

THE MONITOR

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans.

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WHO WILL BEAR THE BURDEN?

VERY important question which it will be well for our people to bear in mind in the location of playgrounds is "Who will bear the burden of taxation?"

It must not be overlooked that the cost of playgrounds, wherever they may be located, will be assessed against the property in that zone and taxpayers whose property is adjacent or contiguous to the playground will be more heavily assessed than that which is not quite so near. It is therefore, quite evident that the more costly the ground condemned and appropriated for playgrounds may be the heavier will be the taxation. It ought also be evident upon whom the burden will fall.

The Monitor favors playgrounds for all the children of the city and desires to see them located at the most advantageous points where they can and will be frequented by all classes of children who need the contact and association which will help in the great work of democratization and Americanization which is one of the greatest tasks and most supreme duties before every American community.

IS THIS POSSIBLE?

THE MONITOR publishes in this issue a dispatch from the Associated Negro Press which seems incredible. It is the story of a girl who has been held in virtual slavery in Buffalo, N. Y., for eighteen years. It is difficult to believe that such a thing were possible. The general reliability of the press bureau releasing this story is our justification for its publication. At the same time we must admit that there are certain features in connection with it which strain our credulity. We shall await further particulars concerning this remarkable case and watch for the outcome. The people of Buffalo who are interested are of the class who go to the bottom of any case which demands investigation.

RECOGNITION

THE Monitor has been assured by some of the successful candidates in the recent election that our group is to receive recognition in the matter of appointments and positions. It will be recalled The Monitor stressed the fact before election that in return for our support substantial recognition should be given our people as a matter of simple justice. We are therefore glad to say that assurances have been given that this will be done.

OUR POSITION APPROVED

THE Monitor is gratified at the many expressions of approval of our position on the commission form of government as it operates in Omaha and our contention that the direct councilmanic form is better as centralizing authority and securing needed improvements. There can be no denial of the fact that if we had councilmen elected from the various wards and directly responsible to their constituents in those wards the unsightly, impassable, junk—bestrewed and poorly lighted streets which disgrace certain sections of this city would be impossible. The improvements would not be centered, as they are now in outlying districts where the wealthier classes reside, and sadly neglected, as they are now, where the humbler citizens have their homes. An ordinance gives the commissioners authority to pave and make improvements within the mile and a half limit without awaiting petition from or consent of taxpayers within that district. Improvements are not made and the cry of no funds is raised while funds are found for improvements in the wealthier sections.

Give us the councilmanic system with direct responsibility and improvements will be more quickly obtained and more equitably distributed. The city should be improved from the center outward and not from the extremes inward.

STARVING CHILDREN

ADVICES tell us that millions of children are dying and will die from starvation in China, Armenia and many European countries unless America sends them aid. We know that our warm-hearted group of people will give generously to relieve the sufferings of these little ones. We have, as a people, always been willing to share our last loaf with those in need, and none of us will allow any to perish with hunger if our sharing with them our food will prevent it. The cries of starving children are ringing in our ears from lands beyond the seas and we will do our part to keep them from perishing from hunger.

BY PRECEPT AND EXAMPLE

PRESIDENT-ELECT Harding has announced that he is willing to form some association of nations which will carry out as far as possible the objects contemplated by the League of Nations. It seems to us that America can best conserve the peace of the world by so treating all her citizens that the nations can point to us as an ideal government where peace and prosperity reign supreme. Our precept and example will then be so potent that our righteous moral leadership will weigh tremendously in the settlement of international questions and make for maintenance of equity and right between and among the nations of the world.

SNYCOPATED SPASMS

REFINEMENT NOW is the time, the place and the moment, to ease off our chests a little sermon upon refinement. Nearly everybody in America has heard about refinement and they generally suppose that it is some sort of antique animal that stands stuffed in the state museum. They never seem to think that refinement is a sort of implement to be hitched up to everyday life and to be used constantly. But it is. Refinement is an invisible characteristic very necessary to the human economy. It never makes much noise either in public or private, but it has a way of easing its possessor along with a smoothness like the ball bearings in an auto wheel move the chassis. No roughneck ever did get far in this world of macaroni and cheese. While we admit that what the colored race needs is more than any human permission ever tried to figure, we also admit that one of the most necessary accessories, as it were, is a few doses of refinement. For one thing, the race should soft pedal that noisy grafanola known as the human voice. The song

writer who remarked that "the black man makes it thunder every time he hollers loud," was closer to the naked little truth than we wot of. In fact, he almost caught the lady getting out of her bath tub. Then there is the folly of always carrying a chip on your shoulder. Perhaps we should say a two-by-four on your shoulder, because you seem to always want somebody to knock it off. When nobody does you're disappointed and knock it off yourself. There is nothing refined about that. In fact, it is breeding of the basest blue or black or some other dark color. Refinement, in other words, is the making of a lady or gentleman. It is one of the fine arts and should get consideration from our folks instead of wallops and swollen eyes. Suppose we try and cultivate it a little. It doesn't cost anything. It is the one thing that old hieost missed by a mile.

