

THE MONITOR

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS

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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.

OUR STRENGTH IN OMAHA

THE LATEST estimated population of Omaha is 208,000. Of this number 17,000, or one-twelfth of the total population, is credited to our people. Accepting this estimate at its face value, which in our opinion is a little high, it shows the strength and potential power, economic, industrial and political of our race in our city life. As little as may be thought of it, one person out of every twelve in Omaha belongs to the Negro race. Were these 17,000 people to drop out of Omaha's population overnight, there would be a tremendous shrinkage in bank clearings and in the receipts of merchants and tradesmen and an appreciable loss in taxes.

The Negro population of Omaha is larger than the entire population of any city in Nebraska, except Omaha and Lincoln. Grand Island, the third largest city in the state, has a population of only 15,000, and the next two in rank, North Platte and Hastings, 12,500. So our population in this city is by no means negligible. We do not recognize our potential economic, industrial, social and political power, and failing to recognize it ourselves, naturally, it is not recognized or considered by others. This is why we do not get the recognition to which we are entitled. Not special privileges. These we are not entitled to, neither do we ask them, but a square deal in the field of equal opportunities. As a concrete example: Take the matter of employment in municipal corporations for which we pay taxes: The Metropolitan Utilities Districts, Gas and Water, have hundreds of employees in their various departments. How many Negroes are employed? Count a hen's teeth and you will have your answer. Is this right? Whose fault is it? Ours! Because we do not recognize our power and use it. We can apply the same principle all along the line. We do not recognize the tremendous economic power of the dollars we earn and control. If we did, and when we do, as please God, we are slowly but surely learning to do, we will develop and control large business establishments, powerful, because well-supported, newspapers, and other agencies in social uplift and progress. Seventeen thousand people, alert, intelligent, purposeful, united, law-abiding and industrious, what can they not accomplish? We have the numbers. What we need is intelligent, purposeful, united action. We must learn the art and the science, for it is both, of sincere, whole-hearted cooperation.

JOIN THE N. A. A. C. P.

THE OMAHA BRANCH of the National Association for the Advancement of Col-

ored People is putting on an intensive drive for members from June 1 to June 15. Knowing, as every reasonably intelligent member of our race, should of the great work accomplished by the N. A. A. C. P. for justice to our people, and realizing, as they must, the vast amount of work still to be done we cannot understand why any member of our race should hesitate for one moment in becoming a member. If the N. A. A. C. P. had done nothing more than its far-reaching work in reducing lynchings to 17, the number last year, so making it safer for the life of every Negro in the United States, that fact alone would justify its support. But its splendid achievements are too numerous to mention. Omaha should have a branch numbering 1,000. The National Branch can only be strong, by having strong local branches. It is, therefore, urged that all our people will cooperate in this drive. It is true: "Your Dollar May Save Another Negro's Life." Join the N. A. A. C. P. Join now!

CREATING A NEW RACE

By William Pickens
(For the Associated Negro Press)

In half-amusing, half-serious conversation Miss Nannie H. Burroughs, with the philosophic humor for which she is famous said: "Well, I'm just going to organize as a new race, if this one I belong to doesn't begin to operate better." We agreed to stand ready to help to organize this new race, because a careful, artificial selection would beat nature.

We immediately began to list the necessary qualifications for membership in a first class "race". Somebody has spoken to Miss Burroughs about a school for Negroes which the school board had located on a bare, black and unsightly hill—but she remarked that, although it was mean, perhaps, to so locate the school in the first place, yet the institution had occupied the hill long enough for the teachers to have at least started some grass growing on it. "Why, grass hasn't got any prejudice," she quietly observed.

For our part, we spoke up for a race that will have the sense to see that no amount of prejudice can keep it from doing the best it can do for itself—that it need not be prejudiced against itself—and that every race must save itself, and cannot be saved by "some infloosenshul white folks."

We finally agreed that the best way to make a new race is not to examine and enlist a lot of unchangeable grown-ups, but to start with the mouldable, all-possible babies and little children. Grown-ups are like concrete—they may be broken but cannot be reshaped. Anything may be made out of a normal baby.

TWO COLORED POETS TO PUBLISH BOOKS OF VERSE NEXT FALL

Books of verse by two young colored poets are to be published in the coming fall. The two poets are Langston Hughes, recently awarded first prize in the "Opportunity" contest for his poem, "The Weary Blues", and Countee Cullen.

The title poem in the Langston Hughes volume will be the prize winning contribution to the recent poetry contest and the volume to be published by Alfred A. Knopf, will be known as "The Weary Blues." A foreword for the book is to be written by Carl Van Vechten and the jacket designed by the Mexican caricaturist, Miguel Covarrubias.

Countee Cullen's book of verse will be named "Color", and is to appear under the imprint of Messrs. Harper & Brothers in the early fall.

U. B. AND S. M. T. NEWS

The annual thanksgiving services of the above named order was held Sunday afternoon, May 24th, at Zion Baptist church. Never in the history of the order in Omaha was there such splendid showing.

Mr. Duke Diggs, grand master of the state of Missouri jurisdiction, was present at this service and made a wonderful address, giving true facts as to the financial condition of the order. Many good points were brought out for the benefit of the public as well as the entire membership.

The social and marching club recently organized by M. C. Sands, district deputy grand master, made its first public appearance.

The sick are: Mrs. Andry Lambert and Mrs. Gerlie Wilson of Friendship Temple.

