

the Manager and the Editor of the Progressive Westerner shall have passed away to Morning land, The Progressive Westerner will be remembered for all that was high, and true, and noble.

I am yours for the Race,
THE EDITOR.

THE BLACK TURCOS OF FRANCE.

What Germany has long feared has now come to pass, France is using her black army! She has brought into action on European soil, thousands of black troopers. On the whole the quality of these troops is excellent and above the average. They are hardy by nature and France has given to them the very best of training. Being made up entirely of dark races, they have all the qualities that make the true soldier. They obey a command to the minute and have never then known to lag in battle. They are daring, reckless and valiant and have the reputation of fearing neither God, Man, or the Devil.

At the battle of Charleroi they marched against the Prussian Guard with shot and shell flying around them, their nostrils dilating and their eyes sparkling with joy of battle. The command was given: "Give the Turcos free rein!" and they took it. One writer in describing it says, "It was like Hell let loose, so fierce was the charge of the Turcos. While a Turcos was disengaging his bayonet from one victim he would whip out his revolver and shoot another." At this battle it was reported that one of the African soldiers captured a German captain. No matter how steady or invincible are the troops of the enemy, no soldiers on the field are able to resist the Turcos bayonet charge.

In thinking of the Turcos of France, one's mind travels back to San Juan where another band of African soldiers were marching into battle singing, with the cannon around them and stanch courage in their hearts. They too were intoxicated with the joy of battle and in their fierce charge they swept the enemy down before them. Thus stamping another victory for America on the pages of History.

France is making the desert bloom. In her careless manner she has made Africa produce for her, cattle, grass, wines, oats, wheat, trees, olives, potatoes, beans etc. As America took her black subjects and sent them out on the battle-field to win for her honor and glory, so France is doing, and they will uphold and protect the honor which has been intrusted to them.

Yes, Africa produces fighting blood and Germany has cause to fear it. Two years ago or thereabout, Gen. Freidrich Von Bernhardi of the German army wrote: "If the French succeed in making a large African army available for an European theatre, the estimate of the French army as compared to ours will be quite different." Quite different indeed!

Since France first landed in Africa, she has built up a productive empire there. They have built roads, run steel rails through mountain, desert, and forest; drilled wells and drawn water where formerly there was none. Today in Africa statistics say the French have: 6,000 miles of railway, 25,000 miles of telegraph and 10,000 miles of telephone. But even with all these fine achievements, France may yet be made to realize that the building up of a black army in Africa is the wisest and greatest of her achievements there.