

# 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.

### ARBITRARY PROCEEDINGS

NO one who believes in fair play and representative government can approve of the exclusion of the five Socialists from the New York legislature. These men were duly elected by the voters and their exclusion is a violation of the rights of the electors. This is the foundation upon which representative government rests.

There is no evidence to show, nor was it claimed there was, that these men were not duly and fairly elected by their respective constituencies. As we understand it, they had been indicted for no crime. They had been accused of disloyal utterances, or what was considered by some, disloyal utterances. But does not our law presume every man innocent or any alleged crime or misdemeanor until he is proven guilty? The action of the legislature presumes that these men are guilty of disloyalty for it has suspended them pending an investigation of their loyalty and fidelity to the federal constitution and the constitution of the state of New York. The fact that they were willing to take the oath of office seems to us sufficient guarantee of their fidelity. However, the Monitor takes the position, that in expelling these men the New York legislature exceeded its powers and directly violated constitutional principles of free government which strikes a blow at the very foundation of representative government. We are interested in it because we see in it the establishment of a dangerous precedent. We stand unqualifiedly and uncompromisingly for the full constitutional rights of all classes of American citizens. Socialists have their rights and arbitrary denial of those rights ought not and will not meet popular approval. No matter how much one may be opposed to socialism or socialists, he must admit the action of expelling the five duly elected representatives of that party was an arbitrary proceeding, which the sober sense of the country must condemn and not condone.

### THE ANTI-SEDITION BILL.

WE regret that we cannot agree with many of our friends and contemporaries in their opposition to the "Graham Sedition Bill," in some of its provisions.

Attention has been specifically called to section 6 of the bill which reads as follows:

"That every book, magazine, newspaper, document, handbill, poster or written pictorial, or printed matter, memorandum, sign, symbol, or communication of any form \* \* \* wherein and whereby an appeal is made to racial prejudice the intended or probable result of which appeal is to cause rioting or the resort to force and violence within the United States or any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof, is hereby declared to be unmailable, and the same shall not be deposited in any post office for mailing or be conveyed in the mails or delivered from any post office or by any letter carrier."

It is contended that this section may be so construed as to bar from the mails nearly every Negro newspaper and magazine which is being published in the country today.

This is not true. The average Negro newspaper does not make an appeal to racial prejudice. A great many exchanges reach our desk and while they are outspoken in their demand for a square deal they counsel self-restraint, forbearance and magnanimity. They breathe no gospel of hate. They urge their readers never

to be aggressors in wrong-doing, but to act only when necessary in self defense. So the average newspaper or magazine would not be endangered.

But upon the other hand, we believe that newspapers, magazines and other publications which have fomented race prejudice and caused rioting would be restrained from a repetition of the offense. We have long needed some measure that would grant us protection from the malicious propaganda which has created such adverse sentiment against us as a race by sensational headlines and other reprehensible methods. We believe the reputable race press, and we need no other kind, can well take its chances under this section, and that its benefits in suppressing vicious yellow journalism which engenders racial and religious distrust and hatred will more than counterbalance any strained interpretations that might be used to limit freedom on our side. We have more to gain than to lose from this provision.

### A COMPLIMENTARY CRITICISM; THANK YOU!

WE heard a rather complimentary criticism of The Monitor the other day. At least we so consider it. It was this: The Monitor publishes the good things our people do, but it seldom publishes any of the bad things. We think it ought to give more prominence to the bad things that our people do, than it does. We wonder why it doesn't?

Our reply was: The daily newspapers give sufficient prominence to the bad things our people do, without the necessity of our doing so. They rarely give prominence to the good things, the constructive things our people are doing in any community. If, for example, Sam Jones builds a beautiful home or invents a labor-saving device, the impression is given, if any mention at all is made of it in the daily press, that Sam Jones is a white man. But if Sam Jones steals a chicken or gets into a fight, then front page prominence is given to the all-important fact that Sam Jones is a Negro. So while the average white daily emphasizes the bad, the destructive, the extraordinary side of our people's life, The Monitor conceives its task to be the emphasizing of the better, the ordinary, the constructive side.

We think this to be the better way. We believe the time will come when the newspapers of the country will minimize the reports of crimes and the sordid and seamy side of life and emphasize the nobler things of life; when they will cease catering to the sensational.

The Monitor, as a dependable and wide-awake newspaper, will publish news, when it is worth while news, and under this head may justly fall reports of the frailties of human nature, but these will never be given undue prominence. Now we shall continue to give prominence to the good things our people do rather than to the bad things which they do, but which they ought not to do.

### PICKENS TAKES NEW JOB.

THE Monitor congratulates both Dean Pickens and the N. A. A. C. P. upon his selection and acceptance as Associate Field Secretary of that great militant organization. We feel sure that he will address himself to the task of organization with the same zeal and effectiveness which have characterized his educational work. Whether he will be as happy in his new field of work as he was in the old time alone will determine. The N. A. A. C. P. needs strong and forceful personalities for the tremendous task before it and Dean Pickens fully measures up to the requirements. Talented, tactful and energetic he will never be found asleep at the switch.