WHAT THE EDITORS SAY

OMAHA'S ENTERPRISING NEGROES

An item in The Bee is commended to the special attention of all its readers. It tells of the election of officers of the Colored Commercial club. This should serve to impress on all the fact that the Negroes of Omaha are not all of the type who so frequently figure in police court records, whose lives are not given to crap shooting or jazz dancing. As a matter of real truth this element is the lesser part of the colored population of the city, both in numbers and importance. The others intelligent, educated, industrious, enterprising Negroes, seldom are heard from, because they go about their own business, attend to the affairs entrusted to them and carry on in the sober way that makes for good citizenship. In the list of officers of the club as presented—and the organization is not a new affair, but has long passed the experimental stage—are names that many business men will recognize as those of responsible, capable citizens; preachers, doctors and lawyers are included, ample evidence of the quality of life that really does mark the advancement of the colored race and its contribution to the population and growth of the city. The Colored Commercial club not only denotes the aspiration of its members but the established fact that it represents substantial men and women whose presence in the community is not a menace or a matter for regret. With its present roster of officers and committee chairmen, it should go forward to better service, not only for the colored people but for Omaha.—The Bee, Dec. 8, 1920.

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AN APPRECIATED LETTER

Washington, D. C.,
December 1, 1920.
Rev. John Albert Williams,
204 Kaffir Block,
Omaha, Neb.
My dear Dr. Williams:
Thank you, from the depths of my heart, for your kindly expressions of faith and confidence.

I am right here at Washington indefinitely, making the fight to have congress pass laws punishing lynch violence and disfranchisement. This is the first purpose of our heart. This fight has the "right of way." We shall call upon you when the fight gets thick to "come over into Macedonia and help us." God bless you and keep you in His hands.

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HE IS AN HEIR

Man Who Boasted of Having Been in Thirty Jails Gets Wealth.

Robert W. Patton's penchant for jails has brought him luck. He probably will share half of a \$60,000 estate, according to relatives who found him through a published interview which he gave to a reporter when he sought winter lodging at a jail in Concordia, Kan.

Patton had been arrested for vagrancy and told officers he had served in 30 jails so far this year. He expressed the hope of bettering his record before the end of the year.

Then Patton's sister at Seward, Neb., who had not heard from him for eight years, read of his longing for jail life and hastened to Concordia with an attorney. County officials there were not hospitable, however, and refused to board Patton. As a result he continued his quest for a nice warm jail for the winter season, and went to Chester, Neb., where he was accommodated. Patton was located by his sister there. He will be taken to Lincoln, where the estate will be divided.

The attorney told officials in Concordia that the will provided that Patton must appear before January 1, 1921, or forfeit his rights to the estate. Patton has not decided whether he will accept the fortune or continue his search for a comfortable jail.

CUTTING THIRD TEETH

Aged Man is Also Renewing His Youth.

The adage that there is nothing new under the sun has been disproved by N. D. Starr of Memphis, who has cut a third set of teeth at the age of eighty-four, when usually the new molars, bicuspids, etc., that can be achieved are those purchased from a dentist.

Mr. Starr, who is in the employ of the Memphis Artesian Water company, recently found himself in need of a set of these artificial substitutes for the teeth provided by nature. But when he visited the dentist the price was too high and he decided to go toothless. However, through one of the unaccountable happenings which sometimes upsets all rules, Starr discovered that he was cutting 12 new teeth. They are almost through now, although they are not very useful yet, owing to the fact that his gums are sore in a fashion familiar to all mothers of teething infants, or to boys and girls whose second teeth are replacing their baby teeth, and even the older boys and girls who proudly announce: "I'm cutting a wisdom tooth."

SLEEP WALKER BUMPS COP

Strange Case of Somnambulism Reported From Boston Suburb.

A strange case of somnambulism aroused the attention of the police of Malden, Mass., when two policemen held up Mrs. E. H. Annis, 43 years

old, of 98 Buffum street, Lynn, a nurse engaged on a Medford case.

Patrolman John Campbell of the Malden force saw the woman walking with eyes wide open and gazing straight ahead. He followed her and with Patrolman John Murphy placed himself in her path and she bumped into them. The woman screamed and seemed very frightened.

Answering inquiries the woman said she is a nurse and frequently suffers from somnambulism when her nervous system is overwrought while on trying nursing cases. She said she was absolutely asleep up to the time the officers stopped her.

The officers took her to the station and after questioning her brought her back to the house where she is nursing a very sick person.

SHOWS RED TO COWS

Things Then Happen, but Railway Line is Cleared.

Bull fights are against the law in New Hampshire, but these were cows. It happened when a flock of cows with "one track minds" congregated on the Boston & Maine line between Portsmouth, N. H., and York Harbor and refused to permit a train to pass. Finally a brakeman armed with a red flag assumed the role of torador. Whirling the flag around his head, he started across the field.

With heads down and tails up they started after him. He was doing about twenty miles an hour but the herd was gaining and he was rapidly losing his taste for cow fighting.

Then he circled back of the train and caught the last car as it whirled past.

Left Loot in Cemetery.

Postal inspectors are searching for the band of mail robbers who abandoned their \$200,000 loot in checks in a graveyard at Kansas City, Mo., after stealing a mail pouch from a railroad station.

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