

# 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.

### GET INTO THE GAME.

FOR years our group has loyally supported the republican party, locally and nationally, and then has expected to receive some recognition in appointive offices. This has proven a fond delusion. We are getting our eyes open. We have begun to see clearly that the only way to receive due recognition is by getting into the game right and filing as candidates for elective offices. The Monitor urges competent men to file for the legislature and for city and county offices, and make a fight for election. If we unite our forces we will not be beaten and though we should be defeated once or twice, what difference does that make. Get it up and we will win, eventually. Get into the game right and play according to the rules.

### SHYING AT WHITE STONES.

THE proprietor of a moving picture theatre, who has flagrantly violated the civil rights bill of Nebraska by providing a jim crow section for colored patrons, was waited upon a few days ago by a committee from the Omaha branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in relation to this matter. In the course of a lengthy interview many salient points were stressed by the committee, which undoubtedly opened the eyes of the movie house manager. The Monitor desires now to call attention simply to one admission made by the gentleman in question which would show that he and others like him, who would restrict our group in its privileges, are merely shying at white stones and fearing where there is no cause for fear.

He was asked how many of his patrons or what percentage of his patrons had objected or would object to the presence of well-behaved, self-respecting colored patrons in any section of his theater. His reply was probably less than two per cent.

"Probably less than two per cent." Please note the significance of this reply. Because two out of one hundred patrons had objected or might object to the presence of colored people this enterprising movie theater manager deemed it prudent, wise and just to violate the laws of the state of Nebraska by discriminating against patrons of his theatre solely on the ground of color.

Out of his own mouth he condemns himself. No better argument against such discrimination could be offered than his own statement that less than two per cent would offer any objection. We had thought that in a democracy, majority rule prevails; but not so in this case. Here we note the power of an almost negligible minority to deny constitutional rights to others. We wonder how this impresses the thoughtful.

### THE WARD SYSTEM BETTER.

THE Monitor would like to urge a return to the former system of city government which consisted of a mayor and a councilman chosen from each ward. We believe the present commission form of government, so far as Omaha is concerned, exceedingly inefficient and defective. This is not necessarily due to the character of the present commissioners, but to the system. It is too indirect.

Under the former ward system the ward councilman felt a personal responsibility for his ward in the matter of public improvements. His constituents could go directly to him and call his attention to needed improvements or the abatement of public nuisances and he would get busy on the job. Nor was it always necessary to go to him. He kept on the alert for improvements for his ward.

But how is it now? Two or three commissioners may be chosen from one ward. Indeed, there is nothing

in the law to prevent the entire seven's selection from one ward. The commissioners have their departments assigned and are supposed to efficiently administer those departments for the good of the entire city. But how has it worked out? Look around the city and see. In the sections where several of the commissioners reside, note the public improvements, well paved and well lighted streets and sanitary regulations enforced. In other sections what do we have? Unpaved and rubbish strewn streets, poor lighting and sanitary regulations virtually ignored. Within one mile of the city hall are rubbish heaps in the public streets which would disgrace a Hot-tentot village. These conditions ought to be improved under the present commission form, but The Monitor has little hopes of its being done, because the system permits "the passing of the buck."

A return to the ward councilman system, under which the councilman resident in the ward from which he is chosen, feels a personal responsibility for that ward is the better plan. The Monitor advocates the abolishment of the commission form and a return to the ward system of city government.

### LEONARD WOOD—A MAN FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

We are living today in a restless age. There exists a dissatisfaction and unrest among the people of the world, a general outcome of the great war. The reconstruction period is presenting many problems that must be solved by the various nations of the world. In the United States we are confronted by many perplexing problems. It is going to take the best brain and sinew to cope with the situation and adjust matters satisfactorily. Whatever adjustments are made must be progressive.

In other words, the nation must have for the coming presidential period a man who is progressive in action as well as in word to guide its destinies, and a man who will guide the national policies in the spirit of this new era and not according to pre-war standards. He must be a man of a broad and varied experience in order to handle the various classes and nationalities that contribute to the citizenship of our great nation. This man must be one who will deal fairly and squarely with everyone, who has but one standard of right and wrong for all. The country must have a man who is going to deal justly with its citizens whether of capitalist or labor class, rich or poor, and regardless of their nationality, race or creed. He must be a man who believes in liberty and justice for all, who believes in the "all-men-up-and-no-man-down" policy, and finally, a man who will not parley in the face of big issues.

Such a man is General Leonard Wood, who was named in South Dakota as a presidential candidate for nomination when the national republican convention meets in Chicago this June. While General Wood was endorsed at the republican convention in South Dakota, it was not a local affair, and that he is not a favorite son or a selection made for local reasons is clearly seen in the practical character that the movement on the behalf of his nomination has assumed throughout the country.

