

EDITORIALS

THE OMAHA GUIDE

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Race prejudice must go. The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man must prevail. These are the only principles which will stand the acid test of good.

All News Copy of Churches and all Organizations must be in our office not later than 5:00 p. m. Monday for current issue. All Advertising Copy or Paid Articles not later than Wednesday noon, preceding date of issue, to insure publication.

THE NEW CARS ARE OUT

Last month automobile shows were held throughout the country

The new cars are more beautiful in design and finish than ever before. They offer much in the way of improvements and gadgets, their power plants deliver staggering performance—you can push the throttle down and run up to eighty or ninety m. p. h. without trouble—so far as the mechanics of your car are concerned.

However, the emphasis placed on speed has been productive of one of the gravest national "troubles" America has ever known—the growing accident toll. And the driver who thinks that seventy is safe because it seems as slow as thirty used to should think again.

Silent engine performance won't help if we encounter a cement guard rail at a high rate of speed. Effortless steering won't make a head-on collision less destructive. Lack of vibration won't help the undertaker patch us together after the wrecking crew gets the body out with blow torches.

But these modern cars are magnificent examples of safety—engineering—blue-print safety. Brakes stop a hurtling machine in amazingly short distance, without sway or shock. All steel bodies will take a lot of punishment without serious damage. Steering mechanisms are next to fool proof. And the tire manufacturers have done their bit by reducing the blowout hazard to a minimum.

Yet each year's safety improvements have been followed by more accidents—and by more serious accidents, not less severe accidents. Why? Because we, the motoring public have overestimated the safety factor of the new cars, just as we have overestimated the safety factor of wider, better surfaced highways. The cars and the roads have improved—and so we take chances that lead to disaster.

The new, super-performing cars are out. Maybe you are lucky enough to be able to buy one. Have a good time with it—but treat it with respect and remember that 36,000 people die and many times more are injured and maimed on streets and highways every year. Don't add to that list.

"Only those who have followed the sad record of the relations between the United States and the governments of the countries to the south of us can really appreciate the epochal change that President Roosevelt has brought to the inter-American scene."

critics so far as the domestic policy is concerned—the United States News of November 30.

About all the average citizen knows about U. S. foreign policy as related to the other countries in this hemisphere is that it is governed by something celebrated and vague called the Monroe Doctrine. Probably not one citizen in a hundred could accurately tell you what the Monroe Doctrine provides. And probably not one citizen in a hundred realizes that the Doctrine has been virtually a dead letter for several years and, as well, has caused a vast amount of unfriendly feeling toward this country in the Republics to the south.

Briefly and roughly described, the Monroe Doctrine meant that the United States would not permit any European government to take over territory in Latin America—that the U. S. would act as a "Big Brother" in protecting Latin American territorial rights as well as its own. This seemed fair enough—but the Doctrine had not been in effect long before discord arose. More than a century ago, Brazil requested that the Doctrine, in David Lawrence's words, "be made international, that it become a sort of offensive and defensive alliance in which all Latin countries should join with the United States in keeping European armies and navies out of this part of the world."

Consequently, the Latin Republics came to feel, rightly or wrongly, that the U. S. was taking advantage of the Doctrine to rule their countries. This feeling was strengthened by sending U. S. marines south whenever trouble appeared in a Latin American nation.

There are no marines in Latin America now—and it seems doubtful if any will be sent there again. It is a curious fact that both Hoover and Roosevelt took the initiative in withdrawing the last of these agents of what Latin America considered "U. S. Imperialism." No longer does Washington take the position that it will back up any foreign ventures of American citizens with armed force if necessary. Our citizens now travel in Latin America at their own risk, and are subject to the laws of the countries where they go. Diplomacy will be used to help them in difficulties—but not force. In other words, their status is exactly the same as if traveling in England, France and other European countries.

What is the result of all this, in eyes of many American

Editor Warns Harlem In School Fight



Editor Fred R. Moore of the New York Age, and Mrs. Moore

Photo shows Editor Fred R. Moore of the New York Age, dean of Harlem editors, being served tea by his wife, Mrs. Ida L. Moore. Editor Moore, recently in an article headed "A Dangerous Path" warned Harlem in its current fight against certain public school principals as follows:

We are with the agitators one hundred per cent when they are right, but when they veer off at a tangent, it is time for us to call attention to their faults. By continuing to rave and

fight against certain public school principals in the school of Harlem the agitators are building up a wall of color prejudice which if allowed to continue unabated, will have wide repercussions throughout the city. Just as the Negro parents can agitate against white teachers, so can white parents agitate against Negro teachers. Agitation on the basis of color alone, conducted by Negroes, always reacts to the Negro's disfavor.

observers, the result will be a genuine feeling of friendship for us on the part of the Republics to the south—and there are signs that such a feeling is now developing, though much suspicion remains. There is also the hope that dormant trade will be revived, and that by example the Western Hemisphere will show the world how nations can live without war, settling their differences by amicable conferences. Furthermore, it is hoped that treaties will be effected whereby European powers wishing war materials will find the raw material markets of North and South America—the greatest in the world—firmly closed to them.

