

February, 20th, 1926

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Official Organ of the Can. League for Advancement of Colored People.



THE NATIONAL NEGRO WEEKLY
DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE DARKER RACES

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS AMONG NEGROES BEFORE YEAR 1865

By Fred. Landon, M.A.

(Continued from last issue)

About 1850 the Board of the Baptist Missionary Convention of the State of New York sent two representatives, Messrs. Wheelock and Sheldon, to ascertain the condition of the coloured people, particularly those of the Baptist faith, in Canada West. They found the white testimony quite favourable to the Negroes, who were described as generally moral and industrious. They urged in their report that the coloured Baptists in Canada should be aided in maintaining schools and churches, but with regard to other forms of aid they say: "We found in all places we visited that respectable colored people, in churches and out of churches, were united in their testimony that contributions of clothing and provisions, except for the aged and sick, would prove a curse rather than a blessing. In the States there has been much said about the destitution and sufferings of the fugitives, and much has been done for their relief. This reported destitution and suffering, we find, has been greatly exaggerated. None need assistance of this kind but the aged and sick."

The report adds that there has been much imposition practiced upon benevolent persons, collections having been taken up for the refugees which never reached them.

In "The Liberator" of July 30, 1852, appears a statement with regard to the refugees, signed by Rev. Dr. Willis, president of the Anti-Slavery Society of Canada, and by Messrs. Henning and Hamilton, officers of the society. Their communication estimates the coloured population at the time of the passing of the Fugitive Slave Act at 20,000, but says that this was increased within a few months after passing the Act by from four to five thousand. Charges of mistreatment of the fugitives by Canadians are denied. "Every coloured man, as is well known, the moment he sets his feet on the Canadian soil is forever free and not only that but he is on a level, in regard to every political and social advantage with the white man. He can vote for members of Parliament and for magistrates and in every other popular election."

Ohio Supreme Court Bars Segregation In Dayton Schools

New York, Feb. 19—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, has received word of a decision by the Supreme Court of Ohio ordering the Dayton Board of Education and the local Superintendent to admit Negro children to the same classes and buildings used by white children at the Garfield School, in Dayton. This decision affirms the decision of the Montgomery County Court of Appeals which had ruled against segregation as a result of a contest begun by a colored citizen, Earl Reese.

The decision outlaws segregation of colored children in the schools of the State. It follows a similar case, fought a year ago by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in the Willard School, where it had been sought to place colored children in classes in the school basement and to make them enter the building through a rear entrance.

The N.A.A.C.P. sent Robert W. Bagnall, its Director of Branches to Dayton; worked in conjunction with the Parents' Protective Association, held meetings and helped to raise funds for the struggle. The Dayton Branch of the N.A.A.C.P., through Rev. J. N. Samuels-Belboder, has taken an active part in fighting these cases.

The Ohio Supreme Court's decision is based on a similar ruling made by the Court 38 years ago in similar cases originating in Hamilton and Butler Counties.

The communication states further that the Negro fugitives have their own churches, though they are not discriminated against in others; that they are not segregated in coaches or on steamers and that they can have their separate schools. "The colored people in Canada have no grievance of any kind," is the conclusion of the communication.

The American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society kept a friendly eye on the Canadian fugitives. The report for 1851 says: "Several agents have, during the past year, proceeded to Canada to exert the best influence in their power over the fugitives that have flocked to the province in years past and especially those who have gone the past year. They are supplied with the means of in-

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Washington Gives \$2,540 To N.A.A.C.P.

The District of Columbia Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. contributed \$2,540.04 to the Legal Defense Fund recently raised, not \$2,340.04 as erroneously reported. This makes the Washington Branch second to Philadelphia in the list of Branches contributing to the Fund.

Bronx Grand jury indicts girls attack

New York, Feb. 10—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, today received word by telephone from its attorney, Alan Dingle, that the Bronx County Grand Jury had indicted in second degree rape, the white attackers, of a fourteen-year-old colored girl, who had been held for three days in a barn and who subsequently died in a hospital. The girl had come from Virginia to New York, to go to school and was staying with her aunt and uncle.

The N.A.A.C.P. brought the girl's mother from Virginia, paying her expenses, in order that she might identify the girl's body and testify as to her age. The prosecutor has announced he will press for a very early trial.

To aid in prosecuting the white rapists, the Colored Women's Protective League of the Bronx, composed mainly of colored women who earn their own living, has contributed \$40.

Mrs. L. A. Houston, President of the Bronx Colored Women's Protective League, Mrs. Louisa A. Jeter and Mrs. P. B. Walker, were constituted a delegation to call at the National Office of the N.A.A.C.P., present the contribution and express the appreciation of the Protective League for the activity of the N.A.A.C.P. in the case.

Faithful Servants Left \$7,000 By Millionaire

Springfield, Mo., Feb. 11—(Special) At the reading of the will of the late Douglas J. Landers, millionaire lumberman, here, Wednesday, it was discovered that he had bequeathed two faithful colored servants a small fortune.

To Mrs. Ella Thomas, who had cooked for the Landers for many years, \$5000 was willed and to Glyne McAdams, houseman of the family for many years \$2000 was left.

EUROPE HAILS U. S. NEGRO AS GREAT STAGE ARTIST

New York, February 10th—Europe rather than Liberia, according to present indications, is the place toward which American Negroes will in the future turn as their land of promise. In particular is this true for those who have a talent for the stage.

Throughout Europe "the color line" is a thing unknown, while in European theatres a coloured skin is a real asset.

Popular in France

For years past colored Americans have been extremely popular in France and other Latin countries. They have been welcomed into society, feted as war heroes and otherwise given a status equal to that enjoyed by people with white skins.

Since the war this popularity of Negroes has spread to other European states. There is hardly a city of any size where a few American Negroes are not to be encountered every day, especially during the summer months and there is no national capital which does not welcome the Negro traveller as cordially as it does the white tourist. The time is long past when a black-skinned man attracted undue attention as he walked along the streets and dined in the restaurants of Europe.

In its hospitable treatment of the colored races Vienna has led, rather than followed the procession. As the meeting place of east and west—"the eastern outpost of Western civilization," the Viennese call their city—Vienna has for centuries been accustomed to entertain people from every clime and continent. To welcome the Negro to-day she considers only a new development in her traditional life.

Actors Are Sought

On the part of the theatrical world this welcome to Vienna has been particularly cordial. Theatre managers have turned to Negro artists from America (and to many who were not even half-artists) as an innovation which would swell box-office receipts; actors and actresses have gladly fraternized with their coloured colleagues because they have found in them something new to study; while patrons of the theatre have not only exchanged their money for tickets night after night without stint, but also have fallen over themselves seeking introductions to the most prominent of the Negro visitors in order that they

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