

The Palmetto Leader

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Saturday, June 20, 1925.

Something is wrong with present day civilization, particularly as this country is concerned. There is shooting on all sides. Men's lives seem to be of but very little value.

In the passing of Mrs. Booker T. Washington the race has lost one of its finest characters. While Mrs. Washington was large in the public eye as the wife of America's greatest Negro, yet she stood well out for her own life of usefulness and distinction.

We are in full accord with the effort of the Colored Ministerial Union of Greenville in its condemnation of so many Sunday funerals. The practise of holding bodies until Sunday in order that there may be a big display is not at all to be commended.

The Great Orator William Jennings Bryan, says that "science is a great thing, but that religion is the greatest thing." But science is knowledge and without minimizing religion, without knowledge there is not much to religion.

North Carolina is making a great drive for law, order and decency. That commonwealth seems determined that its laws must be obeyed. Recently, a colored convict was beaten to death on the chingang by two brutal guards.

"SELLING SEABOARD SERVICE"

We publish elsewhere in this issue a letter from Freight Traffic Manager, B. C. Prince, of the Seaboard Railway Company, explanatory of the method of distribution of "selling Seaboard service" buttons.

matter was gotten from a local news item appearing in The State which distinctly stated that the buttons were to be distributed to the white employees, without any modification or explanation of the method to be employed.

BISHOP Wm. D. CHAPPELLE The Rt. Reverend Wm. D. Chappelle, Bishop of the 7th Episcopal District of the A. M. E. church died at his home Monday afternoon.

CAN YOU VOTE?

On the 25th day of June, there is to be decided in this City by ballot whether or not five mills are to be levied on all property for the purpose of raising money to build additional schools for the education of the boys and girls of the City.

GENERAL BULLARD SLANDERS NEGRO SOLDIERS

General Robert Lee Bullard of Alabama may have been a great soldier but if he ever did anything to make him great, no one ever heard of it.

war. But what does General Bullard after all know of the actual doings and conduct of the colored soldiers? Although the 92nd Division, composed of our boys were a part of General Bullard's corps, yet the great general (with his pen) never came near enough to the lines of battle to smell powder or hear the screaming shells.

Division of the Spoils.

BY JEAN JEW.

To the victor belongs the spoils. Thus it is said of him who goes to war and returns a conquering hero.

When the Greeks and Romans went to war, the possible trophies were great and many. The spoils were definite and even though the victors paid the price in men and gold, they considered the prize greater than the price.

Now they go to war for principle. Of course in the meanwhile the rich bask in the glory of countless millions made, incident to the war.

The war over, men return, principle won and forgot, and the world drifts back into its accustomed way.

Yet the puzzle still remains— to victor and vanquished— whose principle prevails.

The common people still maintain their faith in their government, which has not changed in spirit. The lords still rule. The people are not liberated from economic and political serfdom.

Let us observe some of the spoils of the late war.

The war cost the United States, only one member on the list of victors, 40 billion dollars. A first bonus and a second compensation insurance which run into many millions of dollars.

And all this must be paid for by the people. Near seven years have passed and the victors still pay war taxes. Seven more and seven shall pass and war tax shall continue, in one way or another.

In every quarter of a century only a very small fractional part of the vast sum spent on the war is spent to educate the mass—the fighting stock—in the principles which would be flaunted before them over night.

They aren't made that way.

SEABOARD SERVICE—PRODUCING AND SELLING.

The Palmetto Leader, 1310 Assembly Street, Columbia, S. C.

Norfolk, June 9.—I am very glad that one of my friends has sent me an editorial from your issue of May 30th, under the subject of "Selling Seaboard Service," and as some one has

given you the wrong impression, I desire to quickly correct the impression that prevails in your mind.

The distribution of "Selling Seaboard Service" buttons has never been under my direct supervision and there was never any intention of depriving faithful colored employees of the pleasure of wearing these buttons. As a matter of fact, when the order was placed we knew that we had approximately twenty thousand employees, but this number of buttons could not be manufactured in one day or one week.

B. C. PRINCE, Freight Traffic Mgr.

Criticism of Soldiers Inflames Negro Patriots

(By The Associated Negro Press.)

Chicago, Ill., June.—Stung by "Memoirs" of General Robert that published portion of the Lee Bullard to the quick, who commanded the Second army of the United States Expeditionary forces in the late war, which cast a gloomy aspersions almost horrifying in its portent on the value of the Negro soldiers.

