

# THE MONITOR

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## THE ROOSEVELT CREED

I BELIEVE in honesty, sincerity and the square deal; in making up one's mind what to do—and doing it.  
 I believe in fearing God and taking one's own part.  
 I believe in hitting the line hard when you are right.  
 I believe in speaking softly and carrying a big stick.  
 I believe in hard work and honest sport.  
 I believe in a sane mind in a sane body.  
 I believe we have room for but one soul loyalty, and that is loyalty to the American people.

## THE CONVICTION OF WEAVER.

IN THE conviction of Louis Weaver for arson in connection with setting fire to the court house September 28 when William Brown was lynched, Omaha has taken another step in the vindication of her outraged honor. The evidence against Weaver was so convincing that no jury could have maintained its self-respect and acquitted him. The man's own story was so glaringly false and inconsistent that it alone was sufficient to convict him; for who in their senses would believe that he, having a can of gasoline in his hands, threw it on the lawn "five feet parallel to the building and that it caught fire from the blaze already started in the court house?" The jury justly sized him up as a colossal liar by the time he went on the witness stand. In addition to this the prosecution speedily showed that his character would not bear close inspection. Incidentally, the trial of Weaver disclosed the character of the hoodlums, perhaps the willing tools and dupes of "higher-ups," who were most active in the arson, rioting and mob-murder which indelibly stained Omaha's fair name on the ill-fated night of September 28.

The conviction of Weaver shows that Omaha is seriously in earnest in her efforts to punish those who overthrow law and order and substituted anarchy and vandalism within her borders. The conviction of Weaver will strengthen the hands of the prosecution and stiffen the backbones and heighten the moral courage of jurors in the cases of others who have been indicted by the grand jury who may be brought to trial.

Omaha has the supreme opportunity for doing a splendid service for the entire country in demonstrating that the orderly processes of law must be upheld to safeguard civilization. Punishment of lynchers and rioters by adequate terms of imprisonment is the lesson that the United States needs to learn and we believe that Omaha can and will teach that lesson and by so doing help to save America.

## SAVE ARKANSAS.

PROTESTS are being poured into Little Rock and Washington against the execution of the eleven Negro farmers of Elaine, Ark., who were sentenced in SEVEN MINUTES—what a damnable travesty on justice!—to be executed for rioting until their cases can be reviewed and investigated. It is hoped that Governor Brough will use his offices for the suspension of this sentence.

These farmers had not organized "to attack the whites." Their Protective Association was formed, as evidence shows, to secure their property rights by due process of law, and to protect themselves by lawful procedure against the exploitation of which they had been victims for years. While lawfully assembled the association was attacked by white men and "a race riot" was precipitated. Nearly 80 Negroes have been sentenced to long penitentiary terms and eleven of the number sentenced to death. One white man has been brought to trial and he was the young attorney who had the courage to take the farmers' case to court. If injustice of this kind be allowed with impunity, God pity America. If it be believed that "justice" of this kind will intimidate the Negroes of Arkansas or any other section of this country, those responsible for it are making a serious mistake. It is sowing dragon's teeth.

Governor Brough, The Monitor calls upon you as governor of Arkansas, to prove yourself a courageous and justice-loving man in this emergency. Save Arkansas.

A census of the country's manufactures was made for the first time in 1810. Under the present law a manufactures census is to be taken in connection with the fourteenth decennial census and every two years thereafter.

## MEASURING UP TO HIS TASK.

COUNTY Attorney Shotwell, in his able argument in the Weaver case, said many excellent things. Two important truths were emphasized which ought not to be overlooked. They were these: Every man accused of crime is entitled to and shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed; and the equally fundamental question as to whether communities, reputed to be civilized, shall maintain law and order.

Mr. Shotwell, among many other things, made these two points very plain. He said that one crime is no justification for another crime; that the crime of an individual, however heinous it may be, is no justification for the crime of a mob, and that Brown, who was accused of a crime, was entitled to the same right of a public and fair trial to establish his guilt or innocence, as was the prisoner now on trial. He emphasized the fact that the police force of Omaha was not on trial either, and that no outside prejudices or side issues should becloud the jurors' judgment in weighing the evidence. He laid stress upon the fact that law and order are the safeguards of civilization and this basic principle by the evidence was left in the jurors' hands.

