

THE MONITOR

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THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor and Publisher.
Madree Penn, Associate Editor.
Fred C. Williams, Business Manager.

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ARTICLE XIV. CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

Citizenship Rights Not to be Abridged.

1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

HOUSTON INFORMER FOR WOOD.

AFTER due consideration of all the aspirants for the republican nomination for the presidency, The Houston Informer, the leading and most influential of our newspapers in Texas, has come out uncompromisingly for General Leonard Wood. Among the cogent reasons which it gives for its endorsement are these:

"Because he is an ardent advocate and earnest espouser of the fundamental principles of genuine democracy and honest-to-goodness Americanism, because he believes in law and order; in a rigid and strict adherence to the constitution; in distributing our war debt over a number of years; in reduction of expenses in conducting our national government; in efficient business methods rather than in politics of a cheap and petty nature; in a readjustment of our internal affairs so that the old ship of state can function once more with the least amount of friction. In short, Leonard Wood stands four-square for 'making America safe for Americans' and he does not mince words in making his attitude known to the American electorate.

"His executive and administrative ability was thoroughly demonstrated as governor-general of Cuba, where he abolished profiteering, stimulated and encouraged business, re-established and rehabilitated agriculture, organized, equipped and maintained hospitals, fed and clothed thousands of natives in a most business-like manner.

All these things were accomplished when the Cubans were impoverished and starving.

"This period of reconstruction will be met fairly and squarely by General Wood, whose administration in Cuba was immediately following the Spanish-American war—a reconstruction period. Cities were rebuilt, schools established, roads opened, taxation system readjusted and revised, courts and legal tribunals reorganized, ample provisions made for countless orphan children rendered thus by war and famine."

The Monitor heartily welcomes The Informer into the ranks of Leonard Wood for president boosters, and commends the cogent reasons which it so lucidly states to the consideration of any of our contemporaries who may be hesitating as to their choice of the republican standard bearer. We contend that a candid examination of his career and qualifications will lead them to the inevitable conclusion that Leonard Wood is the man whom the United States needs at this crucial time for president.

BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND US.

THE Cleveland Plaindealer, which, though democratic in politics, is one of the fairest newspapers in the country in its attitude towards our group, has recently published an editorial which accurately interprets and clearly states the attitude and demands of the colored American. Our case could not be more plainly or forcibly stated than the way in which the Plaindealer puts it when it says:

"The Negro of today is framing his demands in unanswerable terms. He is not demanding anything that belongs to another, but he is demanding rights that are his, to acquire the identical things that other Americans enjoy. And he is specific in his demands. He asks for equal opportunity to develop himself by his own labors. He asks equal opportunity to compete with every other American for the identical fruits and blessings achieved by any other American under the American form of government. The Negro asks no gifts, but an equal opportunity to acquire any and everything other men acquire through honest toil and sacrifice.

Again, we are reminded there is no new Negro. But there is a Negro

with new ideals. And when he is allowed to work, to develop himself into a full man, dependent upon none except himself, he will appear as commonplace as any other American."

It is a most encouraging sign of the times that great sentiment-moulding newspapers of this type are beginning to understand our position and state it with frankness, fairness and fearlessness.

CLEVELAND GAZETTE ADMIRES WOOD

HARRY A. Smith, veteran editor of the old reliable Cleveland Gazette, and author of Ohio's most satisfactory anti-lynching bill, is a manly, frank and fearless fighter whom we very much admire. We do not always agree with him, but in most matters we are in accord. He is an ardent supporter of Senator Warren G. Harding of Ohio, whom he knows well and has good reasons for regarding favorably, for nomination for the presidency. While favoring his own candidate, Mr. Smith is broad-minded and frank enough to pay this splendid and well-deserved tribute to The Monitor's candidate:

"General Leonard Wood is a good, strong man; would make a splendid republican candidate for president and if elected we believe would make a satisfactory president."

From all sections of the country come similar words of approbation of Leonard Wood, the 100 per cent red blooded, fair-minded American, who will be the next president of the United States.

THE WOMAN VOTER.

The precinct primaries will be held throughout the state on April 20. At those primaries all women who are citizens will be entitled to vote, on the ballot of the party with which they affiliate, for delegate to represent their party in the national convention, for national committeeman for Nebraska, and to express their preference, as an instruction to the delegates elected, as to the candidate they desire nominated for president. They may vote also to nominate all county officers except judge, all precinct officers except justice of the peace, and to select delegates to the county convention and members of the county committee. They are disqualified in Nebraska from voting for candidates for congress, the legislature, state officers, initiative or referendum propositions or constitutional amendments, and candidate for judges. In cities where registration is required women must register, at least ten days before the primary election, before they can vote in the primaries. In places where no registration is required no act of qualification is necessary. The woman voter, like the man voter, simply presents herself at the polling place, and if she is a citizen 21 years of age asks for the primary ballot of the party of her choice, steps into the voting booth and marks it.

Our correspondent asks: "If a married or single woman does not pay taxes can she vote for street paving, municipal water and electric light bonds or any bonds where the taxpayers must pay the cost?"

She may. There are no property qualifications for voting in Nebraska, except that a woman voting in school elections must either be a taxpayer or the mother of children of school age.