Mr. Roosevelt's speech at the recent Pan-American conference is generally considered one of the best he has made—in it he handled a delicate task well. Credit for the groundwork is given to Secretary Hull, who has spent his public life working quietly for peace, and for better commercial and diplomatic relations between powers.

Business Week has published an interest chart showing the business record state by state—comparing the first nine months of 1936 to the same period last year.

Biggest improvement in passenger motor car sales—38 per cent—occurred in the Pacific Coast states, with the Mountain group running a close second with 35 per cent. In commercial car sales, however, the East South Central states were first up 37 per cent, with second place shared by the East North Central and West South Central states—which showed an advance of 31 per cent each.

The Middle Atlantic commonwealths led by far in heavy construction, with an improvement of 121 per cent. Second was the East South Central group, advancing 81 per cent.

Biggest gain in electric power output, 21 per cent, occurred in the South Atlantic group, with the Mountain group second with 19 per cent.

Farm income gained most in New England, 23 per cent, with the Mountain states, West North Central states and East North Central states, all showing a 16 per cent jump.

Value of checks drawn—one of the most accurate of business barometers—increased 19 per cent in Pacific states, the largest gain. Second with 18 per cent were the North Central states.

Russians are imprisoning writers of bad scenarios. The old plan was to send them to Hollywood.

RETREAT CUT OFF

She—I ought to leave you and go home to mother.
He (Angrily)—Well, why don't you?
She—I can't. She's left father and is coming here to live with us. (Pathfinder)

Ask "Color" On Social Security Blanks

New York, Dec. 19 (C)—The eleventh question on the application for an account number under the Social Security Act makes it mandatory that the color of the applicant, whether "white or Negro be stated."

47 ON HONOR ROLL AT MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 19 (C)—The semi-annual scholarship honor roll of Morehouse college, announced last week by Dan B. R. Brazael, contained 47 names. Each man listed maintained an average of B or better.

Columbus Voice Has Ninth Birthday

Columbus, O., Dec. 19 (C)—The Columbus Voice, 385 Woodland avenue, Mrs. Florence W. Oakfield, publisher, and Ernest J. Yancy, editor, announced an expansion program as it passed its ninth year last week.

SCORE 95 PER CENT IN TREE PLANTING CONTEST

Biteley, Mich., Dec. 19 (C)—Company 2694 of the CC camps won first place in the second annual tree planting contest in this state with a score of 95 per cent. The boys planted trees at top speed for fifteen minutes.

White Women Study American Negro

Singer Finds Eager Interest In Accomplishments of Race

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 19 (Special)—Will the influence of women, white and colored, become a really potent influence in improving relationship and understanding between the races?

Etta Moten, who is on a concert tour of the south during which she has sung at points in Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Florida and North Carolina, and has had one stimulating experience after another, described an incident to interviewers here this week which would indicate that such a possibility is not merely in the realm of conjecture.

The discussion leader of the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal church, south, the most fashionable church in Little Rock, had called on Miss Moten and presented a picture of her work, detailing the changed outlook which it had given her. The leader, Mrs. Cozart, a daughter of the old aristocratic south, had attended a Missionary Institute at which leaders of several states were enrolled for training in the study program to be presented in their various churches during the winter. Arriving, she found that the subject to be presented during the next six months was "The American Negro."

Feeling that the women of her church would never be interested in any such program, she protested to the instructor that there was nothing for her to learn about Negroes; her father had worked many on his plantation in Mississippi, and she knew all about them. Prevailed upon, however, to remain for the course, she became so amazed and interested that she confessed to the instructor before it was over that she could scarcely wait to return home and arrange for the formation of the class in her church.

She found a ready response among not all, but a majority of women in the First church. They wondered at their lack of knowledge of these people who had always lived right at their doors as the leader posed to them such questions as "who wrote the first Negro symphony? Who is Charles S. Johnson? Where is Tuskegee? In what city is Fisk university? What great scientist has made many products from the peanut and sweet potato." They were eager to know more, and asked for additional examinations and information of the same type.

