

THE WEEK'S EDITORIAL:— WHITE PRESS (From The New York Times, June 15th.)

VICTORIOUS BUT UNDEFEATED

Rapidly as the power of the Ku Klux Klan is waning all over the country, it is not dead yet and it proved that it still has some strength last week out in Illinois by defeating the lower house of the Legislature a bill which, if passed, would have required it and other oath-bound societies to publish the names of their officers and members and the exact wording of the obligations they incur on joining. As drawn, the bill excepted labor unions and benevolent orders but its enemies eliminated that exception while the bill was in committee and left it applicable to such organizations as the Masons, Elks, and Knights of Pythias. A Negro representative from Chicago saw the meaning of that trick and had the original exemption restored before the bill came to a vote. But it was defeated just the same. The colored man, however, was not alone in denouncing the Klan. It was attacked from every side and by members of all parties, and curiously enough, none of its friends in the House said a word in its defense. That is a reminder of the Democratic National Convention where there were like attacks on the Klan and no word of defense of it.

THE SPINGARN MEDAL AWARDED ANNUALLY FOR THE HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT OF AN AMERICAN NEGRO

The Spingarn Medal was instituted in 1914 by J. E. Spingarn (then chairman of the board of directors, now treasurer, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), who gives annually a gold medal to be awarded for the highest or noblest achievement by an American Negro during the preceding year or years.

Purpose The purpose of the medal is twofold—first, to call the attention of the American people to the existence of distinguished merit and achievement among American Negroes, and secondly, to serve as a reward for such achievement, and as a stimulus to the ambition of colored youth.

Conditions The medal is presented annually to the man or woman of African descent and American citizenship, who shall have made the highest achievement during the preceding year or years in any honorable field of human endeavor. The Committee of Award is bound by no burdensome restrictions, but may decide for itself each year what particular act of achievement deserves the highest acclaim; the choice is not limited to any one field, whether of intellectual, spiritual, physical, scientific, artistic, commercial, educational, or other endeavor. It is intended primarily that the medal shall be for the highest achievement in the preceding year, but if no achievement in any one year seems to merit it, the Committee may award it for work achieved in preceding years, or may withhold it and use the money so withheld for second or third prizes in any subsequent year or years, in accordance with the same principles. The medal is usually presented to the winner at the annual conference of the N. A. A. C. P., and the presentation speech is delivered by a governor, United States senator, or other distinguished citizen. Recommendations for the award should be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Committee of Award, Walter F. White, 70 Fifth Avenue New York City. Such communica-

tions should state in detail the achievement of the person recommended as meriting the Spingarn Medal.

Winners of the Spingarn Medal Professor, E. E. Just, 1915; Major Charles Young, 1916; Harry T. Burleigh, 1917; William Stanley Braithwaite, 1918; Archibald H. Grimke, 1919; William E. Burghardt Du Bois, 1920; Charles S. Gilpin, 1921; Mary B. Talbert, 1922; George W. Carver, 1923; Roland Hayes, 1924.

HEEBIE JEEBIES PICKS CHICAGO'S MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL

(By The Associated Negro Press.) Chicago, June—At a grand ball held in the spacious Eighth Regiment Armory, Mrs. Flo Clements was picked as Chicago's most beautiful girl, by judges selected by Heebie Jeebies in its famous Congress of Beauties contest. Mrs. Ova Penn was second choice and Miss Leeta Maury of Detroit, Michigan, third. The judges were headed by David Hawley, president of the Appomattox club. The contest lasted three months. The prizes given to the winners were: First, a trip to Atlantic City, second and third, two trips to Idlewild, Michigan, and third and fourth, two trips to Waters Farm, Michigan. There were forty-eight final contestants.

CRIPPLED BUT WINS DEGREE

(By The Associated Negro Press.) Chicago, Ill., June—Although handicapped for years by infantile paralysis and compelled to support three orphaned sisters in whatever way he could, Harrison Herbert Ferrell, Jr., 5651 Grove Avenue, Chicago, received from Northwestern University on commencement day, June 15, a degree of Master of Arts. Ferrell Jr., is a colored lad who by sheer courage has won his way. He is a talented musician and gave violin lessons to private pupils to help earn his way through the University. Living quite a distance from Evanston, the University town, he had to travel miles each day to attend. A companion accompanied him to assist him up and down stairs. A year ago he won his bachelor of science degree and stood out as one of the best pupils in the class of '24. When Ferrell, Jr. first went to Northwestern in 1918 he was in excellent health. Then he was stricken with infantile paralysis and was extremely ill for two years. His native physical strength carried him through the crisis, enabling him to return to his studies in 1921.