Another question asked is: "Are unmarried women born in Europe but having lived in the United States several years considered American voters?"

They are not. Women, like men, who are of foreign birth must be naturalized, including the taking out of both first and second papers, before they can vote. If, however, the parents were naturalized before the foreign-born child became of voting

age, then the child, on attaining majority, is a citizen and entitled to vote.

It might be said, while on this subject, that voting is a great duty and responsibility as well as a privilege. The enfranchisement of women has practically doubled the voting population. The privilege and responsibility of supporting the government by the ballot rests on every voter of either sex. There is the same moral responsibility of good citizenship resting on women as on men to go to the polls, in primaries and elections, and vote. It rests with equal weight upon women who desired the ballot and upon those who did not desire it. This supreme obligation of citizenship has become theirs, and at a time when the responsibilities of the ballot were never so great. The whole tremendous question of whether this is to be a peaceful world or a warring world may have to be decided at the ballot boxes of the United States this year. The happiness and stability of every home are virtually involved in that question, and in many states if not in every state the mothers and wives and sisters of men will have a voice in framing the momentous answer.—Omaha World-Herald.

MOST AMERICAN GROUP.

(By William Pickens.)

It happens to be that the Negro is the most American group in the country, both in ancestry and in point of attitude of mind. His lines reach much further back than that of the average white man of the country. In spirit he is less arrogant, more liberal and democratic and believes more sincerely that "all men are born free and equal." He does not believe that he is naturally entitled to more privileges than other breeds of men. That is the very essence of the spirit that made America. The Negro does not lynch, and does not act by virtue of mobs. He wants the case tried in court. He wants law and order to be supreme, and as a group he does not ask any artificial advantage of any other group. That is of the essence of America.

The intelligent Negro is therefore puzzled when he hears anybody talking about Americanizing the Negro. He knows that the battle could be over if only we could Americanize the white man.

NEGRO DELEGATE AT LARGE.

Among the things advocated by the Citizens' Liberty League, is a delegate-at-large from Missouri to the national convention at Chicago next June.

This recognition has been looked upon as impracticable by some because it has been said, "there are too many white men good republicans who would be tickled to death to have the honor." Of course, if the Negro is to only receive the places of honor that none of his brother republicans want, what reward has he for his years of loyalty to the republican party? If the Negro vote has been the deciding factor in the republican victory to these many years, we see no reason why he should not enjoy some of the honor which comes as a result of his loyalty.

Kentucky has set the pace and the republicans of that state readily conceded to the race one of the Big Four, the only question of detail being just the name of the man.

If the Negroes, by their vote were entitled to a delegate-at-large in Kentucky, surely we of Missouri are entitled to one.

If the party leaders of Kentucky

thought it good policy to elect a Negro to represent the state at the national convention, surely the party leaders of Missouri will call it good political judgment and justice to give the race this recognition at Kansas City in May.

As a group, there is none more loyal to the republican party than the Negroes. In the past we have been contented with the "alternate." But now, owing to our increased numbers, we are fully justified in making this demand at the hands of the party leaders.—St. Louis Argus.

PERISCOPE

LYNCHINGS IN THE UNITED STATES

(By James Weldon Johnson.)

Serious discussion of effective means to abolish lynching first consideration must be given to the awakening, the enlightenment and the molding of public opinion. No matter what methods are suggested, the way in which they will work out will depend largely on the sort of public opinion they have to encounter.

The first thing of all to realize is that public opinion in the United States is not against lynching; if it was, lynching as it is carried on in this country could not exist.

Of course, there are vast numbers of Americans who are shocked and horrified at the mere thought of lynching, but the great majority are not. There are millions of law-abiding people in the United States, men and women who would not knowingly violate a municipal regulation, who, while they may not endorse the lynching of Negroes, at the same time do not condemn it. For a reason which may not be clear to themselves they feel when a Negro is lynched that perhaps, after all, it was about the best thing that could be done under the circumstances.

This inertia, this condoning attitude of American public opinion is the most difficult condition to be reckoned with in any effort to abolish lynching.

There is a reason for this condoning attitude. A reason which springs from distortion and misrepresentation, and which has been fostered by well directed propaganda. The impression has been engraved on the mind of the public at large in this country that the lynching of Negroes and the crime of rape go together. In the mind of the American public at large the idea has been more or less firmly imbedded that rape and the lynching of Negroes in the south bear the relation of cause and effect.

SCRUGGS FOR PUBLIC DEFENDER.

Amos P. SCRUGGS has filed for public defender. He is a lawyer big enough to handle this job. The Monitor urges our people to rally to his support. We can nominate him at the primaries and elect him if we will stand unitedly behind him. Begin now boosting for Scruggs and put him across. We can do it. Let's all get busy and do it. The Monitor is glad that Mr. Scruggs has filed. We hope some competent man will file for the legislature. Let's get into the game right.

The members of Friendship Temple, No. 347, S. of M. T., were entertained by their princess, Mrs. Lula Sands at her home, 2122 North Twenty-fifth street, Thursday evening, March 9. The evening was pleasantly spent by all present. This is an annual entertainment by the princess.

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