

Subscribe for the Only Republican Negro Paper in Colorado, 'The Colorado Statesman'



VOL. XXIV.

DENVER, COLORADO, SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1918

NO. 43.

THE AMERICAN NEGRO AS A FIGHTING MAN

WRITING of the future of the American Negro, William Dean Howells said that he had permitted himself the "imaginative prophecy that the hostilities and prejudices which had so long constrained his race were destined to vanish in the arts; that these were to be the final proof that God had made of one blood all nations of men."

Now the great war promises to accomplish that which he had imagined as the result of the slow accretion of time, in the short space of a few years.

It cannot be gainsaid that the Negro comes into his own on the battlefield. The verdict of the white men who have trained and instructed the colored troops is that the American Negro makes as efficient and as brave a soldier as any nation could demand. He has practically all the assets of a good soldier, tractability, amenity to discipline, pride in his uniform, child-like faith in the justice of his cause, and unquestioned physical courage.

Colonel James A. Moss, of the 367th (colored) Infantry, 92d Division, writes in the Southern Workman of his satisfaction with the Negro soldier in peace and in war, in garrison and in field.

"I commanded colored troops in the Cuban campaign and in the Philippine campaign, having had some of them killed and wounded by my side. At no time did they ever falter at the command to advance, nor hesitate at the command to charge."

"I am glad I am to command colored soldiers in this, my third campaign—the greatest war the world has ever known . . . treat and handle the colored man as you would any other human being out of whom you would get the best there is in him, and you will have as good a soldier as history has ever known, a man who will drill well, who will give a good account of himself in battle, and who will conduct and behave himself properly in camp, in garrison, and in other places."

Mr. Emmet J. Scott, special Negro assistant to Secretary Baker, said in an interview recently published in the New York Times that the high exploits of the Negroes on the battlefield have thrilled the nation. He gives the details of just what the Negro force amounts to in the field.

"Under the first draft there were 737,628 registrants, or close to 8 per cent of the total registration of the country. Of these registrants, close to 100,000 have been called into camp for active military service. There have been commissioned in the United States Army as captains, first lieutenants and second lieutenants, about 1,000 colored men, including about 250 colored medical officers in the Medical and Dental Reserve Corps. The 92d Division, and the 93d (Provisional), each finally to consist of approximately 30,000 Negro soldiers, have been organized under the command of Major General C. C. Ballou and Brigadier General Roy C. Hoffman, respectively.

"The company units of these arms of service will be in large measure commanded by colored line officers. About 650 commissioned officers were graduated from the first training camp for colored officers at Des Moines, and these officers, according to reports, have for the most part made good and are in command of troops of their race at several camps.

There are thirty-four colored chaplains in the various branches of the army."

Work Accomplished by Negroes Behind the Lines.

One hundred and fifty colored men are with the Negro branches of the Y. M. C. A. at the camps for Negro soldiers and in France. In the purchase of War Savings Stamps and Liberty Bonds the Negro has made a showing that compares most favorably with that of the whites in the same communities. Old men shuffle to the cashiers' desks in the Southern states and surrender their rolls of savings for bonds, because they remember Abraham Lincoln and the war between the States and want to help Uncle Sam win this war over the Germans.—American Review of Reviews.

A TRANSFORMED RACE

WHAT the Negro has always needed has been more educational advantages. The government is now alive to the need of the colored race for elementary education and special training in order to fulfill the demands for technical skill in the mechanical war work required of them, and for a proper understanding of the aims and purposes of our government, in order to maintain their morale.

Provision has already been made for this special training at Hampton, Tuskegee, Howard University, and other standard colored schools. At the summer and fall sessions there will be instruction in radio-engineering, mechanical and electrical engineering, auto-mechanics, carpentry, etc. The nation realizes that the raising to a high level the efficiency of the Negro, physically, morally and spiritually, will prove a large factor in facing and bringing to defeat the most formidable foe that ever drew sword against democracy and civilization."

Among the institutions for Negro education, none is more deserving than the Cheney Training School for Negro teachers at Cheney, Pa. This school has been largely supported by the Society of Friends, who founded the institution in 1837. It is devoted exclusively to preparing teachers for service in the colored schools throughout the United States. Its principal, Mr. Leslie Pinckney Hill, was one of the first educators to realize the enormous educational needs that would arise from the sudden and vast influx of Negroes into the Northern states.

Miss L. E. Elliott, editor of Pan-American Magazine, writing in the New York Evening Post, says that over 1,000,000 of these people have left the South since the outbreak of the war. Teachers must be provided to shape this raw human material into the mould of American citizenship. And beyond the needs of the adults are the needs of the children.

"In the United States today there are about 3,000,000 colored children of school age; they should have at least 60,000 teachers."

