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J. B. BASS, EDITOR.

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PEACE!

PROSPERITY!!!

UNION!!!

It is well for the complexion of the 60th Congress that the order dishonorably discharging the battalion of the 25th Infantry was withheld until after the election.

True to the spirit of the moss-back democracy the Independent says let bygones be bygones. It is the same old story in the same old way.

In patronizing the various firms for the necessities of life we urge our readers to look over the advertisements that appear in these columns. It is a good barometer as to the appreciation of your patronage and the progress of enterprise conducted by our people.

Evidently President Roosevelt does not believe in the Book of Books, wherein it teaches that it is better that ninety and nine guilty escape than that one that is innocent shall be punished; but on the contrary ninety and nine innocent shall be punished rather than one whom is guilty shall escape.

There has been quite a little sentiment expressed by some few of our progressive citizens regarding the forming of a Business Protective Association, having for its object the promotion of business enterprises by our people. The movement is a splendid one, and has the active and unstinted support of THE PLAINDEALER. After certain matters of a public nature, which we are busily engaged in at the time, are settled, we shall do our utmost to assist in putting such an organization on foot, in which we shall asked for the united support of that part of our citizenship which is desirous of accomplishing something for the material advancement of our race.

Dishonorable Discharge of the Twenty-fifth Infantry

The sole topic of discussion for the last few days, especially among the members of the Colored Race, has been what has universally been termed the harsh action of President Roosevelt, in dishonorably discharging from the United States Army Companies B, C and D,—a whole Battalion of the famous 25th Infantry. This action has been so contrary to what has been the President's attitude toward a struggling race, that we have been overwhelmed in the premises, and view with alarm the possible results to follow in its wake.

While we have not at hand the minute details of the Brownsville trouble we can think of no exigency that would bring down upon the head of three-fourths of the men of this Battalion, who are entirely innocent of this extreme and humiliating disgrace.

Men who have spent the best years of their lives, their ambition almost reached,—to retire after their thirty years of service with only a few months more of service, entirely innocent, as well as the black heroes who scaled the heights of Elcaney and San Juan, and who have been awarded the medals that heroes wear, for gal-

lant services rendered their country by Congress, though innocent they may be, must suffer this galling penalty.

We do not condone the crime which was committed at Brownsville by some of the soldiers, nor do we condemn the men who refused to turn informers on their comrades, more especially so when they apprehended the stake, and most certainly the rope would be their portion. But why not discipline the probable guilty one,—and that would be very liberal,—but when it comes to putting the ban on those who were at the barracks in their bunks, or at home with their wives, absent on leave, etc., we certainly think it an injustice, and we hope the President will see the injustice meted out to the innocent, and rescind this order. Petitions are being sent in from all over this land, asking that this be done. The liberal white journals of the country discuss the matter in this vein, and the Negro press for once is unanimous in the belief that an injustice has been done. We are loath to believe that President Roosevelt will not do the right thing in the matter, and will yet, in some manner, right the apparent wrong which has been put in vogue.

Opinions of Other Exchanges

This summary action of the President will hardly commend him to the sober judgment and approval of his just and conscientious countrymen, or justify him according to the rules of military ethics. There was, undoubtedly, in this large number of enlisted men and officers, some who knew who the real perpetrators of the crime were, and others who did not know them; and to dismiss these men in disgrace, and forever debar them from re-enlistment in the Army and Navy, or employment in any civil capacity under the United States Government, simply because they would not deliver up one of their comrades to be burned alive by scoundrels, is shameful in the extreme. If this is military discipline, then we say, to hell with military discipline! The colored soldiers did right to have nothing to do with it. We commend them for it. Had they known and told who the guilty ones were, and they had been delivered up to the Brownsville civil authorities, there would have been a lynching bee the next night, and the United States would have been the last to afford them military protection. As it is, they will not be disarmed, de-uniformed and then turned over to the Brownsville authorities. We pity them!—Excerpt Bee, Wash., D. C.