Leonard Wood is a New England product. He was born in New Hampshire, October 9, 1860, and while yet an infant his family moved to Massachusetts, where he was educated. He graduated from the Harvard medical school in 1884, and began his practice in Boston. Tiring of the life of the ordinary practitioner, he went into the army and was soon appointed as assistant surgeon and first lieutenant. He made such wonderful strides that in five years he became a captain and full surgeon. His first record was

made as an Indian fighter under Captain Henry W. Lawton, later brigadier-general. Reporting to General Miles, Lawton said of Wood, "He sought the most difficult work and by his determination and courage rendered a successful issue of the campaign possible."

In 1895 Wood was ordered to Washington as assistant attending surgeon, which gave him an opportunity to become acquainted with President McKinley and also with Theodore Roosevelt, who was assistant secretary of the navy at the time. Roosevelt and Wood became congenial companions and fast friends, for both had many tastes and characteristics in common. These two were the organizers of the "Rough Riders," which was officially designated as the First Volunteer Cavalry of the Spanish-American war. Roosevelt insisted that Leonard Wood should be the colonel of this cavalry regiment. Wood was, in a short time, appointed brigadier-general, and Roosevelt was advanced from second place to the colonelcy of his "Rough Riders."

Wood succeeded General Wheeler as commander of the cavalry brigade in the Santiago campaign, and was made military governor of the city and district after the surrender of the Spaniards. This afforded Wood an opportunity to show his wonderful administrative ability.

Colonel Roosevelt wrote in the Outlook of January 7, 1899: "I was frequently in Santiago after the surrender, and I never saw Wood when he was not engaged in some one of his multitudinous duties. He was personally superintending the cleaning of the streets; he was personally engaged in working out a better system of sewerage; or in striving to secure the return of the landfills to the soil. I do not mean that he ever allowed himself to be swamped by mere detail; he is much too good an executive officer not to delegate to others whatever can safely be delegated; but the extraordinary energy of the man himself is such that he can oversee and direct much more than is possible with the ordinary man." \* \* \* (This comes from a man who was a genius in executive ability himself.)

Following his remarkable success in Santiago he was appointed governor-general of Cuba. He successfully organized the governing forces and administered in such a way that it was not long before the island was turned over to the Cubans for self-government.

Under the Roosevelt administration General Wood was sent to the Philippines as military commander and civil governor. In dealing with the Moros and Mahometans, and in instituting a local government preparatory for self-government, he again showed his executive and administrative ability. In the World War though denied the privilege of serving in France, he organized and trained two divisions for service.

Leonard Wood's qualifications for the high office of president of this nation may be summarized as follows:

1. He was a disciple and friend of our greatest statesman since Lincoln's time.
2. He administered to the colonies according to their needs. We need a man who will govern us according to our present needs, and he is such a man.
3. He has had experience at home

and abroad in handling men who had to be governed. He knows how to meet men in all walks of life. In other words, he knows how to govern fruitfully.

4. His vast experience has taught him how to deal justly with men in every walk of life.

5. Being a disciple of the immortal Roosevelt, he believes in the principle "All-men-up-and-no-man-down."

6. His successful and fearless campaigns in the colonies proves he is not a man to parley with an issue. Had he shown the least weakness in his government of the colonies much would have been lost to the country and he would not have been able to receive the hearty support he is receiving throughout the nation.

7. Because of his fearlessness for right, he was obscured for a time. There is too much real man in him to be a cat's-paw.

He is a man of firm and decisive policies, and not easily swayed by the winds. Such a man the nation needs. Thus Leonard Wood fulfills the needs of the people and of the nation and becomes a man for the nation and a man for all the people.

### GENERAL WOOD CHAMPIONS CAUSE OF COLORED AMERICANS

By Edgar G. Brown.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 1.—The immortal Lincoln was the first great American to deal justly with the black man. He set us free, but the assassin's bullet pierced his brain before he could give to us all the instrumentalities for our advancement as full fledged American citizens.

In our generation the late Colonel Theodore Roosevelt opened wide the door of equality to his colored brother when he stood for a square deal to all men, regardless of race or color. Booker T. Washington dined with him even though the whole country put up a howl. But now he has been taken from our midst.

God in his wise providence, however, has not left us without a champion. He has raised up General Leonard Wood, the greatest living American, to lead his people. You know we need never be disheartened for we are God's children.

Leonard Wood publicly addressed us at the Lincoln League saying: "Today the important thing is law and order. There is no group that stands for law and order more than you colored people. You should be protected from mob violence. You should have equal rights. There should be no class legislation; we should have a free and untrammelled United States."

Not since the days of Lincoln have such words been uttered by a man seeking presidential honors. He tells us where he stands and any candidate for president who does not publicly state his position on the race question cannot expect the colored vote.

General Wood will be the next great republican leader if two millions of colored voters have anything to say about it. "A second Teddy, folks! A second Teddy!"

Any man or woman 21 years old can organize a local Wood club by writing first to the National Colored People's Wood-for-President club, Indianapolis, Indiana, for literature, buttons and other free instructions. This is an opportunity for colored men and women to prove to General Wood that they want a man for president who will give every American, black or white, a square deal.

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