

PRESENTS HOUSTON MARTYRS PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 1) E. Church, with 548,355 members, who could not be in Washington to attend the ceremony, authorized the use of his name and that of his Church in connection with the delegation as did B. J. Davis, Editor of the Atlanta Independent, who represents the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, with a membership of 304,557, together with its woman's auxiliary, the Household of Ruth, with a membership of 197,654.

Attached to the petition were the names of a Committee of 50 of cooperating organizations and individuals, represented by the delegation to the White House.

The National Equal Rights League, William Monroe Trotter, Secretary, was represented by its own delegation of four which, endorsed the petition gathered and presented under the auspices of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In presenting the petition Mr. Johnson said: Mr. President:

We come as a delegation representing the 120,000 signers of a petition asking you to exercise the power of executive clemency and pardon the former members of the United States Twenty-fourth Infantry now confined in Leavenworth Prison convicted on charges of rioting at Houston, Texas, in August, 1917. We come as the representatives not only of those who sign this petition, but we are the hopes, the sorrows, too, of the more than ten million colored citizens of the United States.

The petition asks for the pardon of these men on four grounds: 1. The excellent previous record for discipline, service and soldierly conduct of the Twenty-fourth Infantry.

2. The provocation of local animosity against these men because of their race and color, which was manifested in insults, threats and acts of violence against these colored soldiers wearing the uniform of the United States Army and waiting to be sent to France to fight.

3. The heavy punishment meted out to members of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, of whom nineteen were hanged, thirteen of them summarily and without right of appeal to the Secretary of War or to the President, their Commander-in-Chief.

4. The exemplary conduct of the men as prisoners.

The record for bravery and loyalty of colored soldiers in every crisis of the Nation is too well known to be called to your attention here, and the long history of the Twenty-fourth Infantry is a part of that record. But we do wish to call to your attention the conditions which immediately preceded the riots of August, 1917, in Houston, Texas.

Contrary to all precedent, the provost guard of this colored regiment had been disbanded in a state and in a city where insult was the daily experience of the colored man wearing the uniform of the United States Army. And what was the treatment accorded to men waiting in Texas to be sent to France to fight and perhaps die for their country? Following a long series of humiliating and harrassing incidents, one soldier was brutally beaten and a well beloved non-commissioned officer of the regiment also brutally beaten and fired upon because they remonstrated at the mistreatment of a colored woman by local white policemen. The report spread among the regiment that their non-commissioned officer, Corporal Baltimore, had been killed. Whatever acts may have been committed by the result of any premeditated design. The men were goaded to sudden and frenzied action. This is borne out by the long record for orderly and soldierly conduct on the part of this regiment throughout its whole history up to that time.

The punishment meted out to the members of this regiment was the most drastic and unusual in the history of the Army. Nineteen of the men were hanged, the first thirteen of them summarily and without right of appeal. This wholesale, unprecedented and almost clandestine execution shocked the entire country and appeared to the colored people to savor of vengeance rather than justice. It bore the aspect of a visitation upon color rather than upon their crime. This state of mind was intensified by the significant fact that although white persons were involved in the Houston affair and the regiment to which these colored men belonged was officered entirely by white men, none but colored men have ever been prosecuted or condemned. Fifty-four of the men are still in prison serving life and long term sentences.

It is not within the province of this delegation, nor is this the occasion, to argue these cases. But we wish to call your attention to the fact that the men were tried and convicted under a blanket indictment.

The conduct of these men as prisoners at Leavenworth has been more than exemplary. This much has been openly stated by Warden Biddle of the Penitentiary. And it is in behalf of these remaining men of the regiment who have been confined for more than six years that we lay before you this petition signed by more than 12,000 American citizens, white as well as black, asking that by the exercise of executive clemency you

pardon these men and restore them to citizenship.

This Petition of 120,000 names represents the earnest efforts through the past four months of every active element among the colored people of the country. It is the result of the united and consecrated work of civic, fraternal, educational and religious organizations, and of that comparatively new but mighty force, the colored press. All of those elements in the race are represented in this delegation.

