

## A Happy New Year To All

### SECOND CONTEST FOR MUSICAL COMPOSERS OF THE NEGRO RACE

Several Cash Prizes Are Again Offered by Rodman Wanamaker Through The Robert Curtis Ogden Association to Stimulate Composers. Omahans Should Compete.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 29—(Special Correspondence)—Rodman Wanamaker of this city has again offered \$1,000 in prizes for composers of the Negro race, the offer, as was the case last year, being made through the Robert Curtis Ogden association, an organization composed of Negro employees of the John Wanamaker store, Philadelphia. This is the second offer of the kind made by Mr. Wanamaker, who inaugurated a similar plan last year, the results being some excellent compositions in a great variety of forms. This year, however, Mr. Wanamaker has made several radical modifications in the offer as compared with last year, by increasing the prizes in some instances and lowering the numbers of classifications. The National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc., is working with the Robert Curtis Ogden association in making public the terms of the contest. This was also done last season and the names of the winners of the prizes were announced at the national convention of that organization last August in St. Louis.

This year, there are four classifications instead of five as was the case in the first contest, with three prizes in each class, making twelve in all. The four this year are as follows: Class 1, a composition for orchestra; Class 2, a love song for one voice with accompaniment optional with the composer; Class 3, a group for miscellaneous works for one or more instruments; Class 4, a composition for band. In all of these classifications, the widest possible latitude is allowed the composers in all respects except as to the instruments or voices for which they shall write. The compositions intended for Class 1 must be a work scored for full orchestra, that is, an orchestra containing as a minimum number of instruments, the full complement of woodwind, brass and string parts of a symphony orchestra, although extra instruments may be used at the

option of the composer. It may be a symphony, a symphonic poem, an overture, etc., and may be in one or more movements. The prizes for this class are: First prize, \$250; second prize, \$100; and third prize, \$50.

Compositions submitted for Class 2 must be a vocal solo for one voice only. Instrumental compositions will not be considered in this classification as they were last year. The accompaniment may be for piano, orchestra, etc., and obligato instruments may be used as the composer desires, but they are not necessary to make the composition eligible for a prize. The prizes in this class are: First prize, \$100; second prize, \$75; and third prize, \$50. However, it is required that the composition be a love song. Song poems, that is, words unaccompanied by music, will not be considered under any circumstances.

Class 3 is for instrumental compositions only. Works submitted may be in any form, dance, sonata, or miscellaneous, and may be written for solo instruments with an accompaniment desired by the composer or for groups of instruments which, however, must not exceed ten in number. The prizes in this class are: First prize, \$100; second prize, \$75; third prize, \$50.

Compositions submitted for Class 4 must be for a full brass band and any type of composition is eligible, a theme and variations, a march of any form preferred by the composer. The prizes here are: First prize, \$100; second prize, \$75; and third prize, \$50. The employment of the Negro idiom melodically, rhythmically and harmonically, will have some weight with the judges, but the quality of musical thought and workmanship will have the first consideration. The Negro idiom is preferable, but not essential. All compositions submitted must be in the hands of the Robert Curtis Ogden association of the John Wanamaker store, of Philadelphia, not later than midnight of June 1, 1928.

### N. A. A. C. P. AIDS FIGHT ON ATLANTIC CITY SCHOOL SEGREGATION

New York, N. Y.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, recently announced it had retained Eugene R. Hayne, of Asbury Park, in a legal fight on school segregation in that city. Mr. Hayne is the attorney through whom the N. A. A. C. P. decisively defeated the attempt to segregate colored children at Toms River, N. J., last spring.

The Atlantic City fight arises out of the establishment of two segregated schools for colored children. To reach these schools some of the colored children, it is reported, have to pass as many as three schools attended by white children.

The decision of the N. A. A. C. P. to enter this fight was the outcome of a conference at the office of Arthur B. Spingarn, chairman of the association's national legal committee, participated in by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Edwards, Mr. Huntley, Miss Tanner, Mrs. Haynes of Atlantic City, and Messrs. Spingarn, James Weldon Johnson and William Andrews, representing the N. A. A. C. P.

### WISHES MERRY CHRISTMAS WHILE BEING EXECUTED

Urbana, Ill.—Wishing more than 200 spectators a "merry Christmas and a happy New Year," as he stood on the platform of the gallows just before the cap was placed over his head and the trap was sprung, Herschell Andrews, of Indianapolis, Ind., paid with his life last Friday morning for the slaying of Thomas Tate, of Champaign, Ill., on Christmas morning 1926.

### EDITORIAL

There is always something pathetic about the passing of the Old Year. It is very much like watching an old friend die. So it has always seemed to us. This, no doubt, will be regarded by many as merely sentimentalism, but sentiment plays an important part in life.

As the one is passing we think more of his good qualities than of his bad, of his points of strength rather than of weakness, and we are remorseful that we were not a little kinder or more considerate or more appreciative of him when he was in the flush of years and of health. We instinctively look backward through the years and recount our shortcomings towards him.