### LINCOLN AND DOUGLAS

WHEN we couple these two names, we are not thinking of the great emancipator and his political opponent, Stephen A. Douglas, but of his friend and co-anti-slavery worker, Frederick Douglass.

February is the natal month of these two great Americans. The date of the former's birth is fixed as the twelfth day of this month; while the date of the birth of the latter, who was born a slave, is indefinitely stated as "somewhere about the middle of the month." This, however, is sufficient justification for celebrating the birth of these two great benefactors of our race and of humanity on the same day. In many sections joint memorial celebrations for these two will be held on February 12. Our people in Omaha are to hold such an anniversary meeting under the auspices of the Leonard Wood Republican Club at Grove Methodist Church. Such a meeting ought to bring out a record attendance, and from that meeting should go forth an influence that will help maintain and perpetuate the principles for which these men stood.

### "ME NIGGER, TOO!"

ONE thing, among many, that the Chicago and Washington riots taught is that the Negro when attacked by white hoodlums is going to fight and not run. This has created such respect for him among hoodlums that, in several instances, they have wisely let him alone and refrained from making insulting remarks. This lesson has not been lost either upon the part of some of the other races whom unworthy representatives of the "superior race" seem to take delight in taunting and insulting. As illustrating this the following story is quite to the point:

Recently in Chicago, two colored youths were passing down the street and a Chinaman came along behind them. They passed some white toughs. The colored boys were not molested, as has been the rule since August, 1919, but the Chinaman was greeted by the toughs with such remarks as these: "Hello, Chink—Rat-Eater—Slant-Eyes," etc. Whereupon, the Chinaman conceived an inspiration and said passionately as he shook his fist: "Me nigger, too! Me fight like nigger at Thirty-ninth street!"

### WOOD FOR PRESIDENT.

THE Monitor notes with great pleasure the increasing impetus of the boom for General Wood for the presidential nomination. Among many strong candidates, he is undoubtedly the strongest. The Monitor confidently predicts that he will show greater strength than any other candidate on the first ballot in the convention, if, indeed, he is not nominated by acclamation. We know it is early to make this prediction, but The Monitor believes in being first. Note our prophecy.

### WAR RISK INSURANCE.

THE attention of our readers is called to the important matter of war risk insurance. Many of our soldiers and sailors have permitted their policies to lapse, which is a most serious mistake. The government is making liberal offers to all ex-service men to renew their policies if they have lapsed and all should avail themselves of this splendid opportunity of protecting their dear ones.

### WOULD PAY HIS FINE.

JOHN Mitchell, editor and banker of Richmond, Va., has been arrested for the alleged crime of allowing pamphlets containing directions for making whiskey to be printed in his office.

John, there are some old Nebraska topers who would be willing to pay your fine if they could get hold of some of those pamphlets.

### THE MONITOR'S PRESS DAY.

THE Monitor goes to press Wednesday of each week at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. To insure publication in the current week's issue news items and articles must reach our office by Tuesday night. One form, that is to say, one chase, the iron frame in which one page of the type is "locked up" to go on the press is held open for emergency advertisements, the copy for which cannot be obtained before Wednesday morning, until noon Wednesday. Now and then we can get late news on that page, but ordinarily not. Copy, therefore, that reaches our office Wednesday later than 10 o'clock in the morning stands a slim chance of getting in that week's issue. Frequently copy reaches us Wednesday afternoon or Thursday and some irate individual calls up to know "Why isn't my item in this week's issue?" Too late, dear friends, that's all. Get your news in on time.

### LEADING EDITORIALS.

### THE MOTE AND BEAM.

(Pittsburgh Dispatch.)

If congressmen and senators had had their sense of humor soured or blasted by the strenuous duties of war-times and related responsibilities, they may get at least a pretentious smile from their predicament in connection with a proposed campaign against race intolerance. With appropriate dignity the senate has under consideration an investigation into race rioting, lynchings and kindred activities, with a view to ending violence and leading race prejudice away from its inspirations. But just when the proposal to give stern protection to Negroes in all their rights and privileges under the laws and constitution was doing as well as could be expected, the discovery was made that there is a spirit of "Jim Crowism" in the national capital which is second to none anywhere. This was disconcerting, since congressional dignity, hardened as it is, could not hope to stand up against the sneers of critics calling attention to the fact that congress itself, as guardian of the District of Columbia, has refused to recognize the privileges of Negro citizens.

The discomfiture was not softened when, a few days ago, James Weldon Johnson, former United States consul in Nicaragua, now field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was refused a luncheon in the restaurant of the Library of Congress. The superintendent of grounds and buildings confirmed the action, but when Senator Wadsworth was informed, promised to investigate. The point of the incident is that Mr. Johnson was waiting to be called to testify before the senate committee in charge of the Curtis resolution to investigate injustice to Negroes. Perhaps Negro hunters in the South may respectfully ask congress to remove the beam from its own authoritative eye before it finds too much fault with the mote so common south of the Mason and Dixon line.

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