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Negro Loyalty.

The willingness of some Colored orators to pledge their entire race to eager willingness to risk and give their lives for the United States of America without making or even asking any terms in the way of the abolition of injustice, and the eagerness that our fellow white Americans have to hear that Colored Americans are hot for enlistment in case of war, despite proscriptions has been illustrated in a classic manner by the speech of the brilliant but erratic orator, Roscoe Simmons and by the space and prominence given to this speech delivered to a Colored audience in Louisville, Kentucky, in the leading newspapers of the North and South. The Boston Post gave it a big head-line.

The Boston Post's news story reads as follows:

The pride of the Negro race in their share in American history of loyal achievements to come is contained in the following extract from a remarkable speech by Roscoe Conkling Simmons, himself a Negro, before a gathering of his own race at Louisville, Ky., recently:

"We have a record to defend, but no treason, thank God to atone for or explain. While in chains we fought to free white men—from Lexington to Carrizal—and returned again to our chains. No Negro has ever insulted the flag. No Negro ever struck down a president of these United States. No Negro ever sold a military map or secret to a foreign government. No Negro ever ran under fire or lost an opportunity to serve, to fight, to bleed and to die in the republic's cause. Accuse us of what you will—justify and wrongly—no man can point to a single instance of our disloyalty.

"We have but one country and one flag, the flag that set us free. Its language is our only tongue, and no hyphen bridges or qualifies our loyalty. Today the nation faces danger from a foreign foe, treason stalks and skulks up and down our land, in dark councils intrigue is being hatched. I am a republican, but a Wilson Republican. Woodrow Wilson is my leader. What he commands me to do I shall do. Where he commands me to go I shall go. If he calls me to colors I shall not ask whether my colonel is black or white. I shall be there to pick out no color except the white of the enemy's eye. Grievances I have against this people, against this government. Injustice to me there is, bad laws there are upon the statute books, but in this hour of peril I forget—and you must forget—all thoughts of self or race or

NEGRO NAVY OFFICER RETIRES WITH HONORS

Philadelphia, Pa.—John C. Jordan, who lives at 1226 So. Mole St., this city was retired recently from the United States Navy after thirty years service, having attained the rank of chief gunner's mate. He entered the service on June 17, 1887, at Washington, D. C.

He completed the course at the Gunner School, Washington in 1883, and was the first Negro to do so. Mr. Jordan was on the Olympia, Dewey's flagship, at the battle of Manila Bay in 1878, and later was stationed at the Navy Academy, Annapolis, at the naval station, Culebra, Porto Rico, the League Island naval station at Philadelphia, where he had charge of the rifle range at the time of his retirement.

He has been awarded six medals from the government for Fidelity, Zeal and Obedience, and on his retirement received a letter from the Navy Department stating that he was a "valuable man in uplifting of the navy" and that "it regrets very much to see you retire from active life in the navy.

Columbus, Ohio.—There will be 2,500 more colored voters eligible to vote in Franklin County this fall, giving the county a total of 8,500 colored voters. These 2,500 new colored voters will be largely men who have come from the South during the last year and a half.

Eligible to vote this fall in Ohio will be 30,000 more colored voters than at the 1916 election. These 30,000 will swell the colored vote of Ohio to 100,000. If the present ratio of increase in the number of colored men coming North from the South continues thruout next summer and fall in 1918 there will be 145,000 colored voters in Ohio.

creed or politics or color. That, boys, is loyalty."

We shall reserve to some occasion than a speech by Roscoe, full of consideration of the question of a "rushing to the colors" by Colored Americans for the United States without any thought of how we are treated. Suffice it to say now at when the European war started England felt it expedient to promise Home Rule for the land of Irish who were to furnish soldiers, and Russia promised to remove the political disabilities of the Jews and to remove the ghetto.

Colored Americans have no intention or desire to help the foreign foe. It is true, however, that all our willingness to fight for the country has not stopped an extension of segregation and an increasing loss of our rights. It is folly and worse to be precipitate about promising the race is eager to die for this country with all its injustice. Let us at least consider England's and Russia's offer for the oppressed.



BE PATRIOTIC.

To Declare War, Means Economy and Foresight Negroes Plant Corn, Vegetables and Wheat.

With the declaration of war by United States comes enormous responsibilities upon each and every Negro citizen especially. Now is the time to show your patriotism by producing something each month till the war ends and not wait until famine strikes us. It is also a time to keep a cool and level head. Hoist your colors and stand by them. Every church, lodge, hall and home in Colorado should have an American flag in it. Not because we do not hate the fiendish burnings of our own dear loved mothers, fathers and innocent children, not that we think less of their autocratic prejudiced treatment in public places of amusement, and public thoroughfares, but because some of your old fathers, brothers yea, even sons fought for "Old Glory" and carried her thru valleys, over mountains and plains, through fire, water and blood and finally because "Old Glory" is, as badly as we are treated, the only symbol of liberty and equality, we know Negroes this is a grave hour, a time when men's souls are being tested by fires of hate, wars, rebellion and conscription all finally to the Glory of God that all nations might have an indisputable right and enjoyment of the Tree of Life of useful and progressive citizenship. Let us, for the while forget our grievances, and applaud the sight of Old Glory, the flag of our fathers. To applaud the flag is all right, but deserving and loyal citizens should be ready and willing to serve it with something more substantial than mere applause. If the time comes when the situations need us, let us joyfully rally around the flag with every physical, mental, and material resource at our command. Every man and woman, no matter what their position in life, should be ready to do his or her part. Our fathers fought for Old Glory and left us to carry forward our precious heritage much or little and God helping, we intend to respond to the voices of our dead fathers calling for sons to do their duty in this hour of peril. The real spirit of the United States is neither crying out for peace at any price nor clamoring for war for any selfish reasons.