"Cheyney has a present capacity for about a hundred students. Fifteen to twenty are graduated yearly, these teachers being eagerly absorbed by schools, chiefly in the North. Construction, to double the capacity, is

under way, but funds are badly wanted. The training of teachers is not the limit of Cheyney's work. This school is an active center of benefit to the neighborhood, with its community service. It reaches out to a radius of twelve miles, all the work being performed voluntarily and freely by Cheyney students, who go out to hundreds of small homes, white as well as colored, helping with farm and house problems, and frequently putting things straight morally as well as physically. Another part of this progressive social service concerns the neighboring town of West Chester, where a five-acre plot of land has just been secured, with the cordial help of all classes of West Chester citizens, to be put into immediate cultivation under food crops. Here, eventually, will be erected a community building for colored people of West Chester, playgrounds for children, and an experimental agricultural station.—American Review of Reviews.

THE PRESENT NEEDS OF THE NEGRO

THE rapid evolution going on within the colored people is being noted from many different angles. Isobel Field writes for the Vigilantes:

There is a personage nearer home that we must be prepared to lose, Mistah Johnston, the Darktown Coon. He is no more. Gradually there has appeared in his place a stern young American trained and alert, musket in hand. There is no hyphen to his name. His forefathers were Africans, but he is loyal United States.

When the colored troops marched down Fifth Avenue for the last time before going to France, the newspapers reported that they were given a "tumultuous ovation." As a matter of fact, there was little cheering. The dense masses that lined the sidewalks and filled the windows and hanging balconies looked on in growing wonder. Here and there a pattering of gloved hands or a "bravo" was drowned in the beat of drums and the tramp of many feet. The sight of the long, long line of khaki-clad figures marching like clock-work; the strange grim faces that might have been cast in bronze—eyes straight ahead, with not a side-glance or a gleam of white teeth; company after company led by smart, soldierly colored officers, all on their way to the battle-front, was too awe-inspiring for noise. The crowds gave them the deeper homage of breathless surprised silence. They had come to applaud Mr. Johnston and beheld in his place a bold young warrior who commanded their respect and admiration.

The committee on Public Information in Washington has sent out a news item which tells us that:

A chance for leadership—one full of immense potentialities—has come to the colored race of this country. It has been given him to lead the native of Africa into the light of the new day that is dawning for him. Max Yergan was the first colored Y. M. C. A. secretary sent to serve with the British troops in South Africa. Before he had been in the field long, General Van de Vanter, Commander of the British forces, wired to ask for more of Yergan's race to help in the work. Already some of these have gone to the front and others are to follow. The loyalty of the African Negro to the colors is touching. As soon as the morale of the service grips him, as soon as he finds himself a part of the great machine moving forward to free the world, his pride and

sense of partnership in the business make immediate response. The function of the American Negro in the education of his native brother is partly, at least, to bridge the gap between the African and the white races. The chance is given him to play a potent part in the transformation of the tribes. The African is looking to him for help. It cannot be doubted that the energy and ambition of the American Negro, hitherto at a disadvantage in this country for obvious reasons, will spend themselves largely in this new tremendous field of service thrust up on him by the war.

F. H. Jeter in the Baltimore, Md., Manufacturers' Record writes of work among Negro boys and girls of North Carolina:

During the years 1916-17, 3,398 members have been enrolled in the various phases of the Negro club work. In the Negro poultry club work the members have reported 9,492 eggs laid, 5,427 set, 4,511 hatched, 4,015 chicks raised. The market value of these at the time reported amounted to \$2,293. During the same two years the boys produced 25,934 bushels of corn, valued at approximately \$40,000. Nine boys made between 100 and 125 bushels; 8, between 90 and 100; 12, between 80 and 90; 12, between 75 and 80; 34, between 60 and 75; 60, between 50 and 60, and 36, between 40 and 50 bushels.

During the two years the work has been under way the agent has held 198 conferences, wrote 49 circular letters, mailed 58,200 letters, 7,558 official cards, 8,904 bulletins, wrote 29 articles for the newspapers, 4,984 personal letters, traveled 25,000 miles, held 226 meetings and addressed 94,874 people. For this work the Government has spent about \$3,000. Total value of products reported, \$42,293. The net income to the State is \$39,293 for the two years' work. Only about one-third of the members reported. This does not include the effect upon the adult farmers, who claim that by reason of the club work they have increased their agricultural production along all lines. This is the result of the general stimulus caused by the momentum of this great movement.

The Buffalo Times notes a fine, new spirit of courtesy among Negroes:

In all the cities where there is a large colored population, this custom seems to prevail among these people, that if a colored man sees a colored woman standing in a street car, he rises and gives her his seat, if he has one. Furthermore, he makes way for her to pass him whenever occasion arises to show her this courtesy and consideration. Invariably the colored woman expresses grateful appreciation in return.

All this is very elevating and useful. It not only cultivates finer manners and finer feelings among those of the colored race, but it inspires greater respect for them among people of the white race. This respect is in itself twofold—first, because such course of conduct is eminently worthy of respect; and, secondly, because it suggests certain solidarity of sympathy and mutual interest, to be reckoned with in the human equation. The first is ethical, the second is practical; and in view of the problems confronting the colored people in their struggles upward, the practical feature may have the more immediate utility. The moment any race respects itself, that moment it wins the respect of all other races! And the moment it respects itself, that moment it begins to live up to self-respect.

