

THE MONITOR

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans.
 Published Every Thursday at Omaha, Nebraska, by The Monitor Publishing Company.
 Entered as Second-Class Mail Matter July 2, 1915, at the Postoffice at Omaha, Neb., under the Act of March 3, 1879.
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 SUBSCRIPTION RATES, \$2.00 A YEAR; \$1.00 6 MONTHS; 60c 3 MONTHS
 Advertising Rates, 50 cents an inch per issue.
 Address, The Monitor, 304 Crouse Block, Omaha, Neb.
 Telephone Douglas 3224.

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.

NON-CONVICTION OF RIOTERS

SOME weeks ago, The Monitor said that County Attorney Shotwell had a difficult task on his hands in his fearless and commendable efforts to convict the rioters and murderers—for every member of the mob who actively participated in or aided or abetted the lynching of Will Brown is a murderer—who brought dishonor to Omaha last September. We said his task was a difficult one, because of the sympathy of many of the on-lookers and bystanders, who would be unwilling and reluctant witnesses, and because of the further fact that active members of the mob would not testify truthfully against one another. We, however, stated that despite the difficulty of securing testimony, we believed that every participant and ringleader who had been indicted by the grand jury should be brought to trial and vigorously prosecuted, in order that Omaha's honor might be vindicated and the necessity for the maintenance of the majesty and supremacy of the law as the only safeguard for civilization unquestionably established in this municipality and commonwealth.

That we did not misjudge the task before the authorities is proven by the outcome of three major cases which have been brought to trial, those of Snyder, Davis and Nethaway, accused of conspiracy to murder; and in the case of Davis, with assault with intent to kill Mayor Smith. In the case of Snyder, the jury after long deliberations, brought in a verdict of acquittal on the major charge, although he is still held for trial on the charge of rioting; in that of Davis, the jury after being out for more than two days and standing nine for conviction and three for acquittal was discharged. In the case of Nethaway, after twenty-eight hours of deliberation the jury standing seven to five and reporting that they were unable to agree were discharged. Davis and Nethaway were remanded for a new trial, that of Davis being in process as we go to press.

The prosecution of all these cases by the state has been vigorous. The state has presented evidence that to the mind of the average fair-minded person seemed conclusive. The strength of the prosecution is attested by the long deliberations of the jurors. The failure to secure a verdict in these cases causes serious questions to arise. We simply ask one at this time: Does the non-conviction of rioters by juries in the face of the strongest evidence reflect the prevailing sentiment of the citizens of Omaha?

We hope not. But this is a question that the citizens of Omaha must seriously face and answer.

THE THRIFT CAMPAIGN

WHAT is it? Briefly stated, the thrift campaign is a concerted and wisely-directed effort to get all the American people to make a wise, judicious and economical use of their money; to live within their means; to discourage extravagance; to spend a little less than they earn; to lay aside something for the inevitable rainy day, so as to have something to depend upon in their old age. To encourage thrift. Next week is to be devoted to a nation-wide educational campaign.

No group of people need to be taught the value of thrift more than do we. The American people in general are great spenders and we as an integral part of the American people out-do any other racial group within the national family in spending. By carefully compiled statistics, it has been shown that, in proportion to our income, the colored American outclasses all others in the amount of money he spends. We spend more

for food, clothing and luxuries than any other people.

Within the last ten years, we have begun to realize the necessity of saving our money and as a result our savings have mounted to high figures, but the frugal, thrifty, wise-spending, saving class among us is largely in the minority. This should be changed. We must not rest content until this minority becomes a majority. This is precisely what the thrift campaign seeks to do for all the people, or to put it in the language of the local chairman for the Thrift Week campaign, "to help men think straight, and act wisely about their money matters in the matter of earning, spending, saving, investing and giving."

We urge upon our readers everywhere to realize the necessity of wisely using their money and this of course means to live within one's means and to save something regularly and systematically, to protect their families by taking out life insurance, to buy homes. If you have not done so before, begin now by starting a savings bank account, if you can start it with only a dollar. If you haven't a dollar, get a little dime bank and begin saving your dimes and they will soon mount into dollars.

We as a race are not a lazy people. We are industrious, but as a rule, as a class we live up to every cent we earn and in our anxiety to keep up with the other fellow too frequently run into debt.

The nation sees the necessity of a thrift campaign for all the American people. We certainly need one.

SOUND ADVICE.

THE New York Amsterdam News, one of our mostly highly esteemed exchanges, which in common with a vast majority of our race publications is doing excellent service for our people and in this for the entire country, has the happy faculty of driving home much needed truths in a most effective manner. Here is some sound advice given in one of its recent brief editorials which we heartily endorse and commend to the thoughtful consideration of our readers:

"Don't forget the way to the savings bank. As long as the surplus dollar remains in your trousers you are likely to get rid of it for something you can well do without. When it has been planted in the savings bank you will think twice before taking it out to spend for something you can do without. And a dollar where you can get it, when you really need it, is one of the best and surest friends you can have in any time of trouble. If you don't believe it, try to borrow a dollar from your best friend and learn how many excuses he can offer in three minutes to show you why he can't do it. You save the pennies and the dollars will save themselves. Try it."

