

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, 60 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.

PERSHING'S POLITICS.

ADMIRERS of General Pershing are enthusiastically advocating his nomination by the republican party for the presidency. But just what claim he has upon the republican party for this high honor The Monitor is at a loss to know. He has been discreetly silent as to his party affiliations. His ardent political admirers and sponsors have been equally mute upon this all-important subject. If he be a republican, he has been mighty quiet about it. No one seems to know what his politics are. So far as we have been able to learn he has never publicly declared himself. If he be a republican, and The Monitor is frank to confess that we do not believe he is, it is quite apparent that he is not proud of it, else why his reticence and reluctance to make it known? Our candid opinion is that General Pershing has been and is now a democrat, and that his friends who have been advocating his candidacy at the hands of the republicans have placed him in quite an embarrassing position.

We do not know what General Pershing's politics are, but this we do know: A democratic administration selected him as commander-in-chief of the American Expeditionary Forces in preference to another at least equally experienced and gallant military commander concerning whose republicanism there never was the slightest doubt. Knowing the disposition of the present administration to advance wherever and whenever possible men of southern birth and by that fact, naturally and generally affiliated with the democratic party, Pershing's high favor with Woodrow Wilson's administration is not without its sinister significance. When this fact is considered in connection with his persistent sphinx-like silence as to his party affiliation it becomes ominously significant. General Pershing is a native of Missouri, accounted a southern state, and until quite recently confidently depended upon to return a democratic majority. Missouri republicans account their party affiliation such a distinction and an honor that they never hesitate to make that fact known. General Pershing certainly does not belong to that class of Missouri republicans, that is very evident.

What are General Pershing's politics? Who knows? Would it not be well for those who are pushing his candidacy for the republican nomination to enlighten the public on this very important matter?

There is no doubt in the mind of anybody as to General Wood's party affiliations. He is a republican. But how about General Pershing? Is he a democrat, republican, socialist or muggump? Who knows?

"Speak up, John, 'spress yourself."

BE SURE TO REGISTER.

THE Monitor desires to call the attention of our readers to the importance of registering and voting. Many of our people have recently come from sections of the country where they were not permitted to vote. Naturally, they have become indifferent to the privilege of exercising their rights as electors. We want to make it as plain as we know how that in Nebraska every citizen has a right to vote and his vote is counted. But in order to vote citizens must register. There will soon be announced special registration days, when voters may register in their own precinct or voting district; but it is not necessary to wait for these special days. Go to the election commissioner's office in the court house any week-day and register. Everybody who wants to vote must register. Elections this year are tremendously important. Your vote, little as you think about it, may decide who shall be the president for the next four years.

WOOD'S POSITION PLAIN.

IN every public speech General Wood makes it perfectly plain where he stands upon prominent questions before the country today. He makes it perfectly plain that he stands uncompromisingly for law and order and the protection of all classes of citizens under the constitution of the United States. This is what the American people want.

Not only have we General Wood's words for what he believes, but we have his actions. His administration in Cuba and the Philippines and his fair, firm and decisive actions wherever he has been sent to restore and maintain order proclaim the kind of man he is. He is unquestionably the man for president of the United States in this era of reconstruction and international disquietude and unrest.

WHEELER, WAKE UP.

OUR good friend, the Rev. Robert L. Wheeler, veteran pastor of the Wheeler Memorial Presbyterian Church, South Side, in his admirable parish paper, The Presbyterian, under the caption, "A Negro High School," says:

"The citizenship and board of education of our public schools of the city of Omaha owe it to the Negro population to immediately provide High school facilities for our Negro boys and girls. This duty is long past overdue. Beyond the eighth grade, none of the doors of opportunity are open to the Negro students of Omaha. The Negro taxpayer and citizen is entitled to a Negro high school for his children. This 'patient ox' in the shops of human industry should have better recognition by our citizenship. We grow rampant about the 'foreign born' and their children and beat the tom-tom in a rallying cry to succor them. But what about the Negro who is not foreign born? What about our pretty speech inscribed on the great seal of the state of Nebraska of 'Equality Before the Law?' There are 'War Mothers' in the Negro homes whose sons made good on every battlefield since the American revolution. But did you ever see their photos in the society columns? The Negro never led a riot or a strike, destroyed public property, or threw a bomb, or raised the red flag, or kissed the feet of the kaiser. Simple justice declares that the Omaha Negro citizen should have the educational benefits of the high school."

We appreciate the spirit in which Dr. Wheeler writes, but we urge him to wake up and rub his eyes. Negro school children, under the laws of the state of Nebraska are entitled to the same educational advantages and privileges that any others are. Colored children have graduated from the South Side High school. At present there are about sixty colored students in the Central and Commercial high schools. The colored alumni of Central High number nearly twenty. The colored citizens of Nebraska have no complaint to make concerning educational advantages for their children.

BUSINESS VENTURES.

SEVERAL of our progressive citizens are venturing into the business and commercial world. This is as it should be. We wish every one abundant success, and there is no reason why, with diligence, study of one's line and strict application to business our people cannot succeed in the business world. The only way to learn to do things is by doing them. It is up to us to make places for our boys and girls in business establishments and to make our own place in the commercial world. We are at last awakening to a sense of our duty and the recognition of our opportunities in the business world.