Mrs. Emma Gaines met with a painful accident Thursday night, May 21. She is reported somewhat improved at this writing. Mrs. Gaines is a member of Benson Temple.

—Mrs. Hattie Brewer, Reporter.
2608 Hamilton Street.

YOUNG MEN EMBARK IN NEW BUSINESS

Messrs. Robert A. Greene and Robert F. Allen have gone into the business of wrecking old automobiles and selling the used parts of all kinds. In connection with this business they are operating a truck for express, baggage and general hauling. They have bought a desirable property for their business at 1623 North Twenty-third street. Mr. Allen, who is an experienced mechanic, was in the automobile junking business in Kansas City. These young men have the best wishes of their friends for success.

One of our successful pioneers is Henry H. Bellonfont, who owns and lives on a South Dakota ranch located forty miles from a railroad.

NEBRASKA HAS SECOND LOWEST DEATH RATE

Although 766 persons were killed in accidents in Nebraska during 1923, this state held second lowest death rate for the year, according to the Bureau of Publicity of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, which has made a survey of figures released by the Department of Commerce showing the number of fatalities and rate for all the states and 497 cities.

Mississippi holds first place with an accident death rate of 57 per 100,000 persons, with Nebraska a close second with a rate of 57.4 per 100,000.

Of the 766 persons who were victims of accidents in Nebraska in 1923, there were 123 killed in auto accidents, giving the state a rate of 9.2 per 100,000 and with but eight states showing a better rating, and twelve states a lower total of fatalities from this cause. All of the eight states which rate better than Nebraska in deaths by automobile accidents are in the south, and while Nebraska stands third among the states of the union in per capita auto ownership, these eight range from thirty-second to forty-ninth in this respect. None of the twelve states which show a lower total number of deaths by automobile accidents has either as many automobiles as Nebraska, or as great a proportion per capita. Nebraska's population is also greater than that of any of these twelve except South Carolina and Mississippi.

One-fifth of Nebraska's accidental deaths, or 152, occurred in Omaha. Of these 40 were caused by automobiles; 10 by railroads, 5 by street cars, 4 by other vehicles, and 93 due to all other accidental causes. Thus Omaha, with 16 per cent of the population of the state suffered 20 per cent of the fatal accidents.

In comparison with nine other cities of 200,000 or more population, Omaha stands lowest in point of total number of such deaths; and third lowest in point of its death rate per 100,000. Among these ten cities of Omaha's class, Columbus, O., had the greatest number of accidental deaths, 228, as compared to Omaha's 152. Totals for the other cities were, Oakland, Calif., 169; Portland, Ore., 195; Providence, R. I., 204; Birmingham, Ala., 214; Atlanta, Ga., 220; Louisville, Ky., 220; St. Paul, Minn., 224; and Toledo, O., 226. The mortality rate of Birmingham, Ala., 109.2 per 100,000, was highest among these ten cities, and Oakland, Cal., lowest with 70.4; while Portland, Ore., shows a rate of 71.3, and Omaha 74.4 per 100,000.

BRIEFS

Among each 1,000 American-born colored residents of New York State, 374 were born there and 626 moved there principally from Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

It has been reported that several of our Chicago politicians had attacks of high blood pressure when they heard that the colored mayor of a little Illinois town left an estate valued at \$300,000.



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Monitor For Sale

Wishing to retire from newspaper work and devote my entire time to my parish work, I offer The Monitor, a well-established and well-known weekly newspaper, for sale.

JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS.

THE NEGRO'S CONTRIBUTION NOT NEGLIGIBLE

A moment's thought will easily convince open-minded persons that the contribution of the Negro to American nationality as slave, freedman and citizen was far from negligible. No element of American life has so subtly and yet clearly woven itself into warp and woof of our thinking and acting as the American Negro. He came with the first explorers and helped in exploration. His labor was from the first the foundation of the American prosperity and the cause of the rapid growth of the new world in social and economic importance. Modern democracy rests not simply on the striving white men in Europe and America but also on the persistent struggle of the black men in America for two centuries. The military defense of this land has depended upon Negro soldiers from the time of the Colonial wars down to the struggle of the World War. Not only does the Negro appear, reappear and persist in American literature but a Negro American literature has arisen of deep significance, and Negro folk lore and music are among the choicest heritages of this land. Finally the Negro has played a peculiar spiritual role in America as a sort of living, breathing test of our ideals and an example of the faith, hope and tolerance of our religion.—Du Bois, "The Gift of Black Folk."

The House Behind the Cedars

Adapted from the Immortal Novel by Chas. W. Chestnut and produced under the personal direction of OSCAR MICHEAUX with a great colored cast headed by ANDREW S. BISHOP, SHINGE HOWARD and LAWRENCE CHENAULT

This is the story of the Walden family, who lived in "The House Behind the Cedars", of Molly and her son, John, who "became a lawyer", "and went over into South Carolina and passed for white". Fifteen years later he returned to find that his young sister, Rena, had grown up. So to give her her great chance, he took her back to live with him. Over there, then, as Negroes no more, the unusual circumstances that was the result of it. A handsome young white millionaire's passionate love for beautiful Rena—and the discovery, an amazing parallel to the famous Rhinelander case, enacted by a colored cast.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE

Wed. and Thurs. June 3rd and 4th

ADMISSION 10c and 25c