The President has issued orders dishonorably discharging the men of the Battalion of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, stationed in Texas. This was done because the men refused to disclose the identity of the men who were in the shooting scrape at Brownsville. In this matter grave injustice has been done the innocent men of the Battalion who would not perjure themselves to be retained in the Service. One significant fact about the matter was the publishing of the orders the morning after the Election.—Savannah Tribune.

On the Move

The gentry who reside in the tenderloin district are up in arms at this time on account of the city officials having the temerity to put a higher tax on their lives of leisure and shame. Some of them actually rebel and say that it is entirely wrong to tax any higher the man that works, even if he does live with a "siren" in that locality; but that is no news to tell Chief Flannery, and with commendable zeal the campaign against this vicious citizenship will be waged until they shall find Helena not a very desirable place for their vocation of leisure and they will truly be on the move.

SQUARE-DEAL AND DOOR-OF-HOPE POLICY IS SUSPENDED

ALL RACE JOURNALS SO DECLARE

Upon the recommendation of Brig-Gen. E. A. Darlington, Inspector General of the Army, President Roosevelt has ordered the dishonorable discharge of every man of Companies B, C, and D of the 25th Infantry, for alleged complicity in the Brownsville fracas of August 13, in which one white man was killed, and several injured. It is not alleged that all the men of this battalion were concerned in the fracas, but it is alleged that they refused to give such information whatever concerning the affair as would lead to the apprehension of the alleged guilty parties.

This action of the President is considered extraordinary by army men and civilians. It is carrying into the Federal Government the demand of the Southern white devils that innocent and law-abiding black men shall help the legal authorities spy out and deliver practically to the mob black men alleged to have committed one sort of crime. The principle involved is not only vicious and contrary to the spirit of our Constitution, but

up by the government and a demand made on the companies involved to reveal the names of the parties to the troubles. Fearing they would be lynched, the soldiers defied the demands of their superior officers, and stuck together, mum. As a result, the President, the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, ordered the Companies dishonorably discharged. To a civilian who knows nothing of the rigid discipline of the Army this act of the President looks like a piece of pure prejudice and Negro hatred, and a cowardly catering to the proud, unbridled passion of the bloodthirsty element of the white South; but Army rules and discipline are not matters of mercy and sympathy, and our judgment in such matters may not always be just. We could never understand why a man should be shot to death for running when he is frightened in battle, but it is said the rules of the Army require it. The same President who issues this terrible order, in the same breath issues an order asking that a prominent white colonel of the Army be punished severely for using offensive language about Negro soldiers at Fort Sheridan, and the whole business may be a part of the great play of Uncle Sam's Army. The President, in our opinion, did very wrong, and played into the hands of the worst element of the South when he disgraced the men who saved the flag for a people who tried to shoot it full of holes. If the soldiers did wrong they should have been punished, but the witnesses upon whose testimony they were punished should have been freer from race hatred and prejudice than were the Texas witnesses.—Conservator.

DON'T STOP WITH THE SOLDIERS

The discharge of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, as ordered by the President, may be a necessary proceeding in Army discipline. The troops have refused to give the names of those of their number who are guilty of the Brownsville, Texas, riots of August 13. There is something heroic in this standing of soldiers for their friends and comrades, even if it is a kind of heroism or loyalty that may not safely be countenanced in the Army. But it does seem that if these Negro troops are punished for refusing to answer questions, there should be a little more equitable application of the system all along the line. There should be some expeditious way to make others tell the truth about the violation of the law. The refuge of "constitutional rights" should not be allowed to protect rich grafters when it may not be invoked to secure immunity for troops who have violated Army discipline.—Kansas City Times.

is an outrage upon the rights of citizens who are entitled in civil life to trial by jury, and in military life to trial by court-martial.

