

fers has been denied by the War Department. Unless this decision is reversed, the Ninety-second Division is bound to be a failure as a unit organization. Is it possible that persons in the War Department wish this division to be a failure?

Thirdly, we call the attention of the public to Bulletin No. 35 sent out from Camp Funston, Kans., which says:

"The Division Commander has repeatedly urged that all colored members of his command, and especially the officers and non-commissioned officers, should refrain from going where their presence will be resented. In spite of this injunction one of the sergeants of the Medical Department has recently precipitated the precise trouble that should be avoided and then called on the Division Commander to take sides in a row that should never have occurred and would not have occurred had the sergeant placed the general good above his personal pleasure and convenience. This sergeant entered a theatre, as he undoubtedly had a legal right to do, and precipitated trouble by making it possible to allege race discrimination in the seat he was given. He is strictly within his legal rights in this matter and the theatre manager is legally wrong. Nevertheless, the sergeant is guilty of the greater wrong in doing *anything* no matter how *legally* correct that will provoke race animosity."

Can it be that General Ballou is not going to protect his colored officers in their simplest legal rights? We are aware how careful colored men have to be everywhere in the United States in "stirring up" race antagonism, but the greatest danger is not that they will carelessly bring on race antagonism, but rather that they will invite it by submitting to intolerable insult.

Finally, we call attention to one other action of the War Department,

prefacing it by the information that there are twenty-three colored doctors in Detroit, that they are graduates of some of the foremost medical schools of the country and that they have long practised among both colored and white people. Notwithstanding this, the following letter has been sent to local Exemption Board No. 4:

"Gentlemen:

"It has been called to the attention of this department that many of your white registrants have been examined by colored doctors.

"This matter has been taken up with the Adjutant General and he desires that this practise be discontinued.

"By the direction of the Adjutant General,

"Signed by Robert K. Davis."

Z. W. MITCHELL.

**F**ROM time to time it becomes the painful duty of THE CRISIS to expose fraud and humbug. Z. W. Mitchell has been operating in the Middle West and in Canada for many years. Usually his methods just escape transgression of the letter of the law, but he found it best to remove from Canada, leaving a member of his family in the penitentiary and recently he himself has been in jail in Iowa. A prominent white merchant of Iowa writes us:

"I am glad to learn of the whereabouts of the Negro, Z. W. Mitchell, for I know a lot about his dishonest doings and pretensions. Some four or five years ago he came to Oskaloosa and worked along the same lines which your letter indicates he is doing at Springfield now, namely, 'Loyal Legion Co-operative System,' for the solution of the Negro problem. He is an intelligent Negro and a slick fellow and knows how to line up a lot of prominent men for his work. Mr. ———, Negro lawyer of ———, read

his character better than some of the rest of us. He received about one hundred dollars from me, through misrepresentation and false pretenses, but got away from Oskaloosa before I fully comprehended the real facts leading up to my cashing his draft. I could not locate him for about three years, then I put ——— to work trying to collect my money and I think he traced him through THE CRISIS. Mr. ——— collected part of the money, but later, failing to make satisfactory settlement, I placed my correspondence and various data in the hands of the County Attorney, who called me before the Grand Jury some two years ago, and it did not take them long to indict Mr. Mitchell. He was arrested in Quincy, Ill., brought to Oskaloosa, put in jail to await trial; but through the influence of some attorneys and his good promises, he was released from jail, on what grounds I do not know. I declined to see him or have any conference, but the indictment is still over him and all the evidence in the way of telegrams, letters, papers, etc., are now in the hands of the County Attorney.

My opinion is that he is a slick and smart rascal and his nefarious work ought to be stopped."

An authorized agent of Tuskegee writes:

"Just before Dr. Washington summoned me to meet him in Chicago, late in 1912, or early the following year, I ran across this same man, Mitchell, who at that time was operating in eastern Iowa with a base at Muscatine, Iowa. Some of our donors at Clinton and Davenport (in Iowa) bitterly complained to Dr. Washington about Z. W. Mitchell then. I got in after him and especially with the aid of Mr. ———, a Negro lawyer, chased Mitchell into Missouri. Later I learned he was living in St. Louis.

"I may say here that this man

Mitchell has caused Tuskegee to lose many of its donors. I actually saw with my own eyes a letter he claims Dr. Washington gave him out in Ohio many years ago—in the late nineties—during President McKinley's first term as our President. He is a very intelligent-looking individual and is an exceedingly smooth talker. He is a great liar, a scoundrel, a thief, who plays on charity and actually belongs in the penitentiary! I suggest that the school take a very firm stand against this slick, glib, smooth imposter."

Mitchell is now circularizing the West for a "Co-operative Congress" to be held this summer in Springfield, Ill., where he is at present operating.

#### UNCONSCIOUS INSULT.

**A** COLORED woman writes us: "On Tuesday, February 12, I was invited, along with a large number of our women, to a meeting called by Clarence R. Wilson, Food Administrator for the District of Columbia, to listen to addresses on food conservation by several speakers, and I feel that we colored women were invited to this meeting for the specific purpose of being insulted.

"The first speaker, Mrs. Archibald Hopkins, in her address referred to her 'old black mammy' and said that she had said to her, 'Miss Hopkins, I've got to have sugar.' The second speaker, Mrs. Matthew Scott, President of the Daughters of the American Revolution, began her speech by saying, 'An old darkey down South was asked to change a ten dollar bill, etc.' The third speaker, a trained one from Chicago, made no reference to us as a race, but I have felt ever since I left that meeting that Mrs. Hopkins and Mrs. Scott should be showered with the protests of the nearly one hundred colored women present, to so ridicule our race in a meeting called for the unity of all American women in the matter of food conservation."