

Subscribe for the Only Reliable Negro Paper in Colorado, "The Colorado Statesman"



VOL. XXIV.

DENVER, COLORADO, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27 1917

NO 10

EMMETT J. SCOTT ADDRESSES THE RESERVE OFFICERS

Emphasizes Responsibility of Negro
Soldiers to the Nation.

Termed "Partners in Heroism" by the
Secretary of War.

Des Moines, Ia., October 15.—At the graduating exercises here today of the 17th provisional training regiment of the Reserve Officers' Training Camp, Emmett J. Scott, special assistant to the secretary of war, and secretary of the Tuskegee Institute, delivered the principal address. Representing, as he did, the War Department, his message to the Negro officers is of especial significance. He said in part as follows:

"I have the distinguished honor, the unexampled privilege of bearing from the nation's capital, from the Honorable, the Secretary of War, his personal and official greetings, and the expression of his confidence that, in accepting the perilous responsibility which is to be reposed in you by the national government, you will acquit yourselves like men.

"We meet today under circumstances of commanding interest and peculiar significance. Never before in the history of the world have men of your birth and traditions had the opportunity of being prepared in the arts of modern warfare, in such numbers and of such promise, to go forth as representatives of 10,000,000 of your kind to battle for human freedom and human rights.

"And it is a privilege vouchsafed you, for you are to have the opportunity, by your good conduct, your efficiency, as officers and as soldiers of the national army, to bear witness, for a race, for the gratitude that race feels that out of another conflict of more than fifty years ago, also fought for human freedom and human rights, there came to them full citizenship rights in the greatest republic of all the earth.

"Despite some doubts and some impatience, and some delays, you have been commissioned by your government, militant and determined as it is, to go forth on a great venture that may lead you and the men under you to the trenches in France, and probably to Under den Linden.

"Not only have you, some 600 of you, been commissioned as officers, but you must have read General Bliss's statement last week that the seventeenth division of fighting troops to be trained for duty in France will be composed exclusively of colored men, whom many of you will command—thus disposing of the ill-founded rumor that you are not to have a chance to win your spurs as fighting men facing the enemy eye to eye. But wherever you go and wherever you serve, I know you will bear in mind that in a very real sense, you and those who serve with you have in your keeping the good name of a proud, expectant and confident

people.

"You will remember, I am sure, that you are on trial. It will be for you to prove that men of your race, when led by competent, efficient and fearless men of the same race, are not afraid to do, to dare and to die. Thank God, neither you, nor your race, is on trial to prove its patriotism. On a hundred battlefields, from Boston Common to Carrizal, the colored people have proved their patriotism and their willingness to make the supreme sacrifice for justice, for fair play, for liberty. In every one of our country's wars, the colored people have exhibited a high sense of patriotism and faithfulness to duty, as well as an eager willingness to contribute their best in mind and spirit to the nation's cause. They have never failed the Republic and they will not fail it now. The spirit of the men who will compose the national army was exhibited at Atlanta, Georgia, a day or two ago. When the colored contingent from Thomas county, Georgia, appeared at the assembling point in Thomasville, just prior to their movement to Camp Gordon, Atlanta, Georgia, one of the number, James Florney, had not finished his crop, and made a last appeal for respite until he could finish farming. The exemption officer said he would call for a volunteer from the other colored men who had been certified but not yet called, and there was a stampede for the job."

The speaker then related a number of striking stories of the bravery exhibited by Negro soldiers on various battlefields and concluded as follows:

"One word more and I am done: In your relationships with your men, you will keep in mind the psychological aspect of the adventure upon which you are embarking. Cheerfulness begets cheerfulness, and more than that, willingness, yea eagerness, to undertake any duty, responsibility or risk. In this supreme hour, when the fate of the republic is at stake, your emphasis, I am sure, will be upon duties and responsibilities of the sacred privilege of serving one's country in her hour of need.

"I know you will, each of you, come back, as Secretary Baker states it, 'partners in heroism' with the men of Europe serving the Allied cause, with your shield, or on it:

"I bid you God Speed and Good Luck."

