

# THE MONITOR

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## HARDING MAKES ISSUE CLEAR

SENATOR Harding in his Omaha speech which was heard by more than 10,000 people made it known where he stands on the League of Nations and other outstanding issues, almost exclusively domestic, before the American people. There was a marked contrast between the speech of Governor Cox, the democratic nominee, and that of Senator Harding, in that the former stressed as paramount international questions and touched very lightly indeed upon domestic affairs, while the republican nominee reversed matters stressing domestic issues as the chief concern of the nation and touching upon international questions as secondary. This contrast was most striking. The wisdom of the republican position must be apparent to all. It will commend itself to the sound judgment of the American electorate. It must be evident to all that if we can "set our own house in order" and establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty, in fact and truth, to ourselves and our posterity, we will be in a position to assume our rightful place in international matters from which it is absolutely impossible for us to remain aloof. But with seething discontent at home; with acute problems, racial and industrial, threatening the stability of our institutions; with our democratic practices belieing our preachments; with our national morality and ethical standard so far from the ideal, it were the height of folly and the presumption of arrogant insolence to assume that our first duty is to nations across the sea. Our first duty is here. This point is made clear by the republican platform and has been rightly emphasized by Senator Harding, both in his letter of acceptance and in his subsequent speeches and notably in those delivered on his western trip.

As touching the League of Nations he most emphatically declares that he is opposed to it. The contest on this line must be plain. The issue is clearly drawn. We are glad of it. We do not like equivocation or ambiguity. Candor compels us to say that on this issue the platform is ambiguous; but there is no ambiguity in Senator Harding's position. It is plain. Those who believe in the League of Nations, with its consequent surrender of constitutional rights of the United States in certain important matters to a select coterie of foreign diplomats and the embarrassments resulting therefrom, of course will vote for Cox and a democratic administration; while those who are opposed to the League of Nations and the surrender of American rights and her opportunity, when fitted therefor, for world leadership and the arbitrament of world peace, will vote for Harding and a republican administration.

The Monitor has no doubt as to how the American people will decide upon this issue which the democrats have elected, chiefly because of their traditional difficulty of finding some issue however false or irrelevant it might be upon which to make a campaign, to make paramount. Their "paramount issue" will be met by an avalanche of votes which will bury it so deep that it will never rise again. We have no doubt how our own group will vote on the League of Nations which, however, with us is not a paramount issue.

Senator Harding's speeches at Omaha and other points on his western trip have made friends by the thousands for those who believe in an Americanism which, while not indifferent to neighborliness and kindly and helpful relationship to all the world, conceives as its first duty the establishment of justice, tranquility and prosperity at home, in order that by precept and example it may be able to contribute towards the same abroad. Americanism first secure, internationalism will follow.

You cannot vote if your registration is not all right. Be sure you register.

## CLEAN OUT DIVES

OMAHA authorities owe it to the good name and character of our city to clean out the bootlegging joints and other disreputable dives which are scattered throughout the city. Many of these disreputable places are found in the sections where respectable colored citizens reside. Indeed, it would seem, that they are winked at or overlooked in these sections. Drunken men and women, of both races, for vice draws no color line, are frequently seen on the streets in these localities and make the night hideous with their brawls. The police authorities. The Monitor believes, know where many of these places are. If they do not, they can find out, if they really want to and they should be closed up. The epidemic of shooting scrapes and other crimes which jeopardize the safety of law-abiding citizens is directly due to the vile, maddening, poisonous concoctions sold at exorbitant prices in these bootlegging joints and dives. The Monitor opposed prohibition because we believed that it was not the best way to eradicate the drink evil and would result in multiplying bootlegging joints dispensing liquor substitutes more poisonous and destructive than the government-inspected and licensed beverages sold in saloons. This we believe to be true. That there are scores of bootlegging joints and dives in Omaha is very evident. They ought to be cleaned out. They are a constant menace to the community. The Monitor demands that the authorities exert themselves to ferret out and close up such places wherever they are found and especially in the residence districts occupied by respectable colored people where it seems to be taken for granted that they can be operated with impunity. It is not the duty of the colored citizens to ferret out such places any more than it is the duty of the white citizens to ferret out such places among the white people, but the duty of the police authorities. Let them do their duty. Clean out dives and close up bootlegging joints.

