

EDITORIALS

A MARINE OFFICER

An event of some significance in the history of the Negro took place in North Carolina a few days ago. On the day that the Marine Corps celebrated the 170th anniversary of its creation of Neg. Marine, Frederick Branch, a resident of Charlotte, was commissioned a second lieutenant. He is the first of his race, as far as is known, to hold a commission in the Marines.

Indeed, until three years ago, there had never been any recognizable Negroes in the Marine Corps at all. One of the proudest arms of the Navy, the Marine Corps had out-marched all the other services in filly-whiteness. It is to the credit of those who brought it about that the Marine Corps was opened in this way to Negroes, after more than a century and half of exclusion.

The Negroes in the Marine Corps see little of combat duty in this war. It was not to their discredit that they did not, however, they were well trained; they were ready. They were in the positions those who "falso serve, who only stand and wait." In this "lightness" of all branches of the service they for the most part had to start in the bottom end of the menial, onerous work that had to be done by somebody, to native who did the other things. From all ranks they did well what they were called on and permitted to do, and were ready to do more.

The process of integration of the Negro Marines has been facilitated by the commissioning of even one officer. Another link in the rusty chain of isolation has been weakened. That it happened so promptly rather than under the usual urgency of actual war may be a good rather than a bad omen for the future.

According to the results of an investigation made by the Associated Negro Press the greatly improved posts offered by Negroes in the Navy as a result of the war will at least to some extent be carried over into peacetime. There has been considerable misgiving on this point, since Negroes with ratings and in new types of service were nearly all in the Naval Reserve. There was some apprehension in the regular post-war Navy Negro personnel would be relegated again to the mess service exclusively. It is good to know that present plans call for an equal program.

As reports from correspondents show, and as many incidents demonstrate, the position of the Negro in the U. S. Navy is still far from ideal, and remains to be so. There is the Army, but in relation to what has been for many years the status of the colored naval service, can be deemed to be advanced in general.

In anticipation of the present Navy department head, to do something approaching their right, they were denied that right by their engaging of Lester Granger, a tall, intelligent and reasonable man, who in the case of the Navy, and in the case of freedom Mr. Granger has been a consistent and able spokesman for the colored man. It goes on the one hand, that the Navy will be a considerable improvement, at least to the point where the Navy will be a considerable improvement. Even then there will still have to be a great deal of work to be done.

Racial justice the committee made a highly practical recommendation.

We urge the North Carolina Baptist Convention to go on record as endorsing a close working relationship between Negro and white members of one denomination in the various communities of our State. And in this, the chief hope that we have of preventing a repetition of the kind of an aggressive leadership on the part of the Christian Church of our denomination. Such aggressive leadership should have its effect in bringing the members of both races who are in the same community and with a sense of common interest, to come together to discuss real problems and to seek, by common consent, the solution which would prevent the repetition of such a tragedy as that of the last war.

The committee also recommended that all Negroes in the Baptist Church should be given the same rights and opportunities as the white members of the church. This includes the right to hold office in the church, to be eligible for membership in the church, and to be eligible for the same positions of leadership as the white members of the church.

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NEGRO OFFICERS IN NORFOLK

The Norfolk Naval Shipyard has become a center of activity for Negro officers. In the past, these officers were often relegated to menial jobs, but now they are being given more responsible positions. This is a significant step towards integration in the Navy. The shipyard is one of the largest in the Navy, and it is important that it be a model of racial equality.

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"WHEN WE TRY TO REBUILD"

Second Thoughts

By C. L. HALLIBURTON

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Lost We Forget.

By W. J. GILBERT

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Rev. M. W. Williams

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ALONG THE WAY

By C. L. BRYANT, JR.

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Some Observations

By GEORGE F. KING

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Published by the Associated Negro Press, 118 East Market Street, Raleigh, N. C. Entered as second-class matter, March 5, 1945. Post Office at Raleigh, N. C., established March 5, 1945.

Subscription rates: One Year, \$5.00; Six Months, \$3.00; Three Months, \$1.50. Single Copies, 10c. Address all orders to the Editor, Associated Negro Press, 118 East Market Street, Raleigh, N. C.

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