

The Voice

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EDITORIALS

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by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent
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There has long been a tradition in Nebraska that the census of 1890 was heavily padded, at least in certain cities. This tradition is based in part upon the statements of historians who wrote from personal recollection, and in part on the great increase in population between 1880 and 1890, and the marked decline between 1890 and 1900. Dr. Edgar Z. Palmer, chairman of the Department of Business Research at the University of Nebraska, looked in to the census of 1890 recently and published the results of his study in the December issue of *Nebraska History*.

Dr. Palmer found that the figures were rather startling. Omaha, for example, increased from 30,518 in 1880 to 140,452 in 1890, and then dropped back to 102,555 in 1900. The figures for Lincoln show a similar trend: 1880, 13,003; 1890, 55,154; 1900, 40,169. Other cities in the same category are: Hastings, Beatrice, Plattsmouth, Nebraska City and Crete. The figures for Hastings are as startling as any: 2,817 in 1880; 13,584 in 1890, and 7,188 in 1900.

A part of this change, Dr. Palmer points out, is but a reflection of the times. The decade of the 1880's was Nebraska's period of greatest growth, while the 1890's were years of calamity in which much of the progress of the earlier decade was lost. Yet these conditions, he concludes, hardly account for all of the wide variation observable in the figures of certain cities.

Devising a test which made use of the vote for governor and the school census as well as the population, he found a rather close relationship between the population change and the changes in the vote and school census—except in those counties containing a suspect city: Adams (with Hastings), Gage (with Beatrice), Cass (with Plattsmouth), Otoe (with Nebraska City), Lancaster (with Lincoln), Douglas (with Omaha) and Saline (with Crete).

These cities are all in southeastern Nebraska, and they include almost all of the sizable cities in the area. No city from any other part of the state seems to be involved. The only other city which

Mrs. M. C. Terrell Praised for Ending Jim Crow in D.C. Store

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—The recent "Hecht victory" has brought hundreds of messages of congratulation to Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, chairman of the organization that persuaded the department store to end jim crow at its lunch-counter, it was revealed last week.

Members of congress, leaders in civic and church affairs were among those who hailed the successful end of 11 months of boycott and picketing by members and friends of the Coordinating Committee for the Enforcement of the D. C. Anti-Discrimination Laws.

Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. wired Mrs. Terrell:

"Heartiest congratulations on your well-deserved victory at Hecht's." Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey wrote:

"It was kind of you to inform me of your recent successful efforts to eliminate segregation in Washington, D. C. You know of my strong efforts toward that single objection. I now wish you further success in your court trial."

Mrs. Terrell is party to a suit against Thompson Restaurant Company charging that failure to serve "well-behaved persons of any race" in Thompson restaurants violates an 1873 statute. A decision in the case, which, if favorable may end discrimination in all Washington restaurants, is expected later this year in the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Dr. Dorothy B. Ferebee, National President of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., told Mrs. Terrell that the Council "joins me in congratulating you

showed a substantial drop from 1890 to 1900 was Kearney, and Kearney had a terrific boom in the late 1880's which collapsed with devastating effect in the 1890's.

and your committee upon your fearless battle against racial discrimination in the city of Washington in the defense of the dignity of man."

Dr. E. B. Henderson, chairman of the executive committee of the Fairfax County branch of the NAACP said:

"May I congratulate you and your co-workers upon the brilliant feat of confounding the proponents of racial fascism and achieving success in the Hecht battle?"

Charles R. Allen Jr., assistant editor of The Nation Magazine, also congratulated Mrs. Terrell. He told her the magazine will run a report on the Hecht victory shortly.

Other congratulatory messages were sent by Chris Rasmussen, of the St. Peter Claver Center; Robert Kelso of the American Humanist Association, Yellow Springs, O.; and Mrs. Gertrude Evans, chairman of the Progressive Party for the District of Columbia.

Mrs. Terrell also reported that an account of the Committee's fight to open Washington restaurants to everyone, entitled "Negroes, Restaurants, and Washington, D. C.," by Adolph Schalk, appeared in the January issue of "The Catholic World."

The Committee is currently negotiating with Lansburgh & Brothers in an effort to get that store to abandon its policy of discrimination.

Observes Brotherhood Year-Around

CHICAGO (ANP)—Although most of the country paused last week to observe "Brotherhood Week," the Kenwood school in Chicago continued about its usual practice for in this school brotherhood is a year-round observance. Serving about 900 pupils representing some 20 nationalities, the school instills into the young future leaders traits of friendliness which cross racial and religious lines. The atmosphere here approaches what the National Conference of Christians and Jews strive for during Brotherhood Week.

Among the pupils at Kenwood are 20 Negroes, 20 Japanese and Chinese. About 450 of the pupils are Jews. "We have no active discrimination here," said J. Mel O'Bourke, principal of the school. Many adults could profit from programs at the school. One of the songs sung at the school stressed the need for all Americans to treat one another as brothers.

"It's American to be a friendly neighbor," children sing daily in

a favorite ditty in the first grade class. Six year-olds sing the words and gesture their meaning.

One of the most popular boys at the school is Bobby Gordon, a colored first grade pupil.

"Gee, he knows all about Lincoln and can sing 'Oh! Susanna!'" said a red-headed playmate.

Located in a neighborhood which is rapidly changing in population, Kenwood was organized as a "pilot school," and is trying out special methods to foster good human relations.

"We cash in on the innate qualities of these children to respect each other," explained Miss Rose Schwartz, first grade teacher. "We teach that each has something to offer."

The school's reaction to prejudice was summed up by three students in the fifth grade after a rejected-child situation was acted out. This type of socio-drama is used extensively by Kenwood teachers.

"It's all very silly to act like that, isn't it?" teachers asked the class.

The pupils agreed.

200,000 Fewer Vets In School in 1951

WASHINGTON (ANP)—There were 200,000 fewer veterans enrolled in training under the GI Bill of Rights at the close of 1951 than there were a year ago, according to a survey conducted by the Veterans Administration.

Nearly 1,500,000 World War II veterans were training at the close of 1951 as compared to 1,700,000 a year ago, the survey disclosed. This represented a drop of 16 per cent.

The decline was appreciably less than that which occurred from 1949 to 1950. End-of-year enrollments in 1950 were 26 per cent under the 1949 figure of 2,300,000.

The peak of the huge veterans' training program came at the end of 1947, when more than 2,500,000 veterans were enrolled in schools, on the farm or on the job.

A Great Loss

In the death of Mrs. Eileen Lytle, the Urban League and Lincoln lost a person who said little but did much to solidify true race relations. Her family and a host of friends lost the quiet driving, penetrating spirit of a personality as sensitive as she was kind—as concerned with the welfare of her fellowmen as she was oblivious to her own health and well-being.

For Mrs. Lytle it didn't take a brotherhood week or a race-relations week to place special emphasis upon the treatment and well-being of all races. It took only a day, every day was that special day.

Lynnwood Parker

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