Any black man in any part of the United States Army who offers to enlist in the United States Army to fill the places of those innocent, but dishonorably discharged men should be hated and spurned by all the members of the Army in the 25th Infantry, and by the Afro-American people at large; and any member of the 25th Infantry whose term expires should not re-enlist in the service, which has so little regard for him that it gives him no promotion in the Army, however meritorious his service, and no protection in his civilian rights when a mob of hoodlums in a Southern town seeks to do him bodily injury and he retaliates, as he should, and as all Afro-Americans should, under like circumstances. If we cannot have a change of policy in the War Department toward Afro-American troops in all directions, The Age earnestly advises the members of the three remaining black regiments not to re-enlist when their term expires, and that Afro-Americans everywhere refuse to enter the Army unless conscripted to do so. If we cannot get justice in the Army, we are not compelled to enter it.—New York Age.

As it was exclusively stated in

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We are surprised to learn that President Roosevelt has approved the order for discharging one battalion of the 25th Infantry, stationed at Fort Reno, because a few of the soldiers asserted their rights as men in protecting one of their comrades against the invasion of a few Texas rebels, where they were stationed. Some of these Negro men have been in the service nearly thirty years, and had fought at San Juan Hill, saving Roosevelt's life, and preventing his Rough Riders from being entirely wiped out. We think this is one of the unkindest cuts of all, and President Roosevelt has lowered his dignity as a soldier, and a statesman in the estimation of thousands of loyal American citizens. We cannot understand his attitude on the Negro question at this time. It seems that since his trip South he has joined hands with the Southern rebels to continue the outrages on the Negro. It was not right nor just to dismiss all these soldiers for the action of two or three, and we hope Congress will take this matter up, restoring them to their rights.

Governor Hoch, when asked by the manager of The Topeka Plaindealer to telegraph President Roosevelt, asking that he recall the order discharging the soldiers, said, "I did not know it, and will give the matter my most careful

consideration. We next went to Congressman Curtis and made the same request, which was granted, and the message reached the President before his departure for Panama.—Topeka Plaindealer.

In discharging in disgrace from the United States Army an entire battalion of the 25th Infantry (colored) because the Company as a whole would not divulge the names of those soldiers guilty of committing the riotous acts at Brownsville, Texas, some months ago, President Roosevelt evidently thinks he is doing the right thing. When a crime has been committed the guilty one or ones should be punished. It is the duty of the innocent ones to inform against the guilty ones even, though said guilty ones be comrades and friends, or even blood relations. If those troopers really knew the guilty ones it would have been the act of good soldiers to have handed them over to the law, but of the battalion not perhaps to exceed fifty knew anything of the actual participants in the riot, while the remainder of the soldiers were probably in their bunks and asleep, and yet they are to suffer the same as the guilty ones because, forsooth, they did not inform against someone of whom they knew nothing. But a few days ago and the world denounced the Atlanta rioters for the wilful killing of harmless and innocent Negroes because half a dozen criminal Negroes had attempted outrages, and yet in a milder form President Roosevelt is doing exactly what the Atlanta rioters did, sacrificing the innocent for the acts of the criminals.

It is rather remarkable that the President waited until the last vote had been cast before giving out this bit of information, for had it been made public a day before the election, 90 per cent. of the Negro votes would have been snatched from the Republican Party, and in many of the states a different tale would have been told on the various tally sheets at the polls.

The above are excerpts from Editorials of The Seattle Republican.

NO BALM HERE

COLONEL PITCHERS DENIES Says Colored Soldiers are Heroes

Havana, Nov. 13.—Lieut.-Col. William L. Pitchers' attention was called tonight to an article in an American newspaper declaring that President Roosevelt had directed that immediate report be required from him as to whether he had been correctly quoted as denouncing Negro troops while at Fort Sheridan last year. In reply Colonel Pitchers said that he had never entertained and never expressed such sentiments. He explained that he had served with colored troops in the past, and had seen them do heroic fighting.

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