder and Arson Charge.

LESTER PRICE, 16 years old, a Negro orphan boy living at 2220 Seward street, was sentenced to thirty days in the county jail by Judge Redick in district court when he pleaded guilty to a charge of carrying a concealed weapon on the night of the riot in Omaha. Price is the first person to be sentenced for alleged complicity in the recent disorders. He was included in the first eight indictments returned by the special grand jury.

Judge Redick made the boy's sentence retroactive to date from September 28, when he was arrested and confined to jail.

Price is the lad whom the mob attacked when detected in a street car on Farnam and was only saved by the presence of mind of the conductor who concealed him on the floor of the car. He was later rescued from a mob at Eleventh and Jackson streets and taken to Council Bluffs by police for safekeeping before the rioters threatened to burn the city jail in their hunt for him.

The Negro told Judge Redick that he heard a mob rush by his house yelling "Lynch the nigger!" and slipped the gun in his pocket for protection when he started downtown for work.

Maximum jail sentences of ninety days were given by Judge Redick in district court to three youths who pleaded guilty before him to indictments charging them with complicity in disorder September 28. Eli Snyder, 16, 3027 Valley; Ernest Morris 17, 533 South Twenty-second, and Harold Thorpe, 19, 2917 Douglas, were the trio who received the sentences.

DISREGARD UNITED STATES RULING ON INTERSTATE COMMERCE LAWS

Refuse to Sell Pullman Accommodations to Negro—Beaten by Group of Unmasked Whites.

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 30.—Taken from a Yazoo and Mississippi Valley train at Annie, Miss., six miles north of here, by several white men unmasked, carried into the woods and given a severe beating, Drummond Leonard, Negro barber of Yazoo City. Leonard attempted to buy Pullman tickets for his wife and two daughters in Jackson, and a quarrel with the ticket agent because the sale was refused followed.

TWO INTERESTING NEWS ITEMS

Colored Laborers Leave Anniston—Farm and Mine Owners Seek Causes of Migration.

Anniston, Ala.—Many laborers are leaving for the north, lured from farms, mines and lumber camps. Efforts to determine if labor agents have been soliciting them to quit for jobs in the north have failed to reveal any evidence of them. There will be a serious shortage of labor gathering cotton and other crops.

A Judicious Observer Might Give This as a Reason.

Hobson City, the exclusive Negro town, cannot secure annexation to Anniston. A committee of the Anniston city council which was appointed to investigate conditions in Hobson City and report on the advisability of taking the town, has reported against such a move.

TO SEEK COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE FROM PRESIDENT WILSON

(By Associated Negro Press.)

Baltimore, Md., Oct. 30.—An appeal for signatures to a petition to be presented to President Wilson, seeking clemency for the Negro soldiers who are serving jail sentences as the results of the Washington race riots, will be asked by the Rev. Simon P. W. Drew, colored, president of the National Evangelical Ministers' Alliance of America, in an address recently at the Enon Baptist church. The Rev. Mr. Drew is making a nation-wide tour in hope of obtaining the signatures of 500,000 persons on the petition.



Mural Tripartite Unveiled at Poro College, St. Louis, Mo., on October 19.