

MAKING GOOD AT (THE TUSKEGEE) UNITED STATES VETERAN HOSPITAL NO. 91

(Continued from Page One)

desire and a determination to live at peace with the world. Out of a common suffering and a common sacrifice there came a new meaning to our common citizenship. Our greatest need is to live in harmony, in friendship and in good will, not seeking an advantage over each other, but all trying to serve each other. In that spirit let us dedicate this hospital and dedicate ourselves to the service of our country. To do that wisely, patiently and tolerantly is to show by the discharge of our duty our indispensable title to fellow citizenship with Lincoln."

Greatest Achievement for the Negro Since Emancipation

Dr. Robert R. Moton, principal of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute and president of the National Negro Business League, represented the Negro race at this service. Among other things he said:

"I am glad to see that this hospital has absolutely no ear marks of inferiority. It is as good as the very best. This hospital marks the greatest physical achievement of our government for the Negro race in America since Emancipation. And I wish for myself and my race to express to President Harding as well as to those who handled the details, our most sincere appreciation and gratitude.

"I am sure nothing could have brought Vice-President Coolidge from Washington in so busy a season except the fact that the government officials generally, national as well as state and local, are favorably disposed toward the Negro and are anxious to see that he has a fair and equal chance with other American citizens. No one who saw the conditions under which Negroes as well as other soldiers lived and worked and fought in France—and many of them died—could wish for these black heroes anything less than the very best our nation can appropriately provide. I hope and pray that this institution may live long and accomplish large service in restoring our boys to health and strength."

Other addresses were delivered by Governor Brandon of Alabama; Roger E. McDonald, a United States Veterans' Bureau trainer at the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute; General R. E. Steiner of the American Legion, and Dr. William Charles White, chairman of the hospitalization committee appointed by Secretary of the Treasury.

Hospital Becomes Storm Center

Following in the wake of this impressive dedication was an announcement that the personnel at the institution would be white, with the exception of cooks and scullions. White doctors and white nurses with Negro maids to do the actual work would have charge of the patients. Colonel R. H. Stanley, a native Alabamian, was placed in charge of the post and the trouble began. The announcement and the appointment brought forth vigorous protests from Negro leaders and organizations. President Harding hearkened unto these protests and signified his intention of manning the hospital with Negroes but the institution opened with white physicians, white guards, white clerks and accountants and Negro nurses.

This arrangement from the beginning proved equally as unsatisfactory and the indignation meetings continued and protests continued to make their way to the White House. Increased pressure was brought to bear upon the administration and after a series of conferences with race leaders, President Harding announced that the hospital would be placed under a Negro personnel which was being selected at that time and in accordance with this announcement Negroes began qualifying for the positions.

The Republican Party on Trial

This brought fire from the democratic southern whites who were determined Negroes should occupy only servile positions, but the crux of the situation was reached when a Negro accountant appeared on the scene July 3, 1923, to take a position then held by a white woman. He was denied quarters but for the day was given work, being later ordered off the grounds.

Here the Ku Klux Klan made its appearance in the controversy and on the evening of July 3rd in their cowardly garb and manner paraded in the community and town of Tuskegee in the effort to intimidate the Negro citizenry and especially those who had contemplated accepting positions at the hospital.

The demonstration proved to be another "lost cause" and Negro workers continued to arrive. Committees were sent to the White House by the white citizens to register protests and so critical were conditions and such a quandary occasioned that General Hines, Director of the United States Veterans' Bureau, made a trip to Tuskegee to investigate the situation. He held conferences with the citizens of the town and inspected the hospital and returned to Washington, reserv-

ing his decision until a later date. In the meantime, Negro clerks continued to arrive—but no Negro physicians.

Harding Passes
In spite of the protests, the resolutions and the Ku Klux Klan demonstration, General Hines announced that Negro physicians would be appointed at the hospital. The plan, however, carried with it white supervision and Colonel Stanley was removed and Major Charles M. Griffith was placed in command. He proved to be a constructive, far-seeing executive and much credit is due his administration during that critical period.

The question had now, however, resolved itself into a political issue. The Negro press sounded the tocsin and heralded the report that the failure of the administration to place Negroes in charge of the hospital would cause the G.O.P. to lose the Negro vote. In the midst of the melee, President Harding passed away and Calvin Coolidge stepped into the breach.

Coolidge Defies the Klan
Hardly had the "National Mourning Day" passed before the fight was renewed. Committees from both sides conferred with the President and each side in turn claimed a glorious victory.

Everyone was awaiting the decision of the silent man in the White House. During these days of absolute silence and searing uncertainty there was evident a faith among colored people that President Coolidge would not be intimidated by the Klan.

Then like a thunderbolt came the President's decision that the original plan to officer the hospital with a complete Negro personnel would be carried out in full at the earliest possible time. The Klan had failed. Coolidge had kept faith with the Negro and had reinstated and re-established the Republican Party as the "Party of Abraham Lincoln."

Major Ward Appointed

In due course of time, Col. Joseph H. Ward, who as a soldier in the World War distinguished himself and rose to the rank of "Major", was appointed as Medical Officer in Charge and a complete Negro personnel was rounded out.

At the present time every position, executive and otherwise is held by members of our group including tuberculosis specialists; neurologists, psychiatrists, X-ray experts and bacteriologists.

Under the Negro personnel, the work of the hospital is making rapid progress and the patients are happy, contented and enjoying the best of care at the hands of members of their own race who are inherently interested in their welfare.

So successful has Dr. Ward, who was Major in the World War, been in managing the hospital together with his splendid war record, the War Department has promoted him to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Officers Reserved Corps of the United States Army.

An inspection of the institution with its well-appointed buildings, beautiful grounds and winding concrete roads are strictly modern facilities in the hands of capable men and women of our own race bears out the opinion of Dr. Moton, that it is "the greatest achievement of our government for the Negro race in America since emancipation."

It is likewise a monument to the Negro soldiers who served in the great World War. And it is significant to note that such an achievement was accomplished by a Republican Administration and the great victory in the personnel controversy was attained through the fair-mindedness and fearlessness of Calvin Coolidge, the Republican candidate for President of the United States. COOLIDGE KEPT THE FAITH.

BONDS TO BE VOTED FOR NORTH SIDE BRANCH PUBLIC LIBRARY

In the endeavor to further Omaha's Library Service, it is requested that the taxpayers of this city, by vote at the general election Tuesday, November 4th, place their stamp of approval on the issuance of \$50,000 in bonds for the purchase of a site and erection of a North Side Branch Library in the vicinity of Twenty-fourth and Ames avenue. This is to be but the first of several branch libraries and community halls to be erected in time, but the North Side was picked as the most needful of all Omaha districts.

THIS BOND ISSUE, IF VOTED, WILL COST EACH OMAHA TAXPAYER BUT FIVE CENTS, ON THE BASIS OF 200,000 POPULATION.

Thus far there has been no opposition to these bonds, which should easily carry, unless lost by mere apathy. Library extension is very important in this growing city and a favorable vote on the Branch Library Bond Issue ought to be returned by all thoughtful and public minded citizens.

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Miscellaneous

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Ed F. Morearty Attorney-at-law 700 Peters Trust Building NOTICE TO NON-RESIDENT DEFENDANT

To James Price, non-resident defendant:

You are hereby notified that on the 17th day of June, 1924, Wiona Price, your wife, as plaintiff, filed her petition in the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which petition is to obtain a divorce from you on the grounds of wilful desertion and non-support, and for equitable relief. You are required to answer said petition on or before the 25th day of October, 1924, or said petition against you will be taken as true. 4t-9-26-24 WIONA PRICE.



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