We have the honor, Mr. President, respectfully to present this Petition in the name of the signers and in the name of the colored people throughout the United States whose attention will be focused upon the action it may please you to take. We present it in the name of the people whose hearts have long carried the harsh fate of these men as a heavy burden and with the feeling that, whatever acts they may have committed, they have already been more than punished; and whose hope for their early pardon has been raised by your recent magnanimous action in the cases of wartime offenders.

BED-TIME STORIES IN A PULL-MAN SMOKER

The Lawmaker (Lincoln News Service.)

"Well, I see from the Paris papers that another French anarchist has been sent on the long trail," said a fine-featured traveler, who looked as though he might be a college professor. "He didn't believe in God, and how could he believe in Government?" continued the professional gentleman, as he blew a few smoke rings from his perfect and looked intently at his companion, who, to my surprise, was our old friend, the Wandering Jew, doubtless on his way back East.

Before the Jew could reply, an angular looking gentleman, who had been silently enjoying the contents of a big meerscham, intervened: "Served him darned right," said the owner of the meerscham. "Those ginks that want to run the Government single-handedly must be shown where to get off—and quick, too. There's a lot of 'em over here in America, and no kind of punishment's too severe for 'em," he continued, with an emphatic gesture.

"Did he have a fair trial?" inquired the Jew mildly, as he turned to the professor. "O, yes; and his lawyer exhausted every effort to see that he was justly dealt with. Nevertheless, he went to the guillotine with curses on his lips, and with no visible sign of repentance."

"He ought not to have had a trial— anarchy isn't entitled to any," spluttered the meerscham's owner, in an ascending tone.

"But you believe in law and order, don't you?" the Wandering Jew asked as he folded up his newspaper and settled down to the discussion.

"Sure, I believe in the law. I was in the state legislature myself for over two years. But when you're dealing with anarchists, the law doesn't count a picayune. They don't recognize the law, and the law ought not to recognize them," responded the angular one, as he briskly struck a match.

"So you were a lawmaker?" continued the Wandering Jew, who seemed to have warmed up to the debate. "And were you active in any particular legislation during your term?" he asked.

"I sure was," responded the angular one, curtly. "But if I ever voted for any measure which gives any considerations to anarchists, then I want to apologize to the people of my state," he concluded with a look of pride.

"In your opinion, what is an anarchist, anyhow?" insistently inquired the Jew.

"Any one who wages war against the law of both God and man," responded the owner of the meerscham in a tone which indicated great self-

satisfaction.

"I quite agree with you on that," answered the Jew, with a smile. "That's just why I wanted to feel that our minds were together, before saying what I have in mind. I'm sorry you did not proclaim that belief in your state legislature. I'm sorer still that you are not where legislation on that definition is sadly needed right now. Last year, the National Congress tried, in an appropriate way, to get at some anarchists in this country—right in the state where you doubtless reside. They tried to make a law to prevent some anarchists in this country from lynching American citizens—from executing them without trial and without any recourse to law and order —"

"That's quite different," interjected the meerscham's owner. "If you only knew —"

"Different! Where's the difference?" retorted the Wandering Jew. "You go right on down home and make up a working list of those anarchists, and I'll help you prosecute them in a legal way. And if you don't feel like doing that, you help me to legislate against them, and you'll be able to sleep better," snapped the Jew.

Just then, a long loud laugh was heard outside the door of the smoker. "Who's that?" asked the owner of the meerscham, in a suspending tone. "Oh! That's the colored porter," replied the professor, as he threw away his cigarette and departed for his berth.

PROPHECY OF PARIS SEER IS CONFIRMED

Fortune Tellers Thrive Despite Arrests and Fines.

Paris.—"Monsieur, you are born under a lucky star, and will certainly succeed in the affair you are undertaking,"

"Madame, I have no doubt you are right, for I am the police commissary of this district and my present undertaking is to arrest you for fortune telling."

So Madame Carnaut, one of the hundreds of Paris' wise women who predict the future from cards, coffee grounds and by other means, found herself headed for the police station.

The case is a common one in Paris, where fortune tellers have a large following who consult them regularly, but it started a reporter to try to find out why some fortune tellers are quoted at length in the papers and apparently held in high esteem, while others are treated like Madame Carnaut, entrapped by the police and fined. After a long search this reporter found that fortune tellers come under the same police regulations as booths at fairs. Their profession is contrary to the law and its exercise is a misdemeanor, but like certain other illegal professions in France, it is tolerated by the police. Action is only taken against fortune tellers when somebody has laid a complaint against them.

