

THE MONITOR

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans.

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ARTICLE XIV. CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. Citizenship Rights Not to Be Abridged.

1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

OUR DUTY AND DESTINY HERE.

LAST week's issue contained a news item stating that a French newspaper had suggested editorially that France invite 2,000,000 colored Americans to help rebuild that war-stricken land. The Monitor has received several inquiries for further information from men who are anxious to go. We can give no further information.

The item and the inquiries have caused us serious thought. The painful reflection is forced upon us that while the United States seems so indifferent to one of her most valuable assets, other countries recognize it. That while she treats the colored American largely as an alien and an unwelcome guest other countries—for France is not alone in this, the South American republics being equally outspoken—are bidding him welcome and inviting him to come. The desire of many of our most thoughtful, upstanding and ambitious young men to accept such invitations and forsake America is equally significant.

The Monitor's opinion is that despite the tempting lure of other lands the United States is where we are most needed and where we will best work out our destiny. The advancement we have made, despite proscription and limitations, foretell the greater achievements that will be ours right here in this land upon which none has greater claims than we, if we remain true to God, true to our country and true to ourselves.

AMERICANIZATION.

AMERICANIZATION is the term used for the process of making loyal American citizens out of the various race groups and varieties which go to make up the population of the United States. A large percentage of the population is of foreign birth. Millions owe allegiance to other flags than the stary emblem which waves over our own land. Millions speak a foreign language. This does not make for national unity. It perpetuates racial groups whose interests are first racial and after that national. Race consciousness and class consciousness, instead of a national consciousness predominates. The danger of this must be apparent to all. A few national leaders have seen this danger, called attention to it and have urged that a campaign of Americanization be vigorously prosecuted. To this end a program providing for education in the English language and instruction in American principles and ideals has been put into operation in several of our larger cities among these foreign groups. By this process it is planned to make them loyal, patriotic and enthusiastic American citizens, submerging their racial or class consciousness in that of the nation, so that they will pride themselves upon being Americans first. Not, however, that they should forget the land of their nativity to which they must be bound with ties of tenderest affection because of birth and kinship; but that their allegiance shall be sincere and wholehearted to America, the land of their adoption. In self-defense and for the perpetuity of her institutions the United States can ask no less than this. Polygenous, that is to say composed of many races and nations, she must become unigenous, one nation. She cannot endure without national unity. She must have a national consciousness and a national life and a national policy embracing all elements of her population and her population must be made and must become thoroughly, truly and ideally American. Americanization is therefore an imperative duty imposed upon this nation and people.

It may be well, however, to remind the statement of the nation and the moulders of public sentiment, such as the press and the pulpit, throughout

the nation, that while properly stressing the Americanization of foreign groups and races, there is grave danger of de-Americanizing that loyal and dependable people, one hundred per cent American, who constitute at least one-ninth, possibly one-eighth of the total population of the United States. The constant pushing aside and practical counting out of the colored American will, we fear, if persisted in, result in his estrangement from and the weakening of his affection for the United States. We do not speak as an alarmist, but as an interpreter of the sentiment which we know to exist among our group. Segregation movements and the like, proclaiming our people "undesirables," various forms of proscription, and the popular emphasizing of the fact in the public mind that we are Negroes and not men, is creating that very class and racial consciousness among us which Americanization seeks to minimize and lessen among the foreign racial groups composing the population of the United States. Is this a wise policy to pursue? Ought not every group be encouraged to feel itself American first, willing to contribute its all for the upbuilding and defense of the republic? Can any process of Americanization be complete which fails to accord to the colored American his full constitutional rights and privileges? While Americanizing those of alien blood, is it part of wisdom or far-seeing statesmanship to foster, favor or encourage any policy that inevitably has a tendency to de-Americanize the colored American?

AN INDEFENSIBLE PRACTICE: THE Omaha police have an indefensible practice which ought to be stopped. It is the habit of arresting forty or fifty colored men indiscriminately in an effort to apprehend one or two men who have been accused of crime. Almost every time it is reported that a Negro has committed a crime, the police throw out what they call a dragnet, visit pool halls and similar places run by colored men, and make arrests by the wholesale. Many of these men are respectable and industrious men, employed at hotels and packing houses, who have dropped in to play a game of pool or billiards, which they have a perfect right to do, who are taken in these general round-ups. They are held over night or for a day or two and are then discharged. Some of these men have lost their jobs by being unjustly detained. There are more white men loafers and habitues of pool halls than there are colored men, and at that we have too many colored loafers who ought to be made to go to work or be sent to jail, but if it is reported that some white man has committed a crime, the police do not round up the white pool halls and make indiscriminate arrests by the wholesale, running in hard-working men who may have dropped into such places for a little recreation.