## A RAY IN THE DARKNESS

A REMARKABLE thing happened in Mississippi recently. A meeting of white people was held in the leading Baptist church of Corinth and passed resolutions denouncing the lynching of two colored Americans, commonly called "negroes," in that community and pledging themselves to cooperate with the authorities in bringing the lynchers to justice. We believe that such a meeting as this and such action as was taken is unprecedented in the Southland. The general practice of that section has always been to condone or justify the action of the mob. The victim being black was "only a nigger" not a human being, and therefore entitled to

no more consideration than a dog or some similar lower animal. This, unfortunately, is the mental attitude of the South toward the colored American and it is becoming the mental attitude of the North. The unprecedented action of the citizens of Corinth, Miss., is therefore a gleam of light in the mental darkness touching the crime of mob-murder which lowers so ominously over the fair Southland. The Monitor notes this prophetic ray with delight, and believes that it is the harbinger of a brighter day. When the Christian white people of the South condemn lynching and demand that law shall protect white and black alike the problem of inter-racial amity will be solved.

## JUDGE ESTELLE

THE passing of Judge Estelle, the nestor of the district bench, removes an upright and outstanding citizen who will be genuinely mourned. Just, kind-hearted and sympathetic tempering justice with mercy his judicial career was without reproach. His connection with the juvenile court made the experiment a marked success. Judge Estelle held a warm place in the affections of our people in common with all Omaha citizens. We personally enjoyed his friendship and confidence for nearly thirty years which will be treasured as a sacred memory.

## A WORD TO PARENTS

THE Monitor calls upon parents who have children in school to visit the schools where their children are enrolled, become acquainted with the principal and teachers and cooperate with the school authorities in seeing that their children are taking full advantage of their opportunities. It is very essential that this be done. Visit the schools, know your children's teachers and cooperate with them for the best interests of the child.

## WE WEAR NO CHAIN

THE Monitor is for the national republican ticket, heart and soul. It reserves the right, however, to select from local candidates those whom we believe to be friendly to our people irrespective of party badge. Men who are labeled "republicans" but who out-democrat the democrats in their attitude toward our people need not and ought not expect our support.

## WHAT THE EDITORS SAY

### Caldwell—Martyr.

One finds a terrible indictment against American democracy and the American claim of justice and fair play in the courts in the ante mortem statement of Edgar C. Caldwell, hanged at Anniston, Ala., July 30th, for the killing of a street-car conductor. He said:

"I am being sacrificed today upon the altar of passion and racial hatred that appears to be the bulwark of America's civilization. If it would alleviate the pain and suffering of my race, I would count myself fortunate in dying. But I am but one of the many victims among my people who are paying the price of America's mockery of law and dishonesty in her profession of a world democracy."

This haunting, burning wall of a hapless wretch, made the victim of race hate and the regime of terror and intimidation of the Southland, was uttered while Sergeant Edgar Caldwell faced immediate and certain death. Without flinching he epitomizes the awful condition of which he was victim and which he felt scant hope would ever be corrected. He had been a soldier, had fought for freedom and "democracy." He had likewise become the victim of his very patriotism, for it develops that his uniform, the fact of his being a soldier, even intensified the hate which gave him his penalty of death. Other Negro soldiers must know, by his example, that because of their soldiery, they are entitled to no more consideration and respect than were Negroes accorded before they had helped save America and the World.

This glaring indictment of American democracy coming as it from the dead, should be kept alive, published broadcast, to bring American justice into court before the world. If Negroes have no right of self defense against the wrongful attack of a white man, it should be established and promulgated as the law of the land, so that Negroes would know that there is a law for the Negro and another for the white; and so that America will cease to publish to the world that here is liberty, justice, opportunity for all men irrespective of race, color, religion or their natural differences as men.

—Savannah Tribune.

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