

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.

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ANOTHER VOICE FOR RIGHT

A few weeks ago a prominent and influential white Marylander publicly advocated the abolition of the iniquitous "Jim Crow" car laws of the South, clearly pointing out the injustice of the system. Another voice has been raised against this un-American institution, created for the sole purpose of humiliating and degrading the colored American. This time a courageous white Georgian speaks, in the person of Dr. Will W. Alexander, one of the secretaries of the Federal Council of Churches. Speaking in Birmingham, Ala., before a gathering of young white men and women, Dr. Alexander spoke out fearlessly against the "Jim Crow" car law and urged its repeal. He, too pointed out the unfairness and injustice of this iniquitous institution which compels Negroes to pay first-class fare and accept inferior accommodations, in dirty, ill-kept coaches, being denied Pullman and dining car service, no matter how clean, intelligent, well-dressed and well-behaved the passenger may be. Of course the "Jim Crow" car law is indefensible and must eventually go. It will go, however, only when thousands of

earnest and sincere Christian white men and women of the South, of whom such men as Dr. Alexander are the forerunners, have courage to speak out and stand up for right, or when self-respecting Negroes, in numbers sufficiently large to make the falling off in passenger income felt, positively refuse to ride in "Jim Crow" cars, finding other means of conveyance, even though they have to forego the pleasure of travel.

The law calls for "equal accommodations," but everyone knows "there ain't no sech animul" in any "Jim Crow" arrangements, anywhere, South or North. When arrangements are made "for colored" anywhere, those arrangements are always inferior to those made for other people. The railroads, operating in the South, should be compelled to obey the law and provide "equal accommodations," which means equal coaches, equal Pullman service and equal dining car service.

It is, however, an encouraging sign to have now and then a voice from the dominant race crying in the wilderness against the "Jim Crow" system.

POWER OF THE BOYCOTT.

Some years ago in a city that for the present shall be nameless, it was rumored that the proprietor of a certain grocery store which had a large and well-paying colored trade, had participated in a movement of serious consequences inimical to colored people. Several persons who had accounts with the store paid up their accounts and discontinued their trade, frank by telling him why. Other patrons trans-

ferred their trade elsewhere. The man said, "My God, I'm ruined, what can I do to save my business?"

Well, he had to sell out at a loss and move. Here was one case where the race wisely used the power of the boycott. They refused to spend their money with one whom it was alleged was actively unfriendly to them. Self respecting people will not spend their money with those who are either actively or secretly unfriendly or who insult them. The boycott is a powerful weapon. We will be respected more and accomplish much when we learn to use it wisely and effectively.

PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Our citizens are taxpayers. As such they are partners in the corporation known as the City of Omaha. The Metropolitan Utilities, which have hundreds of employees practically ignore our people in matters of employment. Just for your information ascertain how many colored men or women are employed by the Water Board or the Gas Company, city-owned utilities. How many are employed by the Northwestern Bell Telephone company? What are you going to do about it?

NORTH SIDE Y. W. C. A.

The regular monthly meeting of the board of management was held at the North Side Branch Wednesday afternoon, April 14. Encouraging reports were made by all the committees.

At a meeting of the executive board Saturday morning, April 17, Mrs. Estella Craig was selected to represent the North Side Branch at the Ninth National convention of the Young Women's Christian Association, to be held at Milwaukee, Wis., from April 21 to 27.

Standing of contestants for this week is as follows: Mercedes Johnson, \$6.35; Louise Scott, \$2.00; Mercedes Ferguson, \$1.40; Gladys Reynolds, none.

Mrs. Estelle Craig, chairman of the committee of management of the North Side Branch, Young Women's Christian Association, left Tuesday evening, with the delegates from the Central Branch to attend the Ninth National Convention of the Young Women's Christian Associations of the United States of America, which convenes in Milwaukee, Wis., April 21 to 27.

LECTURE.

On Friday evening, April 16, the seventh of the series of 10 lectures on "The History of the Negro," was given under direction of H. J. Pinkett. The topic discussed was "The African Slave Trade."

The following sub-topics were admirably presented, in order:

"The Basis of Slavery," by Miss Ernestine Singleton; "Family Life in Slavery," Miss Melva McCaw; "Dutch Slave Traders," Miss Nonence Gibson; "English Slave Traders," Miss Albertine Johnson; "Spanish Slave Traders," Miss Dorcas Jones.

A fact of interest related by Mr. Pinkett is this—it was pointed out by W. E. DuBois, a noted race man, that "during the period that slave trading existed approximately 1,000,000 human beings were being sacrificed and the debt will have to be paid by the different races of people." Facts equally as interesting are presented at each lecture.

COUNCIL BLUFFS NOTES.

By Mrs. Erma Jones.

Those on the sick list this week are: Mr. Manior, Mrs. George, Mrs. Davis, Rev. J. P. Jackson, Wm. Lee, Rev. Mr. Jackson is improving.

Rev. J. H. Reynolds preached Sunday, April 18, in Rev. Mr. Jackson's place. He preached at 3 P. M. for Rev. S. Fant, at Calvary Baptist church.

Every one is invited to come to the Union Missionary meeting at Bethel A. M. E. church, April 25. A splendid program will be rendered at 3 p. m. Rev. S. Fant will preach the sermon.

The Mission Circle will serve dinner at the Rock Island shops Thursday, April 29.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mrs. Anna Jones-Tubbs, sires to announce to her patrons that her telephone number, which was Webster 5450, has been changed to WEBSTER 2243.

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The Tabernacle Baptist church will have the ordination of Deacons the first of June.

Mrs. Allie McCullen is able to be out again.

Miss Marderia Shelton is able to be around again.

Messrs. Cecil and Theodore Workman of Milwaukee are visiting their sister, Mrs. Elnora Hill, 17th street and 10th avenue.

The Court of Calanthe will give a play, entitled, "The Old Maids Club," at Beulah Baptist church, 18th and 3rd avenue, April 26. All are invited.

The dinner given at Beulah Baptist church, April 21, was well attended.

Rev. Mr. Ward visited the Beulah Baptist church Sunday the 18th.

Mrs. Roll Vavis of Kansas City, Mo., is visiting her sister, Mrs. Daisy Fox.

PICTURE AND PLAY

FOR ALTAR GUILD
See Nazimova, the Great, in "A Doll's House" and "Her Choice," a playlet, by the Junior Girls' Friendly Society, at the Lake Theatre, Saturday, April 24, under the auspices of the Altar Guild of St. Philip's Episcopal church. Admission 20 cents.—Adv.

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AN IMPORTANT WORD TO SUBSCRIBERS.

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We, as publishers, MUST comply with the law or pay the penalty.

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 Street Car Franchise

Will be Explained

The City Council has passed a franchise which would permit the Omaha & Council Bluffs Street Railway Company to operate in Omaha during the next 40 years. This franchise will be submitted to the Voters at a Special Election on May 18. All registered voters may vote on the franchise. If you have moved since last election or were not registered, you should register at once. May 7 is the last day for registration.

The company is going to explain the franchise facts in various advertisements. Certain advertisements will appear in this paper and in Omaha daily papers. A booklet, "Street Car Facts," telling the provisions of the franchise in plain language, has been prepared and may be obtained from any conductor, at the carhouses or at the general office.

It is hoped that everyone will become familiar with the franchise and vote on May 18.

OMAHA 3/4 COUNCIL BLUFFS STREET RAILWAY CO.