

THE MONITOR

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT OMAHA, NEBRASKA, BY THE MONITOR PUBLISHING COMPANY

Entered as Second-Class Mail Matter July 2, 1915, at the Postoffice at Omaha, Nebraska, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES, \$2.00 A YEAR; \$1.25 6 MONTHS; 75c 3 MONTHS
 Advertising Rates Furnished Upon Application

Address, The Monitor, Postoffice Box 1204, Omaha, Neb.
 Telephone WEBster 4243

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 Choice for President in 1928 is
WALTER W. HEAD
 of Nebraska
 An Astute, Able, Clear-headed Business Man

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

That there is great need for a strong branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Omaha is becoming plainer every day. This is the one organization that has proven itself equal to the task of protecting the Negro in the enjoyment of his civil rights and in securing recognition of his equality before the law. The reason for this is that in numbers there is strength, moral strength and financial strength. Power and influence always command attention and respect. When it was possible, as in the Sweet case, to have a fund of \$70,000.00 to pay for legal expense and, if necessary to carry the case up to a higher court it can be readily seen that such an organization was not to be underrated. When the N. A. A. C. P. has a membership of a million, instead of as now, one of 125,000, and a fund of \$1,000,000 for legal defense, publicity and the protection of our people in their rights of citizenship, it will be immediately recognized that it will be unsafe to deny the Negro his civil rights or to insult him because of his race and color. The National branch can only be strong in members and financial strength in proportion to the membership of the local branches. Now, if in Omaha, our branch had a membership of 1,500 members and a fund of \$1,500 or \$2,000 available to employ the best legal talent we could easily combat the spirit of discrimination that is daily increasing in this city. Almost daily we have brought to our attention cases of denial of civil rights by places of refreshment, theatres and like institutions. Objectionable signs are being placed in public places reflecting upon our people. The local branch can do but little to correct these growing evils because of lack of funds and weakness in membership. Where the Omaha branch has 100 members, it ought to have ten times that number. With more than 15,000 Negroes in Omaha, knowing how discrimination is growing it ought to be an easy matter to get a membership of 1,500. Every self-respecting man and woman of the race should be a member of the N.A.A.C.P. in order to maintain and safeguard the citizenship rights we now enjoy and to secure those which are denied.

SOMETHING ROTTEN

That there is something rotten about the whole affair of that California woman evangelist or religious leader who has gathered to herself such a large following and incidentally collected a huge sum of what is vulgarly called jack. The moral

and spiritual superiority of which some people prate because of the color of their skin and texture of their hair is receiving a solar plexus blow from many quarters. Let not our people imitate or covet this brand of superiority. Emulate virtue and flee vice.

TRUTH COMING OUT

The arrest and confession of a white man in St. Louis said to have blackened his face and committed the crime of rape and other crimes and his charge that he is one of a gang who does this thing should open the eyes of those who jump to the conclusion that the Negro is innately a criminal. There have been cases without number disclosed where white criminals have had their faces blackened and threw suspicion on Negroes, who in many cases have suffered at the hands of mobs and of the authorities for crimes which they never committed. Not that there are no Negro criminals; for, alas, much to our regret there are; but that all crimes alleged to be committed by Negroes, because the criminal's face appears to be black, are in reality committed by Negroes is by no means true. This Mississippi white man is frank enough to say that his gang blacken their faces because by this means it is very easy to escape punishment and fix the crime on some Negro. He is to be admired for his frankness. Truth will eventually come out.

ASSOCIATED CHARITIES RENDER ASSISTANCE TO 800 NEGRO FAMILIES

Large Amount of Work Done Among Our Group by This Important Agency Than is Generally Known.

SPECIAL WORKER KEPT BUSY

Few, if any of our people, or of Omaha citizens in general, for that matter, have any idea of the amount of work done by the Associated Charities, or of the various kinds of service this agency is called upon to render.