The county attorney in measuring up to the difficult duties of an important and difficult office in difficult and trying times. May he be given wisdom and courage for his heavy task.

## UNSAVORY PUBLICITY—STOP IT.

THE Monitor questions the wisdom of the wide advertising of the crime wave which is said to be sweeping over our city. We do not believe that Omaha has any worse record than any other city of its size in the country. Why, then, all this adverse advertising? Surely, it does not help the city; indeed, it injures in many ways. It gives us an unsavory and undesired notoriety abroad and it invites criminals to invade the city. This complicates the problem of coping with crime. The Monitor's opinion is that if, instead of the constant, carping destructive criticism of the police force, a sincere effort were made to help those in authority strengthen its weak points and less publicity were given to crime a step towards more efficient police protection would be made and crime would be lessened. What is gained by giving Omaha so much unsavory and undesired publicity? Stop it and get busy in helping to make it the kind of city we want it to be. It is our city and it is up to us all to do our part.

## A COMMERCIAL CLUB.

OMAHA has organized a commercial club to be composed of the business and professional men of the city. Its chief purpose is the encouragement and development of business enterprises among our people. Such an organization can become a tremendous factor for good in the general upbuilding of the entire community. Of course, the ideal way would be for our business men to become members of the Chamber of Commerce and receive the advantages which such association would give; but as this seems at present impracticable, the next best thing is the organization of the Colored Commercial Club which The Monitor hopes to see developed into a strong, forceful and influential body that will do worth while things for our own group specifically and for the entire community generally. The Monitor wants our people to never lose sight of the fact that we are an important, integral part of the citizenship of Omaha, not to be pushed aside or ignored in all civic demands and responsibilities.

This we feel sure the Commercial Clubs will always stand for.

## PRINCIPLE OR EXPEDIENCY.

THERE is grave danger in these times of sacrificing principle for expediency, of mortgaging the future of our children for some temporary advantage. There is a disposition upon the part of many to compromise in the matter of our constitutional rights. This must not be. A right once surrendered can only be regained with the greatest difficulty. Do not then surrender a single constitutional right. When some specious argument for racial harmony or the avoidance of friction or the promotion of good will, which involves the surrender of your full constitutional rights as an American citizen, is advanced do not be betrayed into accepting it. Show its fallacy. Be on your guard against sacrificing principle for expediency.

## JUST A SIMPLE QUESTION.

WHY "must" it be "west of the Florence Boulevard"? We already own property not only on the boulevard, but east of it. There is a suggestive story from English history to the effect that a certain king had his courtiers carry his throne to the ocean side. Seated upon his throne he commanded the on-coming tide to stop at a certain point. Did it?

## PERISCOPE.

(By the Associated Negro Press)

## THE PRESIDENT

### —THE CONGRESS

#### The Hour of Trial at Hand.

The annual message of the President of the United States is before the congress. Again—as again and again—the nothingness of our particular group is emphasized. The year has been filled with the most dangerous and delicate happenings, the bitterest of feeling and the most atrocious acts in the history of the nation, so far as we 15,000,000 are concerned; and yet, it has not been regarded sufficient for the President to make even a direct veiled allusion to the need of immediate co-operative adjustment.

Our position is awkward and humiliating, but it is insistent and just. Presidents and congresses, year after year, have ignored, side-tracked and "passed the buck" in matters affecting our constitutional rights. Arthur Brisbane, noted philosopher and journalist, in a recent "Today" expression stated that the cause of unrest is due to the fact that the war has taught the people to think, that in the last five years there has been more real thinking than in the twenty-five previous years. That applies very particularly to our group. We are now a thinking people and we know that we know. We have spent a half century "praying" and "requesting" and have slipped backward in the march of progress. Today we are assuming the prerogatives of full-fledged manhood and we are "demanding" and "acting." The results, even in so short a time, are gratifying.

And now we are demanding a hearing of our case and cause before the bar of justice and public opinion; before the congress and in the sight of God. The tide of justice is sweeping the earth and we cannot longer be ignored, even if we were willing longer to "pussyfoot" and merely whine. We are with the tide, but it is beyond our control. Public opinion is crystallizing in our behalf. This is being reflected in the white pulpit and press; in the private conversations and in the commercial and industrial agencies for a square deal. Many of these, either through shame or an awakening conscience, have taken high ground in recent months, which is no more nor less than the true spirit of America speaking. To this liberated group we must righteously and militantly join our forces. Such an alliance is impregnable and indomitable.