A dissatisfied client therefore can cause much trouble to the prophetess. Madame Carnaut had a practice of casting a spell over a lump of sugar and making the client eat it, at a cost of from 60 to 100 francs, according to the client's appearance, and doubtless some unrequited love-sick swain who had found that the high-priced magic morsel had not secured the sought-for devotion had laid the complaint which put a temporary end to Madame's business.

Famous Police Dog Picks Out Suspected Murderer

Dresden.—Eiga, a famous police dog of Weimar, which has become known throughout the German republic for her ability to track criminals, has just furnished evidence in a murder of which Osear Nicht of Ditterslack, Czechoslovakia, was suspected.

Nicht, in prison here for theft, has been suspected of two murders, although courts were unwilling to accept the evidence against him as conclusive.

A year and a half ago an innkeeper was killed and the hat of the murderer was found at the scene of the crime. Nicht crossed into Bavaria after the crime. The Czechoslovakian police officials believed him guilty and have been working constantly on the case.

A few days ago Nicht was led into the courtyard of the Dresden prison with twenty other criminals and a number of detectives in plain clothes. Eiga had been allowed to smell the hat found at the scene of the murder in Czechoslovakia, and immediately rushed to Nicht and announced with a loud howl that he was the owner of the hat.

Man's Good Acting Wins Pardon From Sing Sing

Ossining, N. Y.—Because W. A. Reeves, a British veteran of the World war, proved to be a good actor in the recent musical comedy in Sing Sing to the outside public, the state board of parole, which had refused to release him recently, decided later to set him free. Warden Lewis E. Lawes, who liked the talent shown by Reeves in the prison show, was among those who urged his release.

In the show Reeves played the role of a former Sing Sing prisoner who had just been released from prison and who, when tempted, not alone decided to reform himself but tried to reform other crooks. He had overstayed his minimum sentence for embezzlement of funds of his employer.

Missourian Prefers Oxen to Horses for Farm Work

Kansas City, Mo.—Reports from the rural districts are that farmers are returning to the use of horses. But there is a farmer near Ashland, Boone county, who prefers oxen, even to horses. He uses oxen exclusively on his 200-acre farm. The farmer says the ox is more easily handled and supplies cheaper motive power. The farmer trains his oxen from the time they are weaned, and uses them until they are about ten years old; then sells them for beef.

Birds and Trolley Wires.

The biological survey says that small birds are seldom killed by alighting on a trolley wire, even though it carries a heavy current of electricity. This is because there is not a complete circuit. If a larger bird were to alight on a wire, and one of his wings touched another wire, it would be apt to cause death. Eagles have often been killed in this way.

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Miscellaneous

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ED. F. MOREARTY Attorney-at-Law 700 Peters Trust Building NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

To Leon Simmons, Non-Resident Defendant: You are hereby notified that Myrtle Simmons, your wife, and the plaintiff herein, filed her petition in the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, on the 11th day of October, 1923, to obtain an absolute decree of divorce from you on the grounds of wilful desertion for more than two years last past, and for non-support. You are required to answer said petition on or before the 18th day of February, 1924.

MYRTLE SIMMONS.

ED. F. MOREARTY Attorney-at-Law 700 Peters Trust Building NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

To George Walker, Non-resident Defendant: You are hereby notified that Oral Walker, your wife and the plaintiff herein, filed her petition in the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, on the 30th day of January, 1923, to obtain an absolute decree of divorce from you on the grounds of extreme cruelty and non-support. You are required to answer said petition on or before the 20th day of March, 1924.

ORAL WALKER.

ED. F. MOREARTY Attorney-at-Law 700 Peters Trust Building. NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

To Walter Cowan, Non-resident Defendant: You are hereby notified that on the 17th day of September, 1923, your wife, Lona Cowan, and the plaintiff herein, filed her petition in the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, to obtain a divorce from you on the grounds of extreme cruelty. You are required to answer said petition on or before the 25th day of February, 1924.

LONA COWAN.

4t-1-25-24

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