And so it is with the closing of each year. Its passing involuntarily evokes in us a retrospective mood. We are impelled, if not compelled, to take a backward glance, to hastily review some of the opportunities we have had and perhaps let slip, to think of mistakes we have made, of sins we have committed, to sum up and strike a balance between our successes and our failures. To write our credits and debits in the ledger of life.

Many, perhaps most, will decide that the debits, largely outnumber the credits; but, in reality, this is not true. In the average life there is something to write upon the credit side of life at the close of every year. You will find it so this year. Sorrow and sadness and disappointments—many may have been your lot, and yet you may find that even these have left you richer in spiritual experiences and in the evaluation of life. Whatever your mistakes and failures may have been, do not lose heart. Take courage and go forward. *Sursum corda.* Lift up your heart.

A New Year dawns, bringing with it its golden opportunities for growth and progress. How will you use it? Wisely or unwisely? Wisely, we hope, for larger and fuller growth in every way, building a larger mansion for our soul as individuals, as a race, and as a nation.

"Build thee more stately mansions, Oh, my soul  
As the swift seasons roll;  
Leave thy low vaulted past;  
Let each New Year find thee nobler than the last,  
Till thou at length art free,  
Leaving thine outgrown shell  
By life's unresting sea."

### IS THIS ANOTHER THREATENING GESTURE?

The Monitor believes that the Pullman Porters are justified in their efforts to organize for better wages and working conditions. As we understand it, they are the only railway or transportation employees who are not recognized and unionized. The conductors have their union and it is respected. The locomotive engineers have a powerful organization, and so have other trainmen. By virtue of their organization and union they have been able to secure better wages and improved working conditions.

This is precisely what the Pullman porters desire to do. That is why they have organized the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, which the Pullman company is fighting. It looks very much as though that powerful corporation is using every method possible to intimidate this class of employees and to frustrate or destroy their union. The company's latest threatening gesture is the employment of Chinese as club car porters on trains on the Northwestern-Union Pacific lines. This is following up the plan adopted a short while ago in displacing Negroes by Filipinos as buffet porters. The number of such is not large; but it is being tried ostensibly as an "experiment," but in reality as a threat and bluff to intimidate the porters.

This latest move is one of the same nature, in our humble opinion. Adroitness has been displayed by the Pullman company in trying to see to it that the Chinese who are to displace Negroes are American born. This is to forestall criticism against the employment of foreign labor. American born Chinese who will want this kind of employment are quite scarce. Even though they were plentiful, it would be interesting to note the reaction of the American public, which really at heart believes in fair play. White Americans who, of course, constitute the majority of the traveling public, may take kindly to the experiment of the displacement of black Americans by yellow ones of oriental extraction, but that is questionable. It is possible, but not highly probable.

These gestures by the Pullman company should make Negro employees exceedingly punctilious and careful to render the best of service possible, so that valid criticism of inefficiency cannot be brought against them; and so far as the Pullman porters are concerned, it ought also to make every man-jack of them more determined than ever to unionize and to loyally support their brotherhood.

We hope the Pullman porters will not weaken in their fight, but continue until victory is won, in securing a living wage and humane and reasonable working hours and conditions.

### RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

The annual observance of Race Relations Sunday—the sixth since its inception in 1923—will take place this year on February 12th, when thousands of churches, young peoples' societies, Sunday schools, Y. M. C. A.'s, and other religious groups will focus their attention on the problems of the race. Especial emphasis will be laid this year on penitence and prayer for the complete suppression of lynching and mob violence in America. In issuing this call the Federal Councils Commission on Race Relations points out the fact that in the last 40 years more than four thousand persons have been put to death by mobs in this country, and

that crimes of this character, though less numerous than formerly, are still of frequent occurrence.

A pamphlet containing topics and suggestions for the observance of Race Relations Sunday can be had for five cents a copy from the Commission on the Church and Race Relations, 105 East Twenty-second street, New York City. Other pamphlets on the subject may be had without charge from the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, 409 Palmer building, Atlanta, Ga.

Sergeant and Mrs. Isaac Bailey entertained at what at their home, 2816 Pratt street, Monday evening in honor of Dr. and Mrs. R. B. Dodson, house guests of Dr. and Mrs. W. W. Peebles.

### N. A. A. C. P. APPEALS AGAINST LYNCHING TO SOUTH EDITORS

New York, N. Y.—In a letter sent to leading editors of white dailies throughout the South, James Weldon Johnson, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, appealed for a united stand against lynching and its extenuators, by all citizens, regardless of race or color. Mr. Johnson's letter is as follows:

"An editorial published by a Bainbridge, Ga., editor and reproduced and commented upon in a number of newspapers, deserves public consideration at this time. This editor, E. H. Griffin, of the Bainbridge Post-Searchlight, still defends the barbarous crime of lynching. His utterance has received well merited rebuke from such outstanding newspapers as the Columbus, Ga., Sun and the Dothan, Ala., Eagle. Mr. Griffin takes the ground that lynching is the only meet punishment for the abhorrent crime of rape. Does Editor Griffin feel, when a mob avenges the crime of rape by lynching or, as is frequently done, by burning a human being at the stake while women and children look on, that civilization is being saved?"