Prof. Kelly Miller of Howard University Hailed as New Race Leader

New York City, Oct. 15, 1917.—Three thousand people rose to their feet and cheered Prof. Kelly Miller of Howard University and hailed him as the new leader of the Negro race at a large mass meeting last Sunday afternoon at the Palace Casino. The great demonstration came in the midst of the address of Prof. Miller, when he was reviewing the past history of the Negro in this country and based that upon his plea that the Negro should receive the full protection from this nation. For fully three minutes the large audience broke loose in wild enthusiasm and cheered and waved their hats in the air and threw upon the shoulders of the well known Howard educator the responsibilities of leading the race to victory. The address, which struck a new note of hope and optimism for the race, equals in many respects the most notable addresses ever heard in this nation, rivaling that of the late Booker T. Washington at the Atlanta exposition. Dr. Miller urged the race to be loyal to the country and to themselves, told of the unrest as brought about by the Negro exodus, made a plea for an equal chance, and said that the races must work together in this country. His review of the Negro in the wars of the country and the nation was the most thrilling ever heard here. The meeting was held under the auspices of the New York News Charity Bureau and was one of the series of meetings held by the organization to raise \$3,000 for its work. Guilford Crawford called the meeting to order and presented Rev. A. C. Powell, the fearless race champion and pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist church, who presided. The first address was made by Miss Martha Venable, and was followed by George Harris, who said that it was following the many appeals from the homeless people after the fire in the West in 1914 that resulted in the organization of the bureau. In four years over 15,000 jobs have been secured and 100 families aided. Other addresses were made by Hon. Marcus Marks, Mrs. Robert De Silvia, Dr. W. H. Brooks and Watt Terry. Music was furnished by the Walker Female Quartet.

Dr. Powell, in presenting Prof. Miller, told of the recent open letter to President Wilson, in which he asked for fair play for the Negro of America. Dr. Powell struck a great response from the audience when he presented him as the new leader of the Negro race, and it was then that the noted educator got his tremendous ovation. Prof. Miller talked in his famous terms of mathematical deductions, basing his philosophy relative to the Negro upon terms of mathematical logic. He said that the Negro must continue to keep his record for loyalty to this nation, and that the appearance of the Negro with a uniform brought about added respect. He called attention to the economic unrest of the Negro, as brought on by the exodus, and said that the migration northward was based upon the same reason that the 30,000,000 foreigners came to this nation. Speaking further, he said: "That the Negro is destined to become one of the present beneficiaries of the war. The war is giving the Negro a

better economic opportunity and is bringing him in direct competition with the world. The rights and privileges of the Negro must be safe in America, in fact, of all Americans, before there is a complete democracy. We have a great many grievances against this country, but in the midst of this crisis the race must not lose its faith and hope in the future. The Negro is destined to become one of the greatest of the American people. We must become the greatest among ourselves. The Negro has been politically disfranchised in the South and industrially disfranchised in the North, but the war is giving the race the first economic opportunity. In 1860 if any one had said that fifteen years later there would be Negro congressmen he would have been thought crazy, and if fifteen years later one would have said that there would not be any the same would have been thought of him, but the race that is down in the equation today may be up tomorrow." Dr. Miller brought a wave of hope to the race when he told how the Negro was now better trained as a soldier, and of the 622 young colored men who were recently commissioned in the United States army. He told how after all America offered the greatest opportunity for the development of the Negro, and he urged the race not to be like the man with one talent, but to use what it had, but to constantly add to that. He closed his address asking that America give to the Negro full democracy for which hundreds have suffered.

WYOMING PEERLESS OIL COMPANY.

THE fact that C. F. Kennedy is the promoter of the Wyoming Peerless Oil Company is a guarantee of the successful investment any one desiring oil stocks can have, as from the public's association with Mr. Kennedy in business for the years past, anything that he is connected with spells success.

With the holdings which include the Big Muddy Oil Field, East Salt Creek and Lost Soldier Fields in Wyoming, there is no chance business for the investor but a certainty equivalent to gilt-edge stock. Mr. Kennedy being credited by those who do business with him as being on the square, is specially interested in the welfare of patrons as his motto—"Your interests are my interests"—is the foundation stone of his success in life.

We are glad to be able to certify the foregoing of a man who merits every word that is said about him.

Washington, D. C. Oct. 15.—On last Saturday night, Private Jerry Ward, of the First Separate Battalion, shot Andrew J. Casper, a carpenter employed on work at Camp Ordway. Ward was on guard duty and Cooper failed to stop when ordered to halt on approaching the camp, at the wrong gate, Cooper was only slightly wounded. He claims to be somewhat deaf. Several hundred carpenters refused to work unless the colored guards were removed. They have been removed and Ward will be court-martialed, the city authorities not being allowed to try him.