The average man or woman has no comprehension of the many angles there are to the average case that presents itself to a sincere and intelligent social worker. If the individual who believes that successful social welfare work is easy or quick of accomplishment, he should honestly make a little study of the matter. He will quickly change his mind. It is one thing to render immediate and concrete aid to a needy family and then to relieve oneself of all responsibility thereafter. It is quite another matter to render such immediate aid and then to grapple with the problem and arrive at some workable plan whereby that family can be made self supporting, either in part or wholly.

The Associated Charities has constantly to meet just such problems and a satisfactory solution often means months of close, careful and patient study and work on the part of Mrs. George Doane, executive secretary, and her assistants.

The general public thinks that the sole province of the Associated Charities is to give out a bucket of coal and a basket of groceries occasionally. If this were the case social welfare work would indeed be a simple thing and the public would more readily see just where and how its money is spent. But when a social worker devotes months to the rehabilitation of one family, it is very difficult to point out just where there is an adequate return for the money donated by the public and spent by the social workers. But the

conscientious social worker is the one who courageously fights through the long and discouraging period necessary to put the individual or the family once more in an independent position. And that in the final analysis is the real objective of social service work. It cannot always be accomplished; sometimes it can be accomplished only in measure.

In order not to pauperize those whom it aims to assist, the Associated Charities must consider and solve the problems relating to health, housing, rent, jobs, food, fuel, clothing; the problems relating to marriage, childbirth, divorce, death, emigration, strife, age, natural fitness or unfitness and all the other human conditions and relationships that are so intricately tied together in the strange bundle of life. These workers so often receive criticism and fault finding rather than intelligent co-operation among those who might render them aid in their perplexities.

Statistics and figures are considered dry by the average reader, but they are quite necessary to present facts which the public should know. For example, it will astonish many to learn that within a period of six months from January 1 to June 30, 1926, more than 2,000 families were given attention by the Associated Charities and of this number 800 were colored. During this period 3,166 visits were made to homes and nearly 2,000 interviews were held in the office. Mrs. Grace M. Hutten is the special worker to whom is assigned by Mrs. Doane the investigation of cases among our people and like all the others on the staff, her hands are full.

Statistics will not prove interesting but the following statement from Mrs. Doane taken from her semi-annual report tells an interesting story:

"In reviewing the work of the past six months, so full of interest to those engaged in it, with many an anxious day but never a dull one, the figures will give some idea of the service given.

First—Who came to the Associated Charities for help? The destitute, the unemployed, the sick, the undernourished, the crippled, the ambitious, the unfortunate, the incompetent, the wanderer, the irresponsible, the wayward, the delinquent, the crafty, the simple, the misfits, the clean, the dirty, the good and the bad. As a moving picture they present effort and indolence—truth and dishonesty—devotion and neglect—hope and discouragement—high ideals and low standards—sorrow and tragedy.

Second—What was done for them? If destitute, relief was given; if sick, medical care was provided through the proper channels. So far it is not difficult to render such constructive service that unfortunate conditions will not continue and that dependents may, through their own efforts become independent—this is not a matter of a day's work, but of weeks, months, and sometimes years of service.

It seems futile to attempt a report on such services, for totals of telephone calls and interviews, of visits and relief given, mean so little compared with the urge and struggle—the hopes and disappointments—the slow gains and frequent failures—that follow the efforts to make better homes and stronger personalities. It takes so long to develop character, to overcome unfortunate circumstances and to get a good start toward success that if in a year's work only a good beginning is made, we must be satisfied.

Without regard to differences of race, nationality or creed, those who need help have been aided or have had a suitable plan worked out for them, whereby their needs were taken care of.

Mrs. George A. Love, 2430 Grant street, has been detained at home this week by illness.

N. A. A. C. P. WILL MEET SUNDAY AFTERNOON

A joint business meeting and public forum of the Omaha Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. will be held in the Guild Room of the Church of St. Philip the Deacon, Twenty-first near Paul street, Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. A quartet will furnish musical numbers and important local matters pertaining to the violation of civil rights will be discussed. The public is urged to attend.

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