

# 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.

### THINK IT OVER

A HIGHLY esteemed friend and reader of The Monitor writes us in well-meant criticism of the position taken by the Publicity Committee of the Colored Commercial Club in its letter published in last week's issue, commending our recent editorial, "Our Strength in Omaha."  
Our correspondent of this week was also pleased with our editorial, but he sees in the logical carrying out of the proposition submitted by our last week's correspondent, the emphasis and entrenchment of the very principle which every right-thinking American should oppose and that is segregation. Dr. Ward maintains, in substance, that we cannot consistently encourage the principle of segregation on one hand and oppose it on the other. Is he not right? Read his letter and think it over. Can it be satisfactorily answered? We withhold our comment while thinking our correspondents for furnishing our readers with much food for thought.

### HOLDING THE WORLD'S RECORD

DE HART HUBBARD holds the world record for the running broad jump. At Chicago last Saturday he jumped nearly twenty-six feet, or to be exact 25 feet, 10 7/8 inches. This is nearly five inches, or, again to be perfectly exact, four and 11-16 inches farther than any other human being is known to have jumped before. He has, therefore, set a record for the entire world that will be difficult even to equal, to say nothing of surpassing. That a Negro athlete holds the world's record is a gratifying fact in the face of the disposition to write his race as inferior in all realms of activity. Negro athletes are knocking big holes in the high wall of Nordic superiority. Hubbard has brought an enviable honor to his alma mater, Michigan university, by his athletic prowess and Michigan has been honored by admitting him to its privileges, scholastic and athletic. He has brought honor to America and American athletics and an especial honor to his race. His achievements will be an inspiration to other American athletes, whose countenances wear the burnished livery of the sun. Hubbard has brought honor to America. He holds the world's record. And yet the sad thought that intrudes itself is that America, narrow-minded, prejudice-blighted, craven-hearted America will not treat him as an American son, but as an alien, because his face is black. But this must not daunt us, or palsy our endeavors. We must keep striving to make and break world records, wherever opportunity offers and some day John Albert Williams, Webster 4243, not Crow cars and other humiliations which

## 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."

## FORTUNE CLAIMED BY PEA SHELLER

### London Market Woman Seeks O'Connor Wealth.

Hastings, Neb.—Mrs. Mary O'Connor Tindall, 36 Doon street, London, England, who has been shelling peas in Covent Garden, London, for 50 years and claims to be the champion pea sheller of the world, has put in a claim for the fortune of John O'Connor, Hastings' shoemaker recluse, who died 12 years ago leaving \$150,000 and no known heirs. The property is now worth about \$250,000 and is held by the state until the true heirs are located.  
Meantime, some 500 or more O'Connors all over the world have been after the fortune, but none have been able to prove relationship to the recluse.  
The fortune consists of cash, gilt-edged bonds and mortgages and several of the finest farms in Adams county.  
Mrs. Tindall has just written Judge Waldo Withersteen of the District court that she believes she is a sister of John O'Connor and, as such, she thinks she is entitled to the \$250,000.

### Referred to Three Brothers

Mrs. Tindall says that 55 years ago her little brother, John O'Connor, at that time twelve years old, started for America in company with Dan, Denny and Mike Ryan, brothers and friends of the O'Connor family.  
"If you can find either Dan, Denny or Mike Ryan, they will tell you I am John O'Connor's sister," Mrs. Tindall naively remarks in her letter.

Mrs. Tindall was "written up" a couple of years ago as the champion pea sheller of the world. Her story gradually drifted around until a woman in Spanishburg, W. Va., read it. The West Virginia woman had also read of the O'Connor fortune. She wrote Mrs. Tindall about the American fortune awaiting proof of relationship. Mrs. Tindall remembered her brother of half a century ago, and immediately addressed Judge Withersteen.  
For over fifty years Mrs. Tindall has done nothing but shell peas, she says. Shelling peas is her one and only job. But she has never seen a pea growing on a vine. She hasn't been out of London for over fifty years and seldom has left the block where she works.