Bullard, born in Alabama, in 1861, when the war between the second stage, was given a fight-states was just assuming its ing name and fighting heart which carried him through the military schools and prepared him in 1898 to lead Negro troops who helped to establish his reputation. This much he admits. He, however, now declares that in the world war, they were failures as officers, and as soldiers.

that the Ninety-second Division a part of his Second army, was a "nightmare" to him and that it was filled with cowardice and sensuality. He refers to officers who were supposed to have run in the face of the enemy, to cases of rape and asserts that the colored soldiers could not fight, make raids or stand bombardment. That is the brunt of his attack, pieced together with such phrases as "they are very inferior soldiers," "they dawdle," "it is unfortunate that the policies of our country should have permitted them to fight" etc.

It is natural that our leaders in war should spring to our rescue. Such has been the case. Major Adam E. Patterson, in a lengthy article released to several newspapers, goes intimately into the story of the trials of officers to which General Bullard refers and shows that the cause of the defection of the colored contingents was a white major, named Elser. Major Patterson was judge advocate of the 92nd Division, the highest ranking Negro officer in the division. There seems to be abundant evidence to back up the documentary contention of the former judge advocate.

The defenders of the honor of Negro soldiery have not been limited to Negroes, however, and even in this emergency, many white men in high places are coming to the fore in direct and emphatic denial of the unfitness of Negroes to soldier. One of these, of much importance in Chicago, is Major Hamlet C. Ridgway, assistant chief deputy bailiff of the city's thirty-two municipal courts, under Bernard M. Shaw, a fair-minded and square acting southerner. Maj-

or Ridgway is a graduate of West Point and a brother of the Col. Ridgway who soldiered for so many years with the Twenty-fifth infantry. He is emphatic in his assertions relative to the Negro's worth as a fighter and his loyalty. He believes there is no better soldier anywhere.

Major Ridgway's opinion reflects that of many white officers. As would be expected, in this the home of the famous Eighth Regiment, Illinois National Guard, expressions calculated to deny the valor of the Negro meet with strong, excited, even angry, refutation. These soldiers made an untarnished record in France. On the walls of their grand armory in this city the names of their comrades in arms who left their souls and their bodies in the clod of Flanders are inscribed, mute testimonials to the ardor and bravery of men who did not have a chance. The trees in the streets here are named after these boys. Giles Ave., is named after one of the fallen officers. The men of this regiment look at these mute suggestions and read the words of Bullard with fire in their eyes.

The feeling inspired is responsible for the florid, active response which has come from them. The chaplain of the Eighth, Captain William Braddan, tells in stories issued this week of the work of this great regiment's action against the common enemy in France and produces citations from the highest authority attesting the high value and valor of the regiment's personnel. A similar witness is Capt. Louis Washington, former regimental adjutant, whose files are filled with notices of the commendatory records of Negro soldiers, touching everything.

It is generally recognized that the effects of Bullard's story may be dire. There is no denying the presence of a desire among army officials to discourage the formation of Negro combat units and the creation of Negro officers. Armies are not democratic, not American armies. Negro officers are a dis-

tinct problem in the face of the prejudice of the American white man. The segregation that holds with the races in peace times becomes onerous in times of war. The stress of the time is too great to permit of it, unless it is going to be more absolute. Thus, it is learned on high authority, that white men, high in the councils of the nation, are working feverishly for the dissolution of all Negro combat units and for the creation in their stead of pioneer infantry units, provided to do the work of the army and not to fight.

Unless the statements of Bullard are quickly disproved, our enemies in the army, are going to use what he has said to our everlasting discredit and disgrace. Negro leaders realize this and are, therefore, doubly anxious that the world should not accept the word of the southern general. They claim that his records are largely bunk, holding that Negroes themselves brought back home, from the files, the good things about themselves and left behind the bad. What was left is what the evil-minded white is using to serve his purpose.

THE NEGRO YEAR BOOK

(For The Associated Negro Press.)

New York, N. Y., June—The

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reason to be proud of the most

recent of his periodical annuals.

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worked assiduously at the compilation of informative details

as to Negro progress and, never

to better than in the present

volume. The book has long

since become the accepted authority

in libraries, schools, and in

journalistic offices, in fact,

everywhere that there is reason

for having available an encyclopedia

of Negro statistics and

knowledge.

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