The issue is clear, right or wrong or kings and queens or the common people. It is standing by the flag and the president and preparing as much as possible under present conditions, for any emergency that may arise. In the meantime, show your colors and stand by them after war has been declared. Keep cool, cheerful and loyal. Don't hate, lose your temper or engage in futile argument of war. Prepare now by frugal planting for the rainy days just ahead of you. Let every Negro be in a fit physical condition and be ready to do his or her part during and after the war. Now is the time to conserve all energy.

THE PERPETUAL DILEMMA-THE TESTING FIRE.

We Negroes ever face it. We cannot escape it. We must continually choose between insult and injury; no schools or separate schools; no travel or "Jim Crow" travel; homes with disdainful neighbors or homes in slums.

We continually submit to segregated schools, "Jim Crow" cars, and isolation, because it would be suicide to go uneducated, stay at home, and live in the "tenderloin."

Yet, when a new alternative of such choice fares us it comes with a shock and almost without thinking we rail at the one who advises the lesser of two evils.

Thus it was with many hasty editors in the case of the training camp for Negro officers which Dr. J. E. Spingarn is seeking to establish.

Does Dr. Spingarn believe in a "Jim Crow" training camp? Certainly not, and he has done all he could to induce the government to admit Negroes to all training camps.

The government has so far courteously refused. But war is imminent.

If war comes to-morrow Negroes will be compelled to enlist under white officers because (save in a very few cases) no Negroes have had the requisite training.

We must choose then between the insult of a separate camp and the irreparable injury of strengthening the present custom of putting no black men in positions of authority.

Our choice is as clear as noonday. Give us the camp. Let not 200, but 2000, volunteer. We did not make the damnable dilemma. Our enemies made that. We must make the choice else we play into their very claws. It is a case of camp or no officers. Give us the officers. Give us the camp. A word to those who object:

1. The army does not wish this camp. It wishes the project to fail. General Wood refuses to name date or place until 200 apply. The reason is obvious. Up to March 8, sixty-nine men have applied. 2 The camp is a temporary measure lasting four weeks and designed to fight, not encourage discrimination in the army. The New York Negro regiment could not find equalized Negroes for its commissions. We want trained colored officers. This camp will help furnish them.

3. The South does not want the Negro to receive military training of any sort. For that reason the general staff reduced its estimate from 900,000 to 500,000 soldiers—they expect to EXCLUDE Negroes!

4. If war comes, conscription will follow. All pretty talk about not volunteering will become entirely academic. This is the mistake made by the Baltimore Afro-American, the Chicago Defender, the New York News and the Cleveland Gazette. They assume a choice between volunteering and not volunteering. The choice will be between conscription and rebellion.

Can the reader conceive of the possibility of choice? The



W. E. B. DuBois.

leaders of the colored race who advise them to add treason and rebellion to the other grounds on which the South urges discrimination against them would hardly be doing a service to those whom they profess to love. No, there is only one thing to do now, and that is to organize the colored people for leadership and service, if war should come. A thousand commissioned officers of colored blood is something to work for.

Give us the camp!

—THE CRISIS.

The Illinois House of Representatives has passed a bill prohibiting the showing in the state of motion pictures showing lynchings or which tend to excite race prejudice. It was introduced by a colored representative, Robert R. Jackson of Chicago. It would prohibit the showing of such pictures as "The Birth of a Nation."

MANHOOD.

Life's best prizes are won, not by skill or strength, but by that grandest thing known on earth—manhood. Honorable, educated, active, cultivated manhood is to rule this world.

Always there have been bad men, corrupted, degraded, but sharp and cunning, who have made great gains by great frauds, or crafty swindling, and have held some sort of position in the world in spite of their want of character, for there are parasites and money worshippers who honor and applaud the man of money without caring to know how he came by his possessions.

But These are the Exceptions

The true man is the thing most prized by the great world. True manhood is the wisest, sharpest, strongest, most clear-sighted, far-sighted contestant in the battlefield of life. Manhood carries the sharpest sword, gains the truest success and wears the brightest crown. No one is, or can be, the best preacher, the best lawyer, the best physician, or the best business man, who is not truly, grandly, gloriously and unselfishly a man.

If you would climb to the highest places, carry off the richest prizes, get the most enjoyment out of life and have the sublimest of old age, you must conquer the base elements of nature, you must have every atom of the dross of dishonesty squeezed, hammered, burned out, if necessary.

You must become as sound as 24 karat gold, as true as best steel. You must prove yourself as reliable as the course of nature, as incorruptible as sunlight, as pure and sweet in your personality as the breezes of heaven. You scorn all meanness, loathe all false pretenses, be afraid of every kind of dishonesty and hate a lie as you would hate the devil himself. You must determine stoutly to be what you would appear.

There is a premium on men like that. The great world, disgusted with frauds and pretenders and shams of all kinds will know such a man as soon as he appears. It will prize him, honor him, reward him, make him famous and render him immortal.—Philadelphia Record.

We are pleased to note that China is taking advantage of national right in joining in the fight of the democracy against aristocracy or taking up arms in behalf of the people against kings and queens. America cannot at the end of the war escape giving some concessions to these brave and patriotic Chinese, as well as Japanese. A man is a man after all, for a' that. America is embracing (Danish) or American West Indies, Cuba, Haiti and Porto Rico, all countries whose majority of inhabitants are Negroes or Negroid, and someday, somebody will rise up and advocate full manhood rights for all mankind everywhere.