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when a county newspaper fails to give outward signs of democratic grace that county goes drifting and the republican wolves gather in the lambs.

### "ABE IS DEAD."

This is sad news to the members of the Northwest Missouri Press association. For many years the association has met in the rooms of the St. Joseph Commercial club, and the first man to meet and warmly greet them at the door was Abe Quarles, the colored steward of the Commercial club. But the great white angel of death who knows no race, tongue nor creed, came along one day last week and beckoned Abe to follow and he went along with it, as have gone the millions before him.

Forty-seven years ago Abe was born on a Platte county farm, and acquired a large amount of the ease and grace from the Southern people around him. These qualities made him an able assistant, and he possessed the politeness and urbanity of the old time colored servant, qualities that are rarely found among the latter day members of his race. And the boys of the Press association will miss Abe, his kindly welcome and genial smile, for Abe has "gone where the good darkies go." Maybe, and we trust it will be the case, should a poor old worn and weary editor ever reach the golden shore, Abe, good old kind and faithful Abe, will be there to say "Hello boss, I'se glad to see you."

### THE PANAMA CANAL

You should begin laying by your shekles if you intend to be present at the opening of the great wonder of the century the Panama canal. Official communication has just reached Washington that the work will be completed and the canal will be ready for use Jan. 1, 1915.

There has been excavated from the line of the canal since the Americans took control about 56,000,000 cubic yards. This, as near as can be calculated at the present time, is about one third of the entire excavation necessary to complete the work. In 1908 down to November 1, nearly 31,000,000 cubic yards were removed and the total for this year will not be far from 37,000,000 cubic yards. This will bring the grand total of American excavation to about 60,000,000 cubic yards. As practically all of this will be accomplished within three years, the average is between 36 000,000 and 42,000,000 cubic yards a year.

Mr. Taft will visit the canal so as to thoroughly acquaint himself with its workings before he takes his office as president March 4.

The United States consumed 7,000,000,000 pounds of sugar in 1908. Do you take sugar in yours?

### Abe Quarles is Dead

Abe Quarles is dead.

The faithful colored steward of the Commmercial club, who assumed his post the day the club rooms were opened, seventeen years ago, and who never was absent except when sick, succumed to a long seige with Bright's disease, Friday night at 10:40 o'clock, at his home, 617 Lincoln street. He was 47 years old, and had lived 42 years of his 43 years' residence in St. Joseph in the house where he died. From there were buried his father, mother and Anderson Quarles, for 10 years a mail carrier.

Abe Quarles was regarded as one of St. Joseph's best colored citizens. He ever was identified with the movements to uplift his race, and he was prominent in lodge, church and political work. Every business man knew him, at least by sight. He was an invaluable assistant to F. W. Maxwell, commissioner of the Commercial club, who often remarked, "Abe knows how to receive visitors and look after business men who call here, better than I do." In his well brushed Prince Albert coat, or snowy white jacket he donned for state occasions, it was difficult to imagine a better factotum to assume the duties which Abe discharged so easily.

His wife, a daughter, Marie, one brother, Fremont, and four sisters survive. Fremont Quarles, who acted as steward for his brother after Abe became ill, formerly was a member of the police force.

Abe Quarles' death came after a long fight against the disease which finally brought about his end. Kidney trouble is chronic in the family, and Fremont Quarles' life was given up several years ago by physicians. That fact encouraged Abe, but the disease became worse than ever after he submitted to an operation for another trouble several years ago, and when he left his post about ten days ago, it was believed he would never return.

The funeral will be at 2:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon from the Francis Street Baptist church, with interment in Mount Mora cemetery. The obsequies will be under the auspicies of Wilkinson lodge No. 26 A. F. and A. M., and the Knights of Tabor. Abe Quarles was a member of the negro Knights Templar, Royal Arch Masons and Shriners.

Abe Quarles' full name was Abraham Lincoln Quarles, and he told an interesting story about the facts surrounding his christening.

"I was born in Platte county, on a farm where my mother and father worked for a Southern family. The farmer's wife wasn't very popular with the colored folks, she was so mean, and after I was born my mother met her one day.

"'What are you going to name the baby?' she asked.

"That was in 1861, when Lincoln was being talked about by everyone, and my mother just flared up and said, 'I'm going to name him Abraham Lincoln.'

"And she did too."

Addressed to Abe Quarles, a postal card was delivered this morning at the Commercial club. It was from F. W. Maxwell commissioner, who left last Tuesday for Washington, and Commissioner Maxwell wrote that he would return Wednesday. A telegram was sent to him, in Chicago, telling of his steward's death, and he is expected home tomorrow.—St. Joseph News-Press.

Get in line to enjoy New Years.

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