So Mrs. Cozart arranged a program which she invited several Little Rock colored people including a group of college singers, college president Gregg, and a housewife. Learning Miss Moten was in Little Rock, she had come to ask her if she would come and talk with them.

Miss Moten went, and found a packed lecture room full of the leading women of Little Rock including members of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Daughters of the War of 1812 who had been invited. Almost as gifted a speaker as she is a singer, Miss Moten told them about the accomplishments of Negroes, particularly in music and the fine arts. She sketched the careers and achievements of Caterino Jarboro, Marian Anderson, Florence Cole-Talbert, Lillian Evanti, James Weldon and Rosamond Johnson, Harry Burleigh, Hall Johnson, Eva Jessye, Dr. DuBois, Dr. R. R. Moten, and Dr. F. R. Patterson.

The wave of interest was electric. Expressions of appreciation were profused. The wife of the editor of the "Arkansas Gazette," the leading newspaper of the section, drove her to the "Gazette" office and to her next appointment.

The following night, when Miss Moten sang at Dunbar High School, the women of the First church were there in force and sent a gorgeous basket of flowers.

"I admit," said Miss Moten, "that more than ever before I am impressed with the possibilities which lie before a better understanding between the women of the white and black groups. I hope our women, particularly those who are trained and have a message which may be serviceable but who frequently are as reserved in approaching or becoming interested in whites as they are in us, will embrace every opportunity to cultivate greater appreciation on their part. After all, we are all just women under the skin, and if tolerance, a community of interest can be developed, who can tell what rewards it may bring, economically and spiritually for our whole group, and indeed our common country."

KELLY MILLER SAYS

DEPARTMENT OF THE NEGRO FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE

Both political parties in the recent campaign avowed their devotion to the principle of Civil Service reform. Governor Landon injected the issue before accepting the platform as drawn up by his party. Not to be outdone, President Roosevelt forthwith extended the Civil Service so as to include postmaster of lower rank and grade.

The Civil Service Reform League has been aroused to renewed interest and activity touching this great reform which it inaugurated more than fifty years ago.

It is probably not the consciousness of the President, the Congress or of the Civil Service Reform League that its principles are vitiated when applied to the Negro race. For years I have individually tried my best through the press and direct correspondence, to impress upon these dignitaries how this law breaks down when applied to citizens of color. It would seem that I have failed utterly. It is difficult to impress upon public consciousness a matter about which it does not desire to be reminded.

Several years ago I had an important conference with the then Civil Service Commissioner, ex-Governor Campbell. He frankly told me that the colored applicant did not have the ghost of a chance of appointment to clerical service except in certain segregated assignments. He expressed his full appreciation of the injustice to the race. The responsibility, he feared, does not lodge with the Civil Service Commission itself, which grades all applicants fairly, and certifies them according to their standing; but when the case comes before the appointing officer, there is the rub. These appointing officers are given certain discretions by the law to select among the names submitted or they may reject the entire list. The identity of the applicant must be known to the appointing officer else he would be deprived of discretion, which it appears, the law intends he should have.

The exchange of fingerprints for photographs would be of little benefit for the colored applicant since his identity must be established. The introduction of photographs as a means of identification was for the purpose of preventing the fraud of substituted names. The Civil Service Commission advised me some year ago that the substitution of fingerprints for photographs would be a very expensive procedure requiring the Commission to maintain fingerprint experts wherever a Civil Service examination is held.

The control of the departments of the government is placed in the hands of the President by the Constitution. He has full authority over the entire Civil Service machinery. If the matter of basic injustice to the colored race can be clearly impressed upon his mind; there is not the slightest doubt that he would find some remedy either in the modification of the law or in its enforcement.

Now is the strategic time for the colored race to unite in some effective method of impressing this injustice upon members of Congress and upon the President in such manner that they will be constrained to grant he colored applicant fair play or stultify the good name of the government. To invite the colored applicants to Civil Service examination and then to cheat him out of his justly earned reward would be condemned by gamblers. Surely the Federal Government cannot be guided by a lower standard of ethics.

Congressman Mitchell has expressed his purpose of introducing a bill in Congress to substitute fingerprints for photographs as means of identifying Civil Service applicants. As stated above this would do little or no good. But as the leader of the race political character as well as individuals who have the ear of public officials by their activity in the last campaign, should fall behind Congressman Mitchell, uphold his hand, and suggest modifications and strengthening of the bill which he intends, to introduce that it will accomplish the purpose intended.

It hardly think that any measure can be presented to the incoming administration which is more feasible and more likely of accomplishment than this. Here is a measure upon which all Negroes can and should unite.

Kelly Miller