AERIAL MAIL

LAST Thursday marked an historic and revolutionary event. It was the formal opening of delivery by mail by aeroplane between Chicago and Omaha. The flight from Chicago to Omaha was made in four hours and six minutes. The distance by air line between the two cities is 440 miles. The plane averaged about 110 miles an hour. This seems almost incredible; but it is the truth. The plane that left Omaha for Chicago met with a mishap just east of Des Moines; but up to that time it had equalled the speed of the west-bound flyer. It has been proven that a letter can be mailed in Omaha or Chicago in the morning and be delivered in these cities in the afternoon of the same day. Aerial mail will revolutionize the delivery of mail. Science is working miracles daily.

"IGNORANT ALIENS" VERSUS CITIZENS

IF the government reports are to be believed, and there is no reason to doubt them, the deportation of the "undesirables" who were accused of plotting against the United States found their most active and willing recruits among the most ignorant of aliens who are congested in large cities. And yet these "ignorant aliens" are preferred to native-born loyal Americans, whose skins are black, and are given privileges which the latter are denied. There is, however, this consoling and encouraging thought, that some day, SOME DAY, America will realize what a valuable asset is hers in her citizens of color. In the meanwhile, let us without malice or ill-will, continue to do our duty and prove ourselves men. But, of course, this does not mean that we are not going to lawfully contend for our constitutional rights. To fail to do this would be to prove ourselves less than men and unworthy of our citizenship.

PRESSMEN STRIKE.

THE Monitor is favorable towards union labor. For this reason we regret exceedingly that union pressmen and feeders have gone on a strike in admittedly the three fairest shops in Omaha. The Waters-Barnhart Printing Company has been repeatedly quoted for its fairness. The Beacon Press and the National Printing Company are in the same class. It impresses us as a grave mistake to cripple one's friends. It looks like killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. We hope that matters may speedily adjust themselves in justice to all concerned.

GOOD MANNERS

WE cannot too frequently urge upon our people everywhere to be careful of their conduct and show themselves true gentlemen and gentlewomen. Good manners always mark the gentleman. And, by the way, do you know, that it is wise to remember that a gentleman or lady will never try to insult you, and knowing this, it will be wise for you to determine that he or she who is not, cannot insult you? This is a pretty good thing to remember. The important thing, however, is for you under all circumstances to show yourself a gentleman.

MONITOR ON JOB

THE Monitor could not permit the opening of the aerial mail route between Omaha and Chicago to pass without having some part in that historic event. The first air mail delivery out of Omaha carried a letter to Robert S. Abbott, editor of the Chicago Defender from the editor of The Monitor. The Monitor tries to be always on the job.

GOSH! HOW THEY CROWDED.

NEGROES Crowd Court Room at Nethaway Trial," prominent front page headline in Omaha Evening Bee, Wednesday, January 7. The magnitude of the crowd is revealed by the following quotation from the article of which the above is the caption: "Fifteen Negroes, men and women, were spectators at the trial of Claude L. Nethaway before a jury in District Judge Sears' court today." "G'long, chile; who said anything about Ananias?"

THE NEGRO ACADEMY

Doubtless, it will prove interesting to many of our readers to learn that for many years there has existed in Washington D. C., a society among colored people for the cultivation of literature and art. It is known as the Negro Academy. Founded about a quarter of a century ago by the learned Alexander Crummell, for many years rector of St. Luke's church, it has done a remarkable work for the advancement of science, art and literature among our people. It has stimulated intellectual development and historical research. Its membership is composed of some of the brightest minds in the country. The report of its annual meeting published elsewhere in this issue will prove interesting reading. The Monitor wishes the Negro Academy continued success.

THE NETHAWAY TRIAL.

The trial of Claude L. Nethaway, which has been going on all week, has been one of the most intensely interesting of any of the riot cases tried thus far. At this writing, the Nethaway jury was still out, indicating that there was not a unanimity of opinion in the case.

Whatever may be the jury's verdict, however, the evidence given has been both sensational and extraordinary. Nethaway admitted inciting the members of the mob to the act of lynching the Negro, Brown, excusing himself with the assertion that a Negro had been found guilty of killing Mrs. Nethaway.

Nethaway's theatrical and spectacular actions the last two years have been a matter in which newspapers interested themselves very much. To a certain extent there has been a popular prejudice against him which the general public has not been able to cast aside. Despite the conviction of the Negro who was charged with the slaying of his wife, there have been open charges that he was not guilty and that Nethaway himself knew more about the matter than he has told.

These facts have been cited during the trial and hints by Nethaway's attorneys that a fair trial for him was impossible have been heard. The result of the trial will have an important bearing on other cases to be tried for similar offenses.

The lynching was of an unprecedented sort and even those who were not particularly interested in the fate of Negro Brown, have felt that drastic action was necessary to prevent similar outbreaks in the future. Much speculation has been heard as to the outcome of the Nethaway trial and the jury's verdict will doubtless have effect of showing the result of public opinion in general.—The Mediator (Omaha), January 9, 1920.

PANAMA CANAL TOLLS NEAR \$7,000,000 IN YEAR

Panama, Jan. 14.—Traffic through the Panama canal in 1919 exceeded that of any previous year, 2,396 ships of 7,128,000 net tons, in addition to naval ships displacing 1,000,000 tons, passing through the waterway. The cargoes of the merchant ships aggregated 7,711,000 tons. Ships measuring 7,000 tons, carrying 10,000 tons of cargo, were 2 per cent greater than in any previous year. December broke the monthly record, 283 ships of 957,000 net tons, carrying cargoes of 953,000 tons, traversing the canal. The total tolls collected amounted to \$891,373 for December, and \$6,972,000 for the year.

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