U. S. GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD EQUAL RIGHTS

Sentiments Said to Have Been Uttered to Colored Soldiers by Brigade General J. L. Chamberlain, Inspector General, U. S. A., September 24, 1917, at the Jim Crow Officers' Training Camp at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

I have come here from Houston, Texas, where I have been investigating the trouble with the 24th infantry, one of our Negro regiments. It was a plain case of race question, pure and simple, and the War Department of the United States Government is not and will not be bothered trying to solve race questions at this time. We have a greater object in view. We must win this war. We are fighting for democracy and not race questions.

This trouble started by the members of the 24th infantry refusing to obey the laws of Texas and other southern states. You people who are here from the South can appreciate what I say that in different states of the South there are jim-crow laws that must be adhered to. So, here in Houston, Texas, is the law. In different places there were posted signs, some "For White" and others "For Negroes."

Soldiers Exercised Equal Rights.

Members of the 24th infantry went around with chips on their shoulders, pulling down these signs, sitting in parks, cars and theaters where these signs of segregations were and refusing to adhere to them. They objected to the rules of segregation, drank out of water barrels that were marked for white soldiers only and overturned the water barrels marked for Negroes.

The 24th infantry was sent to Texas to obey the laws of the state, and to see that they were obeyed. This they refused to do, interfered with the police in helping them to carry out the regulations. Probably the police were wrong in not upholding the soldiers, but the government has nothing to do with the police.

Accuses 24th Men of "Chip on Shoulder."

The direct cause of the trouble was the beating of Corporal Baltimore. A policeman is arrested and under indictment of murder. The direct cause was that the men had a chip on their shoulder and the uprising would have taken place anywhere and at any other place.

Govt. No Concern for "Race Questions," Only Seeks to Win War.

This is the most unfortunate happening for the colored race in the history of the United States. Unfortunate in this respect. "War is on, conscription is the law of the land. United States has no time for race questions, and does not propose to entertain such. The country is at stake and we must uphold the government and win this war, at any cost."

Calls Segregated Camp "Same Chance as Whites."

The War Department started to give the Negro the same chance as the whites have, to show whether they (Negroes) were a real part of the nation, by establishing this Reserve Officers' Training Camp here at Fort Des Moines, giving them the same training as is given at the other training camps.

Govt. Rules for "Negroes." Negroes must obey laws and or-

ders, regardless of what they are, just or unjust.

If there are any among you who cannot do this, go at once to the Adjutant's office and request your discharge, right now.

You must obey the laws of Texas and any other southern state. All personal feelings must be sacrificed for the United States army.

EIGHTH INFANTRY ARRIVES IN TEXAS

Camp Logan, Houston, Tex., Oct. 19.—The Eighth Illinois infantry, Colonel Franklin A. Denison, commanding, arrived here early Tuesday morning amid wild cheering and jollification. As the men were nearing their destination, music swelled to the tune of "Illinois," and the "Wearin' of the Green" and other familiar melodies that added splendor to the scenes of merrymaking as the long line of the Eighth passed down the road on its way to camp. All the regiments in camp turned aside other duties and gave the Eighth a hearty welcome and escorted them to Section 13, the site of their new home. There were a happy lot of soldiers when the old tune of the band drifted into a "Jazz" rag and caused the shouting and cheering to arise to deafening pitch.

Assigned to Section 13.

Although the journey was ended without any catastrophe or any difficulties whatsoever, now comes the real fight of the hoodoo—old No. 13 bobs up for its trial. Some of the boys of the regiment have shown signs of slight uneasiness regarding old 13, but no one remained awake to talk about the changing of this disturbing link in the adventuresome trip. Brigadier General H. D. Todd, Jr., had expressed his desire to make a change should the number become disturbing in the minds of the regiment.

The Regiment All Smiles.

Nothing could have pleased the Eighth boys more than to receive such a hearty welcome from their comrades in Company G, who had proceeded them to Texas. The Seventh infantry (white) received the regiment with smiles and handshakes and former lines through which the Eighth paraded. Colonel Denison is quoted as having commented on the glowing welcome in a calm but highly appreciative manner: "It's a fine sentiment and we will certainly live up to our old reputation for efficiency."

Guard Movement Stops.

With the influx of 2,165 men of the Eighth the movement of the guards stops. There are now 21,413 men in camp at Houston. Some 6,400 drafted men are expected before the end of the week. It is thought that the men who are trained at Camp Grant and Camp Dodge will be sent here for training when some of the regiments are withdrawn to do foreign duty.

Philadelphia, Pa.—Miss Lillian Garnet, 814 Rodman street, a student of the McCall School, Sixth and Pine streets, entered a piano contest with six white students to play for the school assembly. She made an average of one hundred per cent, and now has charge of the assembly music for the entire term.