BLOODY DAYS BY DANIEL SMITH

(By The Associated Negro Press.) After reading 12 pieces of General Robert Lee Bullard's article which appeared in the Chicago Tribune, June 9, it came into my mind that the facts in the case of the Unit to which he refers should be made known. As I happen to be one of the Officers who was court martialled, I feel it duty to put before the people the actual facts and let them judge for themselves as to whether the General's statement is true or his memory bad or his information received from those who were prone to make the Ninety-second Division a failure. From my long military service, of eighteen years under the most trying conditions in Mexico and the Philippines, I am of the opinion that the General received false reports from the Brigade Commanders, and they in turn from the Regimental Commanders and they from the Battalion Commanders, as I know how reports are made. Oftimes during my service in the Regular Army orders would come from Brigade Headquarters asking for a report on activities of the troops stationed at a particular post. This report would be made up and forwarded at once, showing drill so many hours per day, field problems on certain days and so on. If the facts, however, had been reported to Brigade Headquarters the report would have shown nothing, as nothing was being done. I say this

STRAY LEAVES

A Department of Current Poetry By WILLIAM D. ROBINSON. (All contributions to this Department must be typewritten, "real poetry," accompanied by stamped and addressed return envelope, and sent to 1501 1/2 Taylor St., Columbia, S. C., to the Editor of this column. Allworthy manuscripts will be printed under your own name. Amateurs and poet-aspirants, this is your chance to develop that talent, if you have it.) The Editor of this Department offers his services to anyone desiring poems on any subject for any occasion, such as epitaphs, memoriams, expressions of friendship, or topics for programs of all kinds.

After his action in the Lowman case, I think this tribute to Lawyer Frederick is a fitting expression of the sentiment of all toward him:

TO LAWYER N. J. FREDERICK

By William D. Robinson. 'Tis just and proper that the Poet's pen Should strive to render honor where 'tis due,— Pay tribute to a man among all men, Who dared to speak for justice and be true. To his high calling when the monster growled, And gloated o'er his victims in his claws; He bravely hurled the sword between its jaws, And called for justice to enforce her laws, Unshaken as the cheated monster howled. Great Solon, God is pleased when earth-born men, With fearless hearts—when Right is trodden down,— Dare stand beside the wronged with voice or pen, And call for justice. Honor's brightest crown Is honored to be placed upon thy brow,— Whom dark Injustice's growling could not cow.

to show just how things are done in peace-times and leave it to you to decide how they are carried out in time of war.

In this article I shall give facts about the operations of the Unit referred to by General Bullard and I hope the readers of this and other articles which are to follow will study it carefully so they will understand the disadvantages that the 92nd Division, composed of the Negro soldiers and officered by Negro line officers, faced and particularly that Regiment which I shall mention later. This article is not inspired by any spasmodic fit of anger or a night-mare. It is composed of facts recorded years ago.

I have been tried, convicted and exonerated, so I have nothing to gain, no axes to grind and ask nothing. I want, however the public to know the truth and that General Bullard's memory serves him ill at this time. The statements made in this article are not designed for self-glorification or the glorifying of other officers. What we did was our duty to our country under oath. Let justice be given where justice is due.

I, as stated, happened to be one of the five officers court-martialled—the others being Lieuts. Cross, Cheers, Crawford and Green all of Company "I," 368th Infantry. I was attached to Company "K" under arrest, which I shall explain later.

Company "I" was commanded by Captain Green, killed in action. Company "K" commanded by Captain Peck's, both of the Regular Army. I was commissioned Captain at Fort Des Moines Iowa, from Sergeant, Troop "C" 10th Cavalry. Reported at Camp Dix, New Jersey, for duty with some twenty-five other officers, performed no duties from November 1917 until February 1918. All colored officers were ordered to Camp Meade, Maryland and assigned to Companies, but I was attached to Company "B," commanded by Captain Saunders, June 15, 1918, we sailed for France, arriving at Brest, June 27, arriving at Chatillon, July 9. This was a training area. On July 13, Captain Marchbanks was ordered to school and I was placed in command of Company "D."

I will state here in this training area all troops were in billets where there were no white officers and for some reason we were ordered to go into camp, just out of the village. While in this village everything went well and why we moved out I do not know. The soldiers, however, were not allowed to visit the people, who were very friendly. Of course, you may think for yourself why. I am now referring to the operations of the 368th Infantry and stating records from my diary.

