

THE MONITOR

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS

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A BLOW AT INTOLERANCE

Governor McMullen has appointed Irvine Stallmaster, aged 31, judge of the district court to fill out the unexpired term of the late Judge Wakeley. The appointment is remarkable from two points of view: first, that of age. It is exceedingly rare, if not unprecedented, at least in this section that one so young should be clothed with this dignity; and secondly, from that of race, Judge Stallmaster being a Jew. His race or nationality ought not count against any man. His character, qualifications and ability should be the sole criteria of one's fitness for office or position. Unfortunately this is not true. Despite their character, training and ability, there is a prejudice, damnable prejudice, as all prejudice is, against the Jew, as there is against the Negro. He, too, is a victim of intolerance. It is therefore most praiseworthy that Governor

McMullen, in the face of popular prejudice and intolerance, should have the courage to smite intolerance a blow by the appointment of a Jew to the district bench. That Judge Stallmaster will measure up to the full dignity and duty of his office is not doubted by those who know him.

WILLIAM C. MATTHEWS

In the sudden death of William C. Matthews, our race has lost one of its outstanding leaders. Born, like so many of the strongest men, in the southland, young Matthews, eager for an education, found a way out. He first attended Tuskegee Institute where he received some elementary training. Thirsting for more knowledge and higher educational advantages, he went to Phillips Academy, thence to Harvard and graduated from law school of Boston university in 1907. His legal ability won recognition, as the positions which he held

attest. At the time of his death he was assistant attorney general of the United States. Wiring us to meet him a few weeks ago as he passed through our city, we had no idea that that was the last time we would see him in this earthly life. Gone to his reward he is only one of many who wrought well in his day and generation.

WE WANT TEACHERS

Let us not forget that the time is drawing near for the election of teachers. There are several of our young women who are eligible both by training and experience to have a place in our public schools. They will not be appointed, however, if we continue to be idle and do nothing about it. Let us get busy now and go in dead earnest, intelligently, but insistently, for this just recognition of our citizenship.

HOOVER ACTS

It is gratifying to record that Herbert Hoover has eliminated the hateful segregation obtaining in his department, which was called to his attention. Segregation of government employees on the ground of color in the departments at Washington must not be tolerated. It is unjust, undemocratic, un-American and subjects its victims to humiliation and embarrassment which this government cannot tolerate without stultification.

GOOD NEWS

It is certainly good news. Sears-Roebuck company has purchased a building and will soon open one of its branch stores in this city, which will give employment to about two hundred people. The policy of this company has always been to give a fair proportion of employment to our people in almost any and every capacity they are able to fill. We have no doubt that the same policy will obtain in its store here. The coming of this firm, as of that of Montgomery, Ward and Company, bespeaks the confidence that broad-visioned business men have in Omaha's future. Stop croaking, begin cheering and boosting for Omaha.

The Germans are a wonderful people. They have come to America on the sea, under the sea and over the sea. In the last exploit a brave Irishman kept them company.

LETTERS FROM READERS

"Not Finished But Begun"

Omaha, Neb., April 19—To the Editor of The Monitor: Now that the smoke and smell of the political battle have cleared away, let us reflect soberly upon some of the outstanding results as they affect us.

At this writing it is not known what the final result will be in close contests like that in the Ninth district where Dr. McMillan seems to have won over Dr. Singleton by a slim majority. The official canvass is not complete. This will change the count. Assuming, however, that all results will remain relatively the same, while we did not get all that we should have gotten, we proved beyond a shadow of a doubt, that our people are aroused as never before to the realization that if they are ever to be anything, or get anything worth while in this community, they must get out and dig for it for themselves. In this respect they showed marked improvement.

The result in a number of elective offices sought by us was substantial. The official canvass is not complete. The spirit of independence which was manifested in our people raised our prestige 100 per cent in the estimation of those who had heretofore looked upon us as mere things to be used during campaigns and forgotten immediately afterwards.

The vote given A. P. Scruggs for public defender was remarkable because it was spread at large over communities where the white vote was predominant. A vote such as that given Scruggs was more praiseworthy, though unsuccessful, than that given the other successful candidates whose vote was restricted to a single district.