The conclusion of the President's message is mighty in language and the choice of words. Let us hope that in some corner of his cultured mind he, also, thought of us. But if he did not, it must here and now be understood that we are thinking of ourselves, and that by no hook or crook, or devious construction, do we propose to be counted out of the equation when he says:

"In America there is but one way by which great reforms can be accomplished and the relief sought by classes obtained, and that is through the orderly processes of representative government. Those who would propose any other method of reform are enemies of this country. America will not be daunted by threats nor lose her composure or calmness in these distressing times. We can afford in the midst of this day of passion and unrest, to be self-contained and sure. The instrument of all reform in America is the straight road of justice to all classes and conditions of men. Men have but to follow this road to realize the full fruition of their objects and purposes. Let those beware

who would take the shorter road of disorder and revolution.

"The right road is the road of justice and orderly process."

That goes for us in all of our group perplexities and bewildering troubles. It goes for disfranchisement, lynchings and "Jim Crows;" it goes for riots and mobs and cold-blooded murder; it goes for economic hold-backs in industrial opportunities and educational privileges; it goes for anarchy and bolshevism and all un- and anti-Americanisms, to which it has been recently claimed our publications, as a whole, and our people, have subscribed their influence. This is not true. Our cry, our eternal cry, is for justice, justice, justice! We must have justice. No true American can expect us to desire anything less, and with bleeding hands raised to heaven we swear that we seek nothing more. We are Americans. Is that not enough to say?

## LEADING EDITORIALS OF THE DAY

### CHARACTER BUILDING.

Lack of old-fashioned home life and old-fashioned home discipline is responsible for much of the noticeable absence of a sense of responsibility in the present young generation. Our recent military experience has shown, or should make us realize, the value of discipline in developing the sense of responsibility, cultivating reliability and stiffening the moral fiber in young men. But the average age of 20 years is late for the beginning of such development. There is no age too early for its beginning. When it begins early its success is assured. When it begins late it is not assured and at best cannot reach the perfection of the earlier beginning. It is evident that the best place for discipline and training to develop character is the home, and, just as the home loses disciplinary character and home atmosphere and becomes easy-going and unhomelike, its work of character building is impaired, and the result is worse for the children who grow up in it. Our present day civilization has in it much less of this genuine home life than existed half a century ago, and we are paying for it with a larger proportion of young men with flabby characters.

This is a great fact which must be faced. It is an existing condition which cannot be blinked. Nor can it be changed by merely pointing out its existence. It is a great national tendency which only some other tendency can counteract. That counteracting tendency must be an increase in the number of homes of genuine Christian atmosphere and parental discipline, instead of the decrease that has for some time been going on. While this is being done, and at all times, because perfection in that respect cannot be expected, there should be a strengthening of the character-building influences and agencies which affect the lives of boys and young men outside their homes. Contributions of personal service and of money to the operation and support of such agencies constitute the finest sort of patriotism and philanthropy. A much larger devotion of public attention and public funds to that sort of work would be a wise act for the preservation of our American institutions by assuring the right kind of citizens into whose hands to entrust them. We need in our work of character-building for the youth now with us and those to follow them a strengthening of home influence and discipline, and as well we need an increase in the number and strength and intensity of work of those character-building influences outside the home which supplement home training and become the only substitute for it when it is lacking. The strength of a nation lies in character more than in education. We have been paying too great proportional attention to education. We must increase largely the more important factor of character building.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN BIENNIAL CONVENTION DENOUNCES LYNCH LAW AND DECLARES IN FAVOR OF FULL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOR NEGROES.

Grand Rapids, Mich.—Resolutions denouncing lynch law and asking for the Negro racial equality and "full political rights guaranteed by the constitution to every citizen," were adopted recently by the biennial convention here of the national council of the Congregational church.

The resolutions were introduced by Rev. F. C. McMillan of Chicago, following statements on the floor of the convention that service in a local cafeteria had been denied Rev. W. N. Deberry, Negro, second assistant moderator of the national council. The resolutions also asked equal pay for equal service for the races.

The Bureau of the Census is a part of the Department of Commerce. It was established as a permanent bureau in 1902. Prior to that time the census work was done by a temporary organization known as the census office.



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