CONCERNING POLITENESS.

TOO frequent mention cannot be made of the necessity of our people constantly showing by our conduct on street cars and in public places that we are people of good manners and breeding. It does not make the slightest difference whether the other fellow shows politeness and good manners or not, that does not excuse us. Good manners show the gentleman, the want of it the fellow.

YOUTH SAVING.

THE most valuable asset of our country is our youth, our boys and girls. Every agency that can be used to help, uplift and ennoble them should be given most hearty welcome and support. The home comes first in the rearing and training of youth. But so many homes of the land are irreligious, godless or indifferent that perhaps seventy per cent of American youth do not receive the home training that makes for the development of the highest type of character and the best standard of citizenship. Disobedience to law, which at present is becoming so pronounced in our country, is largely traceable to the fact that so many parents show by their carelessness and indifferent lives such disrespect for religion; for it must not be forgotten that religion is the foundation upon which law and order rest. Therefore that citizen, and especially that parent, who refuses to pay open and consistent respect to religion, is encouraging, although he does not intend to do so, disrespect for law and the orderly process of government and is acting as the worst enemy of the public good. When statistics show that only thirty per cent that is to say only thirty out of every one hundred persons in the United States, profess to be even nominally identified with any religious body whatsoever, it will readily be seen how startling indifference to religion is. When, too, it is understood that religion teaches self-control and respect for law and the rights of others, and we perceive the full significance of the indifference to religion which statistics indicate, we can readily account for the serious conditions which confront us today.

Now, if we would save our youth and rear them to law-abiding, high-minded, self-respecting citizenship, there must be greater respect for religion shown by parents and others who are interested in the welfare of the nation. This will help immensely. But in addition to this, since many thousands may not be reached directly in this way every agency that can be employed to reach the youth of our land and inspire them with high ideals of service and usefulness—for service and usefulness are religion in action—must be fostered, encouraged and supported.

Youth saving is the most important work before not only America, but the entire world today. Perhaps the situation is more acute in the United States than elsewhere because of the large liberty of the individual initiative and action permitted. Greater interest in the children is the imperative duty of the hour.

PERISCOPE.

ATTEMPT TO CORNER

THE CHAMPION BUSINESS By William Pickens, New York City. Now and then we hear that some white champion has announced that he will refuse to give any Negro a chance at the title by refusing to contend with any Negro aspirant. Very often these very white men may have

reached their eminence in their line largely through the help of colored men. This was true of James J. Corbett and Jack Dempsey. Corbett first got a real chance to attract attention by boxing friendly rounds with Peter Jackson. And after Corbett became champion by knocking out Sullivan, who, by the way, had been really afraid to box Jackson, then Corbett consistently dodged Jackson—for plain reasons. And it was a colored man who gave Jack Dempsey some of his best training to fight Willard. This Negro, while "showing Dempsey how," almost knocked Dempsey out, so that the latter had to stop training for a week or so.

But what are we going to do about it when white men in any line will not give the Negro a chance at the honors? The colored men should sift out their best contestant and this real champion of the colored world should challenge all comers, including the "white" champion. If this white champion refuses to accept a legitimate challenge, he will no longer be champion of the world, but will merely be the "champion of the white race." The man who is willing to meet all comers will be the real champion of the world. Fair-minded foreigners will so regard him, and history will so regard him.

To accomplish this, the colored people must never make the mistake of adopting the white man's error. They must never say that "This is for colored people only." They must keep the door always open to MEN. While developing their champion, they must invite all contestants of any race to take a hand. This will put principle and spirit on the side of the Negro, and will put the Negro on the side of justice and God.

Have you ever thought what a fine chance the American Negro has to be the real democrat and the real man? The Negro can take his stand on principle every time. That is a fine opportunity. I have often thought of the advantages of being a black man in America. If a black man wants to give his seat in a car to any lady, white or black, he can do so without apologies, and without looking around to see who is looking at him. If a colored audience wants to listen to a white man speak, the chairman never has to "explain." If a black man lifts his hat to a white woman, he does not have to feel "cheap" and afraid of somebody else. And if a Negro wants to be a champion, he can be a REAL champion, and not have to explain to future generations "that—er—such and such a race was of course not considered," and that he was really the champion of only a certain fraction of the human race.

ON RACIAL SUPERIORITY.

(Oakland, Cal., Enquirer.) There are 367,710 Negroes accepted for military service in the American military forces under the selective service law. Of the men examined 24.04 per cent of the whites and 34.10 per cent of the colored men were inducted into the army. These figures are taken from the Negri Year Book published by the Tuskegee Institute. Taking into account physical and mental unfitness, claims for exemption and every other basis for service under the draft law, 10.16 per cent more Negroes than whites—in proportion to the number examined—qualified for service. We recommend that these figures be tucked away in a convenient corner of the mind for ready reference when racial consent mouments high or prejudice against the Negro runs strong.

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