"But Editor Griffin's statements, implying that the crime of lynching always avenges the crime of rape, that 'law or no law, justice or no justice, tolerance or no tolerance, when a brute rapes a woman the hemp rope is just as certain as sin,' merit further comment.

"The facts about lynching have been stated before, and to the entire country, but they do not seem to have reached Mr. E. H. Griffin of Bainbridge, Ga., who openly condones, defends and even advocates the abrogation of civilization in favor of the beastliness of mob murder. Let those facts be here restated.

"There have been 92 women lynched in the United States during the past 40 years.

"Out of the upwards of 4,000 recorded victims of lynching mobs in this country, less than one in five has even been accused of the crime of rape; and it should be borne in mind in this connection that accusation and execution by a mob in the often whiskey-sodden atmosphere of brutal passion is not calculated to establish guilt or innocence, a function for which the entire structure of law and the courts is designed.

"The crime of lynching shames the entire country before the civilized world. It can hardly be advanced as proof of the superior culture of the race in whose hands government and the courts rest, when they deliberately trample their own institutions of law and orderly processes in the mire, often making a holiday scene of an act of inhumanity and savagery.

"Is it not time that apologists for lynching be recognized for precisely what they are? Namely, the most dangerous of anarchists and advocates of the lawlessness against which all decent United States citizens of whatever race, color or section must stand united in their common citizenship and faith in America."

### CELEBRATES HER 100th BIRTHDAY CHRISTMAS

Kansas City, Mo.—Mrs. Rebecca Williams, 1710 East Twenty-eighth street, celebrated her 100th birthday, Sunday, December 25. Mrs. Williams is the mother of Mrs. Clara B. Franklin and grandmother of C. A. Franklin, editor of The Call. She was born in Frederick, Md., December 25, 1827. She has always been free. In the 1850's she and her husband moved to Wisconsin, where in 1856, Mrs. Clara Franklin was born. The family moved and lived in Illinois until 1869. Mrs. Williams has been in Kansas City with her daughter and grandson since the fall of 1920. Until two years ago, she read and sewed daily.

The Misses Inez and Evelyn Battles, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. H. Battles, 3122 Burdette street, have returned home to spend the holidays with their parents.

### CHINESE PORTERS REPLACE NEGROES ON CRACK TRAINS

Officials Claim Change Experiment and Disclaim Intention to Extend Displacement to Sleeping Car Men

### ORGANIZER SEES INTIMIDATION

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 28—The niche occupied traditionally by the Negro Pullman porter was usurped for the first time by the oriental when young Chinese were introduced this week as club car porters on trains of the Northwestern-Union Pacific lines. All but one are Chinese of American birth.

Local Pullman officials said that the use of Chinese was an experiment, but that if successful they would be probably retained in the club cars. Their use as porters in sleeping cars is not contemplated, however, they said. Filipino boys have been employed by the company as buffet porters for more than a year.

Bennie Smith, field organizer for the Brotherhood of Pullman Porters, which seeks recognition of the company, said he believed the Chinese were being put on as another means of intimidation. "They won't find them successful," he said.

### AMERICAN LEGION SMOKER

The public installation of officers of Roosevelt Post No. 30, held last Wednesday evening, December 21, at the beautiful Grotto, together with the "smoker" and unusual program, will long be remembered as one of the outstanding events of legion activities. Dr. W. W. Peebles functioned as master of ceremonies in a truly creditable manner.

Department Commander Jean B. Cain officiated as installing officer, after which he delivered an exceptionally appropriate address for the occasion. Among the many guests of honor were Major General Smith, Commander of the Seventh Corps area; Major General Duncan, retired; Allan Tukey, Sam Reynolds, Jake Isaacson, Anan Raymond, William Ritchie, City Commissioner Dean Noyes, Hird Stryker, and others.

The brief, inspiring speeches of Generals Smith and Duncan, were indeed interesting and seemed, as it were, to have "switched on the current of enthusiasm." Our distinguished visitors were unanimous in expressing their unrestrained pleasure of the affair and hearty co-operation, with the progressive efforts of the post. The report of Adj. R. L. Williams, on the "History of the Post," was very commendable. Throughout the entire evening, one could readily observe the prevalence of good will and comradeship that always characterizes legion activities.

Last but not least, the cigarettes and "eats" were abundantly in evidence; prepared, of course, by the post's efficient chef, Mr. James Bell. The delicious coffee that was prepared and served by Mrs. Lizzie Buford, demonstrator for McCord-Brady Wholesale company, must not escape commendable mention.

We wish to compliment the entertainment committee for the successful manner in which they staged the affair, making it possible for the entire post to share the many pleasant comments of our notable visitors.

### BOY LOCKED IN HOUSE IS BURNED TO DEATH

Mexia, Tex., Dec. 29—Mrs. Frank Winslow decided to take advantage of holiday bargain sales here Tuesday and took her son, Frank, aged 4 years to the home of her brother, Henry Lonzo. Mrs. Winslow and Mrs. Lonzo put the youngster to sleep, locked the house and left for their shopping tour. The house caught on fire of some undetermined origin and burned to the ground and the child was burned to death before firemen could rescue him.