In Hastings there's always something new in the O'Connor case. "O'Connor" is a standing assignment on the books of the city editors. Reporters, every day, stop by to see, not if there's anything new in O'Connor affairs, but what the new thing is. There's always something new. For 12 years it's been the standing news of Hastings.  
Last month the new O'Connor story was the trial of James B. O'Connor, Kansas city lawyer, charged with forging a will giving himself the fortune of the recluse, whom he claimed as an uncle. This was O'Connor's third trial.  
One trial in 1922 lasted for four months. This was the case in which four claimants of the fortune—one from North Carolina, another from Lapeer, Mich.; a third from Fresno, Cal., and the fourth from Selkirk, Man.—were fighting one another for the estate. The Selkirk claimant was a half-breed Cree Indian who said O'Connor was his father, and that he formerly had been a trapper for the Hudson's Bay company. None of the four proved his claim.

### Kept Affairs to Self.

O'Connor came to Hastings when a young man, opened a shoemaker's shop, attended to business, saved every cent, and made no confidants. He never wrote a letter nor received one, and never spoke to a woman except on business. He invested every cent he got in lands at \$1.25 to \$2.50 an acre. That land is now worth \$200 an acre. He died without leaving a will.  
The court took over the property. The story got into the newspapers, and it fairly rained claimants. At one time over 500 men, women and children had formally applied to the court for the fortune.  
O'Connor's body was kept in cold storage for five years awaiting identification, and every O'Connor who saw it positively identified it as the body of his father, grandfather, uncle, brother, cousin, or some other relative, although none of them had seen him for 50 years.  
After burial it was exhumed for the benefit of a woman from Watervliet, N. Y., who immediately recognized it as the body of her runaway husband who had deserted her 51 years previously.  
But none has been able to prove relationship and the fortune is still here. Mrs. Tindall, champion pea sheller of the world, has just as good a chance of getting the money as anybody else, especially if she can find Dan, Denny or Mike Ryan anywhere.

## LONDON NOW HAS ABOUT 8,000,000

### Telephone Area of City Covers 735 Square Miles.

London.—Recent unofficial estimates of the population of Greater London have put the figures at about 8,000,000. The London telephone area covers 735 square miles, and the metropolitan police district 801 square miles, and both are said to be growing rapidly.  
The distance across London from various sections of the greater city vary from twenty to thirty miles.  
Sir Kingsley Wood, M. P., speaking recently on the housing question, announced that the total number of houses authorized at the beginning of 1924 aggregated 198,808, and of these 82,106 had already been completed.  
Many Londoners are confirmed town dwellers, the speaker said, and a certain percentage of them always would be. They preferred the cinema to the country, and they disliked a long journey which cut into their leisure. Without imitating the worst fea-

tures of the American skyscraper, it should be possible to erect dwellings with generous gardens or ground space and with proper arrangement for decent living, and thus work out an eventual remedy to help relieve London's housing situation, which, for generations, has been one of the city's most difficult problems.  
In spite of its growth, London had 18 fewer fires in 1924 than in 1923. The total last year was 3,845, of which 35 were serious.

## Red Tape Costs U. S. \$970 in Man's Death

Washington.—Because the check for a cash settlement on his \$1,000 insurance policy was not mailed by the veterans' bureau until 16 days after he died, Comptroller General McCarl has ruled that the government must pay to the beneficiary of John Chard the full face value of the policy.  
On his discharge from the army in 1918, Chard asked for a cash settlement of his 20-year endowment policy. He died in 1923. He had a settlement check for \$1,000.

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### To the Telephone Users of This Community:

As telephone users, I think you will be interested in the following statement of the action this Company has taken to obtain authority to adjust exchange rates in Nebraska up to the time we appealed to the Federal Court.  
We consider you and every telephone user as essential partners in the successful operation of our business, and therefore we want you to know at all times what we are doing and why.