August 12—"Left Chatillon for Dorcelles Voges Reserve position in quiet sector, arriving August 13. August 18—"Left Dorcelles by truck at 11 A. M. for support position at St. Prayal; arriving 7:30 A. M. August 20. Reported to a French Colonel." I was then commanding Company "D" and was attached to a French Regiment. The commanding officer asked if I had a map. I said, "No," and he was greatly surprised and asked "How do you travel?" I have no record of what Division this was but I think it was the 172nd French Division.

August 20—"At 10:30 I was given a guide to go to the position that I was to take over with Company "D" and looked it over. The officer was still curious about why I had no map. August 21—"Took over position with one platoon, leaving remainder at St. Prayal. Relieved white troops. I asked the Sergeant about the operations in that sector. He had been there one month, had captured no prisoners, and the only man in the outfit that had been killed was the Captain. He was killed T-30 French No. 30. I inquired as to the direction of the enemy and to this query he seemed surprised but pointed where his captain was supposed to have been when slain. He too, had no maps, I further asked about radios. They had made none, but the Germans had and were driven back." Imagine for yourself what a predicament these men of my platoon were to labor in. Their orders from me were brief and the best that could be given at that time. This platoon commanded by Lieut. Hawkins and the position was designated a La Haut. I remained at La Haut until August 23. August 24—"Rejoined remainder of Company at St. Prayal. August 28—"Captain Marchbanks returned from school relieving me of command." August 29—"Relief of white troops was to begin at 12:30 and end at 5:30 A. M. All went well. Company marched in position under trying conditions and enemy's fire. Company commanded by Captain Marchbanks. August 30—"In position. Sector quiet. August 31—"Under heavy bombardment from enemy from 12 midnight to 5:30 A. M. During the bombardment of gas, and shrapnel, a raiding party attacked a position held by Lieut. Carter. It was repulsed, resulting in one casualty." I state here that Company "A" under command of Captain Atwood from Washington, D. C., had taken up a bombardment he had seven men wounded on our left. During this deed and our General said we could not stand shell fire, but those men stood firm under it though it was their first experience and again while Captain Banks was moving his company in position under fire there was no confusion. He was never halted but continued his march though the trail would only admit a single file march. This was difficult and dangerous, but he had his orders and was determined to carry them out. September 4—"A strong German patrol was sighted in front of T-30 commanded by Lieut. Reese of Company "D" about 8:30 A. M. His men opened fire which caused the enemy to halt for observation. He sent message to his Company commander who sent same to Battalion Commander (this was necessary as orders were no raids, or patrols would go out except on orders from Battalion Headquarters. This battalion was commanded by Major Morrison an efficient officer, but who had that same feeling as all others toward the Negro. He was very much liked by officers and men under his command. At 3:30 P. M. a patrol under Lieut. Lenard, Battalion Adjutant, was sent out to capture and bring in the enemy patrol sighted by Lieut. Reese, at 8:30 A. M. At 4 P. M. Lieut. Lenard and his squad of 8 men had completely surrounded the German raiding party, Lieut. Reese still keeping

in touch with the enemy from his position. Lieut. Lenard killed 8 of the German raiding party and captured two, arriving at Battalion Headquarters at 5 P. M. with his prisoners." Our General, however, states that a single prisoner was captured. Lieut. Lenard was killed in action September 27, which I shall mention later. "I am still at leisure, no duties to perform." September 5—"Received order to report to Commanding Officer of Company "C" who was Captain Peeks, another Regular Army man from the 10th Cavalry. Then ordered to report to Battalion Commander, arriving at Battalion Headquarters at 5:30 P. M. This was 3rd Battalion, 368th Infantry, commanded by Major Norris, who is responsible for the operation of Battalion. Received orders from Major Norris to take over position namely Rheulequad and Gina-Goush. In this position was to be two platoons and was to be relieved every 8 days. Placed Lieut. McAden with one platoon at Rheulequad with one machine gun, using this as my support and personally commanded Gina-Goush which was my front line. All went well. September 7—"Decided to make a change in one of my outposts on the front and it was well that I did as the enemy located it. September 8—"Former pitpost position a target for the enemy and bombardment of it lasted for four hours." I wish the readers to note that I am writing this because of our General's accusations. I want to let the public know the facts and if what I say in this article is not recorded then the reports sent to Division Headquarters were false as to the operation of the 368th Infantry and especially the 3rd Battalion to which General Bullard referred in his article. (TO BE CONTINUED)

An interesting fact which he also discovered was the rain-drops are larger in summer than in winter, and the largest in hot than in cold climates.

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