

# THE MONITOR

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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.

### THE RAIL BILL SIGNED.

OUR Washington correspondent, Walter J. Singleton, has furnished us a carefully prepared statement relative to certain provisions of the railroad bill signed by President Wilson March 1. It is published in this issue and will be read with interest.

Mr. Murray, the eminent counsel for the Colored American Council of Washington, D. C., which has waged a persistent fight against the Jim Crow car system, believes that certain provisions of the bill will be the thin edge of the wedge which will eventually split the rail which upholds this iniquitous system.

Perhaps his view is correct. The Monitor hopes it is, but we doubt it. We would like to have Mr. Murray, or others, point out specifically the reasons for the hope that is in him.

The Monitor sees nothing in the alleged seven "specific amendments" secured by the council and Congressman Madden which cannot be as successfully evaded as the original provisions of the bill. Under it, carriers are forbidden to discriminate against interstate passengers and were ordered to provide "equal accommodations for all passengers." These explicit and mandatory provisions have been ignored with impunity, and under private ownership and government ownership as well nothing was done about these glaring violations of law. What additional authority do the so-called "specific amendments" give? None. They impress us as a species of political legerdemain or slight of hand performances in which the swiftness of the hand is intended to deceive the eye.

Moreover when Woodrow Wilson signs any bill that will bring relief to colored Americans, and especially when that relief runs counter to southern prejudices and traditions, it will be when the torridity of the nether regions will have congealed into frigidly and satanic imps play ten pins with snow balls and icicles in the sweltering atmosphere of their native habitat.

### THE BEE'S OPPORTUNITY.

THE Omaha Bee, as The Monitor has formerly stated, was at one time one of the great newspapers of the country. It spoke with authority and commanded respect. Then came a decline. It lost, as it deserved to lose, its prestige because of its sensational methods. This The Monitor keenly regretted. Then there came, a short time ago, the passing of The Bee into other hands, and with this change of ownership and management there comes the opportunity for eventual restoral to its place in popular esteem and favor. It will take a little time to do this, but The Monitor hopes to see it done.

Our people have keenly resented the attitude of The Bee towards us during the past year which has done us untold harm and this resentment is intense among a group one of whose chief characteristics is a charitable and forgiving spirit. However, if The Bee, during the coming months make such atonement as it can for past errors by treating our people fairly we have no doubt that this resentment will be overcome and this newspaper restored to the place of favor it so long held among us.

The Bee now has this opportunity. It can adopt the policy of refusing to stress the nationality or race of individuals charged with crime, which seems to be a tradition so far as our race is concerned with the average American newspaper, a practice which creates adverse sentiment towards our group. This will be a decided gain. As habits are only gradually overcome this may not be accomplished all at once; but with honesty of purpose this policy may gradually prevail.

The Monitor, for a number of years, has favorably known Victor Smith, the new managing editor of The Bee,

whom we congratulate upon his appointment to this responsible position, and we believe he can and will do all in his power to make The Bee a sane, fearless, clean, fair and influential newspaper, in which task we wish him abundant success.

### CRITICISM, DESTRUCTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

CRITICISM is of two kinds, destructive and constructive. Destructive criticism is malicious and has as its sole object the tearing down of individuals, institutions, enterprises, business or other. It proceeds from the ignorant, however learned they may think themselves to be; the superficial, the shallow-pated or the envious and jealous. Constructive criticism is friendly and has as its object the improvement of the individual, institution or enterprise which it criticizes. Its aim is to build up, not to tear down or destroy. It proceeds from the intelligent, who may not be learned in the lore of books, but in the hard and instructive school of experience; the thoughtful, the broad-minded, the sympathetic and progressive. Constructive criticism should be welcomed by all who are anxious to succeed or make progress in any line and even destructive criticism can be and should be patiently endured and turned to good account. Destructive criticism is easily detected because it is unjust and untrue. Knowing it to be untrue it should place one on the alert to see that it does not become true. Constructive criticism is just. This should lead one to correct whatever mistakes he has made and readjust his position. Unfortunately, there are those who betray great weakness under all criticism, and make no effort to distinguish the two. Constructive criticism of a plan or policy may be offered and immediately offence is taken. It is treated as a personal affront and the individual whose plan is criticized will puff up like a toad and pout like a spoiled baby who needs a spanking. Little progress can be made in any line by any one who is so conceited as to believe his views are above criticism. This is the attitude of the ignorant and foolish. When criticism is offered let us face it squarely and find out if it be just or unjust. If it be just it is constructive and points a way to improvement; if unjust, we know that it is destructive and can govern ourselves accordingly.

### MONITOR ARTICLES AS CAMPAIGN LITERATURE

IF The Monitor gives any evidence these days of feeling a little elated there is a reason. Our editorial of December 4 on "Wood for President" and the letter elicited thereby from Major John R. Lynch, U. S. A., complimenting us on that editorial and endorsing General Wood and published in our issue of December 19, have been issued by the Leonard Wood campaign committee in pamphlet form for distribution as campaign literature. This pamphlet or leaflet, which gives due credit to The Monitor as "one of the leading weeklies of the country published in the interests of Colored Americans" is being circulated by thousands throughout the United States. Think, if you please, not only what influence this will have in furthering General Wood's candidacy, in which we are deeply interested because of his uncompromising stand for law and order and his demonstrated administrative ability, but also what wide advertising it will give Omaha, Nebraska and The Monitor, the up-to-the-minute-live-wire weekly, which has helped to put Omaha on the map and launched the Wood boom. Have we not good reason for a modest feeling of elation? Have we not again proven that The Monitor has demonstrated its

claim to be a national publication with a national influence. One of our overseas admirers calls The Monitor an international publication. We are content to be recognized as a national publication.

### MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

WHEN one has to help pay the bills it makes him a little anxious to keep the expense as low as possible, does it not? Well, if under the zone system incorporated in the rail bill, which President Wilson has just signed with such alacrity, the south must bear all the expense of the Jim Crow system, which it is quite willing to do, what interest will other sections of the country have in seeing that the system is eliminated? It strikes us that this "zone system" drops a luscious persimmon into the yawning maw of the southland. Make other sections share in the luxury and added expense of honestly providing equal accommodations for all passengers, and enforce this provision, and the pinching shoe will soon be removed.

### IS IT A LOWDEN TRICK?

IT begins to look very much like the advocacy of Pershing's candidacy in this state is a trick of the Lowden forces to draw from Wood. The dexterity with which Lowden boosters jump into the Pershing paddock and vice versa is unexplainable on any other grounds.

### NO LOWDEN FOR US.

IF the republican party expects to secure the vote of colored Americans in this state is a trick of the Lowden forces is not nominated. East St. Louis is not forgotten, nor will his cowardly and vacillating policy at the time of that horrible massacre ever be blotted out of the memory of our people. If Lowden supporters demand a reason why we are not and never can be for Lowden our answer is EAST ST. LOUIS!

### SOME LEADING EDITORIALS.

WE ARE NOT ASKING TOO MUCH. (From the Cleveland Advocate.)

The colored vote in Ohio constitutes 17 per cent of the total republican vote in Ohio, and it has been, in national elections, a dependable 17 per cent.

At no republican national convention, since the enfranchisement of the race, have we been given a voting representation.

This year we are asking a voting representation. We feel that at least two delegates, one delegate-at-large and one district delegate, would at least be accepted as a compromise representation.

The republicans in Ohio are entitled to 48 votes in the national convention to be held at Chicago June next. If the dependable colored vote is allowed two votes out of that 48 we would have a representation only equal to a fraction over 2 per cent of the total Ohio representation in the national convention.

In asking for at least two voting delegates in return for a 17 per cent dependable voting strength, we feel that our request is reasonable.

WE PUT THE PROPOSITION SQUARELY UP TO THE REPUBLICANS IN OHIO WHO ARE ANXIOUS FOR PARTY SUCCESS AT THE POLLS IN NOVEMBER NEXT.

We put the proposition up to the republican party, not as a threat, or as an excessive representation as compared with our voting strength,

but as a plea for simple justice. Although the race contributes a necessary 17 per cent each election to assure republican success at the polls in Ohio we have never enjoyed more than one-fourth of one per cent of the patronage given out by the party as a reward for fealty, and as an incentive to continued fealty, and such patronage as we have enjoyed, and do enjoy now, has been in the shape of inconsequential positions—there being an absence not only of "quality," but quantity as well.

We are not, in our demands, bolshevists or sovietists who demand the lion's share for a minority's contribution, and with the threat that if it is not forthcoming we will start out a wrecking crew to demolish the hope for party success.

We have come, though, earnestly and resolutely asking for something like a near approach to equity, and we trust the party leaders will heed our plea, and accord us justice.

We ask this year that it be made possible for the race to have a voting representation in the republican national convention by giving us one delegate-at-large and one district delegate.

Every year, until four years ago, even though we asked and yearned for a voting representation in the national conventions, we accepted an "alternate" delegate-at-large—a mere "decoration," with strained equanimity hoping that the next quadrennial would bring to us a fulfillment of our hopes—a voting representation.

We, in the past, have accepted the usual slight—inequitable recognition, in the shape of an "alternate" delegate-at-large, and smothering our disappointment, have rolled up our sleeves, pitched into the campaign, and helped win republican success at the polls.

We put squarely up to the republicans in Ohio this year—up to the leaders, the question: "Are we asking too much?"

We—the 150,000 colored voters in Ohio, do not believe we are asking too much—we hardly think we have asked for the equitable.

### THE GENEVA AFFAIR.

(Continued From Page One.)  
 counsel to accept this compromising position.

May The Monitor again call attention to the danger underlying any compromise in the matter of yielding to the subtle scheme of segregation which is being so generally obtruded, sometimes in thinly-veiled guise of racial financial advantage and at other times in terms of brutal frankness? This fact must not be forgotten: We cannot encourage segregation upon one hand and fight it upon the other. This principle should be clearly understood. We must take our stand either for segregation or against it.

The Monitor is against it. Voluntary association is one thing, enforced limitations and restrictions in the enjoyment of public privileges solely upon the ground of race, religion or color is an entirely different matter. We stand uncompromisingly for the full constitutional rights of all American citizens. We are opposed to mortgaging our children's future. We wonder if the Geneva incident will open the eyes of some of our people?

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