From Danville, Va., comes this plain speech from the editor of a white radical paper, The Battle Ax:

To any unprejudiced man or woman

RACE NEWS Gathered From Various Sources

147-YEAR-OLD NEGRO DIES IN NEW YORK

New York, Aug. 15.—William Masces, a Negro, who said he was 147 years old, is dead in Bellevue hospital today of pneumonia.

Washington, Aug. 11.—President Wilson has sent the president of Liberia a message of felicitation on the anniversary of that nation's declaration of war against Germany. The message as made public Friday follows:

"On this anniversary of Liberia's associating herself with the countries at war with Germany, may I extend to you and the people of Liberia the sincere felicitations and best wishes of the government and people of the United States and confirm to you the interest which the United States takes in Liberia's welfare."

Omaha, Aug. 8.—Holland Harrold has obtained a verdict for \$50 damages from the J. G. McCrorey 10-cent store because of its refusal to serve him with a soft drink at its soda fountain when he applied for it. Harrold, who is colored, formerly was a waiter at the Chamber of Commerce and lately has been leader of a jazz band that has played on the streets at intervals for Red Cross activities.

Attorney W. H. Hattroth pleaded the case before a jury in Judge Baldwin's branch of Municipal Court, the decision being reached yesterday.

Tuskegee, Ala., Aug. 6.—"The Negro will follow the American flag wherever it may lead. There are now over 250,000 Negroes in the army. The Negro is intensely loyal and patriotic. By the record he has already made in France he has earned the right of all the benefits of full citizenship—that act of simple justice for which his heart craves more than anything else."

that has had an opportunity of even a slight acquaintance it is not necessary for me to tell them that Danville has many intelligent, progressive, worthy colored people who not only try to improve themselves, but are trying to build up their race. In fact, taking all things into consideration, the colored race, if we are to judge by the part of it living in this section, has made wonderful progress. People who do not know this should get acquainted with some of our best colored people, while those who are so blinded by prejudice that they think that intelligence and real worth cannot be found in a man or woman with a dark skin had better look sharp, lest while they are proudly boasting of their superiority they awake from their silly dream to find themselves left in the cold by the colored people who have improved their opportunities and forged ahead.

And when we consider the worthiness of the colored people of this city, we would blush with shame were we to blame for the living conditions they have to put up with. Pushed off in the hills and hollows, where even the commonest sanitation is out of the question, while as for improving their streets—why whoever gives a thought to improving a street for the colored people?—The Crisis.

In this way did Dr. Robert R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute, recognized leader of the Negroes since the death of Booker T. Washington, answer the question: "What is the Negro doing in the war?"

"Isn't it significant," went on Dr. Moton, "that intelligent colored people at first feared that the Negro might be deprived of the citizen's right and privilege to defend his country?"

"There was general rejoicing at the decision to include Negroes in the draft. There was renewed rejoicing when Secretary Baker, in spite of great opposition, decided to place colored troops in the same cantonments with white troops."

"Surely by his loyalty in the war for democracy the Negro will have earned his full share with white people of all those advantages of public education and protection which good governments should provide."

CHEYENNE NEWS.

Bishop H. B. Parks and wife were with us last Monday evening. The bishop preached a wonderful sermon which brought two to the altar.

Rev. Endicott of Boulder was also a visitor last Monday.

Chaplain T. L. Kate of Colorado occupied the pulpit Sunday morning. A stirring message was given. In the evening his rendition of the old-time revival song, "In the Old Fashioned Way," was enjoyed to the highest. Rev. Kate is soon to leave for France.

The date of the assembling of the Baptist denomination in Ogden has been changed from the 15th to the 20th. Rev. C. O. Smith, accompanied by several others, is expecting to leave Monday, Aug. 19, for that place.

As usual, a large congregation was enjoyed by the Second Baptist Church. Mrs. Mason of Southerland, Neb., is in the city visiting her brother, Mr. Albert Burris.

Y. M. C. A. NOTES.

Secretary Bell returned last Saturday (Aug. 10) from Camp Lewis, where he has been sent by the War Work Council of the Y. M. C. A., and the office of the Provost Marshall to the large number of men recently drafted into the service. Mr. Bell, in reporting his trip last Sunday at Shorter A. M. E. Church, said that conditions at the camp were all that a soldier could desire; that our boys were in good spirits, and that the alarming reports which had come back to Denver relative to the boys along the way were absolutely false.

Croquet is now in full swing, games being played almost every afternoon. The ground is in good condition, and only the most up-to-date playing is allowed. Some spectacular playing has been done during the past week between King and Blakemore on the one side, and the young Lightner brothers on the other. King and Lightner have generally triumphed over Blakemore and Lightner. The unusual accuracy of the Lightners on balls has been the surprise of every one, it being not an unusual thing for them to strike balls from the shooting line at the lower end of the ground to that of the other. Large crowds of persons interested in the game usually gather to witness the plays which often continue until it is altogether too dark to discern a ball ten feet away.

Next Sunday afternoon at the Y. M. C. A. building, Secretary Bell will speak on "The Outlook of the Race in the Far Northwest, as Gleaned by my Recent Trip." The meeting will begin at four o'clock and all will be welcome to attend.