Why, then, is this difference made? There is nothing fair about it, and the practice should be stopped. Recently a man was held up and robbed of \$20.00 by a Negro. Forty-eight Negroes were arrested and held in custody in an effort to apprehend the criminal. Among these were several waiters and men who were able to give good account of themselves. About the same time Hayden's store was robbed of \$65,000; holdups and burglaries by white men were reported to the police, and yet there was no wholesale rounding up of white men, although the police know there are several here of shady reputation, in an effort to apprehend the guilty ones. If the police are going to make wholesale arrests of colored men, every time some colored man commits a crime, is it not fair to request that they follow the same policy whenever a white man is accused of crime?

VIA DOLOROSA

(By Ethel Merrill Beale in "The Congregationalist and Advance.")

Times were, and they scorned the toiler
Because he worked with his hands;
And then the Christ as a Toller came,
Bearing the burden, bearing the shame,
And died in their scornful lands.

Since then they have blest the toiler,
Have woven a glamour around
Till each at his chosen task is king;
The scythes are whetted, the anvils ring,
And they call it goody sound.

Times are, and they scorn the Negro
Because of his dusky hue,
Though his soul were pure as the drifted snow
'Twould anger them more to have it so;
For a trifle they'd stab him through.

If Christ should come as a Negro
With his burning love for men,
Would they cry out: "Lynch!" as he tried to save?
Would they stand and mock as his life he gave?
Would Calvary live anew?

And then, too late, would they see the right?
Would they learn that the black man's soul is white?

"WHATA HELLA DA MATTAH?"

THE Monitor has a somewhat irascible Italian friend. We met him the other day. He was somewhat excited, indeed, very excited. No, he hadn't been drinking. He met us with the inquiry, "Whata de hella de mattah wida Nebraska, wida Omaha, wida de whola de states? Everybod de crazy. No lika de Italian, no lika de Jew, no lika de collada man, lyncha him, killa him; no lika de Pola, no lika de Jap; whata de hella de mattah? Canta you tella me? Whata de hella de mattah?"

Tony's not the only one asking this question. We wonder who can answer him.

THE PEOPLE MUST BE HEARD.

DON'T you know the time has passed when any group of men or women can get together and do all the thinking and planning for others and expect them to accept their conclusions unquestioningly? It is becoming more apparent daily that this is the age of the masses not of the classes. The people have rights, know their rights and will be heard. Autocracy, individual or bureaucratic, is de-throned; democracy has begun to reign.

CONGRATULATIONS, JUDGE AND MARSHAL

THE Monitor extends sincere congratulations to Judge George A. Day upon his elevation to the supreme bench of Nebraska, a well-merited promotion to an eminent jurist and a splendid gentleman. Our felicitations in equal measure and sincerity, we extend to another appreciated friend of many years' standing—Thomas J. Flynn, upon his reappointment as United States marshal in merited recognition of duties well performed.

Judge Day is an ardent republican, politically, and Mr. Flynn an equally enthusiastic democrat. Religiously, they belong to different communions, perhaps as widely separated as in their political affiliations; but what counts most is that they are men from the ground up. Therefore, congratulations, judge and marshal, with the heartfelt hope that higher honors still lie before you.

Men are never so ridiculous from the qualities which really belong to them as from those they pretend to possess.

PERISCOPE.

"Anywhere—Providing it be Forward"

Just now, at the beginning of 1920, it is interesting to recall the famous remark of James Gordon Bennett, when he sent Henry M. Stanley into the jungles of darkest Africa to "Find Livingston." "Where shall we go?" someone inquired. Quick as a flash came the eternal words: "Anywhere—providing it be forward."

That is a fitting and timely slogan for us, this 1920 wonderful year. No backward step this year; it must be a year of Forward March! We must go forward in every field of activity, and at every stage of the game. We must concentrate our forces, and conserve our resources. We must rub elbows of friends, and loyalty to each other, and "be on the job."

We must generate and regenerate avalanches of "pep" and enthusiasm. Life's battles of peace need those ingredients, as well as the battles of war. Almost a year ago Lieut. "Jim" Europe, "the noblest Roman of them all," lost his life, because of his desire to go "over the top" in musical inspiration, he urged his drummer to "Put a little more pep in your sticks." But in those very words Jim Europe, aside from his musical achievements, left us an undying legacy in a real slogan for success in life. We must all put a little more pep in our sticks. It matters not the kind of drum we are beating in the parade or concert of life, if we fail to have the kick in our sticks, we will not get very far. And we must go forward!

There's a big job on hand. The chief strategists of injustice and destruction are working out campaigns of disaster. They are using their best brains—as little as that may be—and they are putting up their filthy dollars to pay the fiddler. We must use our best brains and our best dollars in the very best and most righteous way to turn back the ungodly attempts to advance further into the land of "Thy Kingdom Come." We have the brains, and we have the dollars, and by the eternal gods, we must be stingy with neither!

We must find the Livingstone of justice.

"Where shall we go?"
"Anywhere—providing it is forward."
It is not doing the thing we like to do, but liking the thing we have to do, that makes life blessed.—Goethe.

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