The result in the Tenth district, where F. L. Barnett was nominated over three white opponents, was remarkable because of the personal elements there which would ordinarily militate against one of our own. Here was Hoffman, who advertised extensively and appealed to a racial group whose numbers were considerable, emerging with only 124 votes; Mehrens, who had the same advantages fared little better; Sam Klaver, his most formidable opponent, who came off with 360 votes, furnished the fear and surprise in this district. This Hebrew is a well known, clever and hard hitting young fellow and made us rather uneasy because in the Tenth district live many Jews. But Barnett beat him by 81 votes. Let us not forget that Barnett was nominated by a plurality and not a majority. Therefore, if Barnett retains his seat in the legislature he must be elected in November. Don't forget that the November election is his greatest hurdle and we must double our effort to win.

In the Ninth district we were confronted with what was by far the most interesting situation of all. Here we were confronted by the manipulation of a well-oiled political machine which was at its best and hitting on all cylinders. As I pointed out before, the machine picked our candidate for us in this district and told us through its "spokesmen" that we had to accept him or nothing at all. It had set out to punish Dr. Singleton for "disobedience" and employed all its high pressure tactics to accomplish that end. Plenty of money was spent, all those, who for obvious reasons, were obligated to the machine, were put in the field to defeat Singleton. It played the game shrewdly and well. Keep in mind that the machine virtually controls every candidate in that district except Singleton—democrat and republican. Here is how it played its cards: First, it withdrew Parker, the only white republican, and enlisted his services for McMillan. He was to throw all his white friends' votes to McMillan. Second, it selected a professional man that he might compare with Singleton in intellectual qualifications. Third, either by accident or design, they chose a name that sounds Irish, and discreetly avoided explanations or introduction to his white friends. This explains in part why McMillan carried all the white precincts and none of the colored. With all these trump cards, the machine, after much sweating, finally came off with a majority of only 20 votes which the official count may radically reduce. May I repeat that with an abundance of well paid workers, plenty of money and not particular how it was spent, with many at work who by reason of their "business" were compelled to serve it, and all the disguises and pulling of candidates, the machine was not able to carry a single precinct in which the colored vote predominated. It is here very evident that McMillan was most certainly not the choice of the colored people whom he seeks to represent. It is quite evident from

Do gambling dens, buffet flats and speakeasies contribute to the welfare and upbuilding of any community?

this showing that the colored people who fought political servitude in order to establish economic freedom and equality were not inclined to entrust their cause into the hands of one whose hands were tied onto a ruthless political machine, whose dictates he must obey. They made a very definite challenge to any power that be, the right to choose for them and force them to accept that choice. The better thinking people gave warning that their integrity and self respect must be preserved at any cost.

They fought, not so much for the preference of either candidate as for the establishment of a principle and the recovery of our long lost racial integrity and political prestige. This, we feel sure, we did regardless of the result of the primary.

Let me warn Dr. McMillan that the fight is not finished, but just begun. It is one thing to be nominated at the primaries, and quite another to be elected at the general election. Voters are restricted to party choice in the primary, but are free to vote for anybody in the general election. The campaign in the Ninth engendered a bitterness that I fear will not die before the November election. Can Dr. McMillan succeed in welding these broken sentiments after being nominated under the circumstances he was, is the great question that he and he alone must answer. The fight in this district will now be between a white democrat, who is also a machine product, and a colored republican, who is a

machine product. To which of these two will the machine give its heaviest support in November? They have accomplished, in the defeat of Singleton, about all they wanted with McMillan. Will they be as loyal and energetic to the end? I have my doubts, knowing the tricks of a machine as I do. McMillan has elected to sit in on a game with the most skillful political gamblers to be found anywhere. They never lose a trick without knowing it and seldom at all. They can spot every trump in the deck and can read another's hand well. My presumption is that McMillan is not skilled in the game in which he is sitting. He has got to be absolutely and complacently obedient or he will awake to find himself shorn of all his covering and be kicked out into the cold with only the proverbial barrel around him. He laughs best whose laugh lasts.

GEO. H. W. BULLOCK.

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