

THE MONITOR

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS

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AN IMPORTANT WORD TO SUBSCRIBERS

The postal regulations require that for newspapers to be sent through the mails subscriptions must be paid in advance. A reasonable time, thirty days, is allowed for renewals. At the expiration of this period, where subscriptions are not renewed, the paper must be stopped. If this is not done, postal privileges are denied the publication. Those, therefore, who desire to continue receiving The Monitor must see to it that their subscriptions are paid, as the law requires, in advance. Statements are being sent to all those who owe, or our collector will call—and unless your subscription is paid we will be compelled to cut off your paper which, of course, we do not want to do.

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

A GOOD APPOINTMENT

The appointment of Dr. John A. Singleton as the member from Nebraska of the Advisory Board of the Colored Voters Division of the National Republican Committee is a commendable one from many viewpoints. Dr. Singleton is a young man of ability and energy, active in political affairs, an ardent, loyal and enthusiastic republican, and can be relied upon to take seriously whatever task may be assigned him. His appointment is a recognition of the younger element in the political field, a recognition, which in our judgment, in certain quarters, has been too long postponed. Young men, as a rule, bring enthusiasm and vision, to any task assigned them.

GOOD WORK—EXTEND IT

The Monitor believes that the Bee-News has acted wisely, and what is of more importance, justly, in giving the position of District Manager to a competent member of our race in the person of Mr. Toby James. His appointment means enlarged opportunities for our boys as carriers. We believe in reciprocity. We have always contended that it was manifestly unfair on the part of firms and corporations which receive a comparatively large support and revenue from our people to refuse to give us employment. For this reason we always note with gratification and pleasure any and every well-intentioned effort to remove this injustice.

This is not the first time an Omaha newspaper has tried this experiment. Some years ago the Omaha Daily News, if our memory is not faulty, gave employment to one of our race in a like capacity. It is gratifying to see the custom revived and we believe that the Bee-News will find it a paying proposition as our people are becoming increasingly responsive to fair play and square dealing in industrial opportunities.

We hope that the World-Herald may find it practicable also to find some remunerative employment for our people, and that the Telephone Company and public service corporations will do likewise. Let the good work go on.

AN OPEN LETTER TO

J. FINLEY WILSON

By Kelly Miller

August 21, 1928.

My dear Mr. Wilson:

I have just read in this morning's Washington Post your letter to Secretary Work declining to serve as a member of his advisory colored staff. Your declared attitude is expressive of a widespread spirit of revolt which is well nigh continuous with the colored race. I note that a representative body of colored men will assemble in Chicago on August 24th to give formal expression of this hitherto inarticulate feeling of revolt. There can be little or no doubt of the universality of this feeling. Many, of course, will adhere to fortune of the G. O. P. by political inertia acquired from the moral momentum imparted in the good old days when the party was at its best. It is the law of inertia to continue forever in the same direction unaltered in direction and unaccelerated in speed. Then,

again, there are those who are constrained by the fear of the direful consequences which might follow in the train of democratic victory. They tell us that in a certain tragic eventuality, an Arkansas democrat may be placed at the head of the nation. These things are held up as scare-crows to frighten the cautious and timid into eternal submission to the republican party, notwithstanding its apostasy from its former ideals. They tell us that it is better to endure the ills we have than to fly to those we know not of.

Is Longer Submission Wise?

The race has been following this line of admonition. The longer we tamely submit the bolder does our aforesaid political friends become in heaping hardship and injustice upon us. If we continue in this submissive way for the next forty years every vestige of our political rights will be frittered away in the household of our friends. Even now the marginal difference between the attitude of the two parties is a matter of latitude rather than one of political creed. The republicans of the north and the democrats of that section profess and practice a like attitude towards the Negro's rights under the law. The difference between southern democrats and lily white republicans remains to be isolated and defined. The Negro must no longer be frightened by political bogeymen. He must soberly consider how much differently would he fare under an Arkansas democrat than under a Vermont republican.

Reason for Revolt Plain

The reason for this revolt is so self obvious that the republican party is forced to acknowledge and appreciate it. Of course, during the cam-

aign season they always promise better things, if the black man will just help them out this time. The same old ruse has been worked for ten quadrenniums. But after each success the G. O. P. has not only forgotten its pre-election promise, but has grown bold and ruthless in its reactionary attitude. At the end of each quadrennium we find ourselves pushed further and further down on the scale of political privilege and preferment.

Two generations of unyielding obedience ought to count as payment in full for the debt of gratitude which we owe the party of Lincoln and Sumner for what it accomplished in the days of its pristine moral grandeur. But continued gratitude in the face of flagrant injustice is a psychological impossibility. Wounded friendship is more grievous to bear than avowed enmity.

Grievances Named

The Negro's grievance against the republican party rests upon the following partial bill of particulars which every Negro feels and resents, however, they may differ in the mode of manifesting their resentment. The abandonment of the 14th and 15th amendments was begun under President Hayes and completed under President Coolidge. When the Kansas City convention deliberately refused to put the 14th and 15th amendments on the party agenda along with the 18th amendment it thereby drove the last nail in the coffin of our political expectations and clinched it on the other side. The stubborn protest of the 50 Negro delegates went unheeded, as if unheard.

The deliberate and ruthless crucifixion of Perry Howard, the displacement of Ben Davis from the national committee, the flattening out of Walter Cohen of Louisiana by the lily white steam roller, the threatening of Robert R. Church, the noblest Roman of them all, amply put the Negro leadership on warning that its regime has come to an end, and that the triumph of the lily whites is at hand. The whole race must resent with the unrelenting animosity the deep damnation of their taking off. The low cunning of the coward was resorted to. All of these men were charged with political peccadillos and sustained with the stigma of dishonesty and dishonor. The Grand Old Party, which condoned a regime of corruption unparalleled in the history of our government, assumed the livery of righteousness and condemns those black offenders who it is alleged were profiting by a few dollars. There was not one word of open con-

demnation of Daugherty and Fall and Teapot Dome. But Ben Davis and Perry Howard must be stamped with the brand of everlasting infamy. Surely, the Negro has borne the white man's transgressions and the chastisement of his peace is upon us. We are bruised for his iniquity.

Haiti Raped

The Negro is not unmindful of the fact that the republican party brutally raped our little Haitian sister and forcibly deprived her of the virtue of self liberty. Instead of playing the big brother, this nation has become the big bully to the struggling weak and helpless. The justifying plea is as old as oppression. The exploiter always professes to dominate the weak for the benefit of the over-riden. The institution of slavery was for the good of the slave.

Civil Service Manipulation

The republican party has manipulated the civil service so as to make it practically impossible for the Negro to recruit the clerical force. By requiring photographs which at once condemn the Negro applicant and by allowing heads of bureaus the power of choice among three certified candidates, the Negro is effectively shut out from the qualified service. The time when a colored persons has been certified and accepted almost runs against the memory of man. There were at one time 45 colored clerks in the pension office, now the number has been reduced to five and the ranks are still thinning. A lake that has an outlet but no intake will soon run dry. This is an unpardonable piece of meanness on the part of the federal government. It deliberately cheats the deserving Negro out of his justly earned due. And yet the republican party stands complacently by although this matter has been over and again called to its attention.

(Continued on Page 3)

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ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE.

COMING

Madam Florence Cole-Talbot will be presented in recital here Monday evening, September 24, by a committee of ladies of which Mrs. John Albert Williams is chairman.—Adv.

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