Our efforts to secure adequate revenue from our operations in Nebraska to pay expenses and earn a fair return on the value of our property, date back to September 30, 1918. At that time we applied to the Nebraska State Railway Commission for authority to increase our exchange rates 20 per cent in order to meet the high operating costs resulting from the war.  
Hearings were held on our application during October that year, after which the Commission issued an Emergency Order, authorizing our Company to increase its exchange rates 10 per cent, effective December 1, 1918. The order was to expire after six months.

On April 17, 1919, shortly before the Commission's authorization of the new rates was to expire, our Company applied for authority to substitute a slightly higher schedule of exchange rates in Nebraska. Hearings were held, and our application was granted on May 2, 1919. The Order specified that the new schedule of rates was to terminate at the end of that year. As the close of 1919 approached, the Commission continued the rates for another year.

However, on September 30, 1920, because of continued high cost our Company made application for a 10 per cent increase on all exchange rates in Nebraska. This application was granted on November 30, 1920, after a number of hearings, and a 10 per cent surcharge on exchange rates was authorized until June 30, 1921. Later it was continued until December 31, that year.

This was the situation when, on December 14, 1921, after it was evident that a level of prices higher than those in 1914 would prevail, our Company applied to the Commission for authority to establish a new schedule of exchange rates to take the place of the temporary surcharge rates. The schedule applied for was such as we then hoped might eventually result in satisfactory earnings but it is now clear that it would not have produced a fair return on the cost of our property in this state as shown by the books of the Company.

After a series of hearings on our application, the Railway Commission on November 4, 1922, handed down an order which, if it had been placed in effect, it is estimated, would have permitted only the payment of our expenses and a return of 2.92 per cent on the cost of our interstate property in Nebraska, based on 1921 operations.

Following the Commission's order, compliance with which would have resulted in the confiscation of our property, our Company on November 23, 1922, appealed to the Federal Court. The Court on December 22, 1922, granted a temporary injunction against the enforcement of the Commission's order and appointed a Special Master to hear evidence from the Railway Commission and the Telephone Company.

For years our earnings in Nebraska have been inadequate. In 1917 we earned only 5.15% on the cost of our Nebraska Division property, which included all of our Nebraska plant and a small part of South Dakota; in 1918, we earned 4.62% on the same property; in 1919, 5.30%; and in 1920 only 3.62%. Since 1921 we have kept separate records for the state of Nebraska. In 1921 we earned 2.87% on the cost of our property in this state; in 1922, 3.05%; in 1923, 4.63%; and in 1924, we earned 4.55%. All of these figures include earnings from interstate operations. In connection with the increased earnings in 1923 and 1924, it should be borne in mind that the rates allowed by the temporary injunction were in effect during these years.

Notwithstanding the fact that the rates of our Company in Nebraska have been inadequate for many years, its subscribers have enjoyed a good quality of telephone service at prices relatively lower than what they have paid for other services and products. They have been able to obtain their telephone service at such rates has been due to the fact already mentioned—that the Company has not been earning a fair return on the fair value of its property.

The public demands and is entitled to reliable telephone service. The employees who help supply such service should be fairly paid. And those who invest their money to build telephone plant to meet the needs of the public for service, must be paid a fair return or the necessary new lines for growth cannot be obtained. The interests of these three—the public, the employees and investors—are identical. The interests of all can be best served only when charges for telephone service are such as are necessary to pay expenses and earn a fair return on the value of our property.

It is the policy of our Company to refrain from increasing its charges for service until every effort has been exhausted to operate satisfactorily on existing revenues. But when this cannot be done without impairing the quality of telephone service, we believe it our duty to seek an adjustment in rates.

If there is any further information we can supply regarding our efforts to obtain additional revenue in Nebraska, please ask any employee, or call our Manager and we shall gladly send a representative to see you.

W. B. T. BELT, President  
Northwestern Bell Telephone Company

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