

Dawn of Tomorrow

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Editorial

THE PAN-AFRICAN CONGRESS AND WORLD-PEACE.

With great expectancy we await the report of the Fourth Pan-African Congress which convenes in New York City during the present week, for, closely allied with this congress is the question of world peace. The Pan-African Congress is a gathering of people of African descent from all quarters of the globe to discuss and solve if possible problems which are peculiar to the descendants of Africa. During the period in which the slave trade flourished in Africa more than 1,000,000 souls were taken from that continent. Their descendants now inhabit every part of the earth. In the United States, the West Indies Islands, Canada and in South America they form an integral part of the population. These, together with the native Africans, form a very large part of the earth's population.

And so, no plans for permanent and lasting world peace will ever succeed without fully considering the rights and even the attitude of Pan-Africa. That the vast majority of the four billion native Africans are still uncivilized means but little to the future, for they have proven beyond the shadow of a doubt that they are teachable, that they love their mother country and all that is theirs by blood ties and that they are willing to co-operate. Even in their semi-civilized state, their voices are pleading for a common brotherhood of all mankind, for a justice which shall include all the nations of the earth.

The descendants of Africa who have had the advantage of civilization can not be cajoled into lethargy by the slogan that they came from nothing and are headed to nowhere. They know that 400 years before the slave trade, devastated and raped their fatherland Africa possessed a high civilization. Rawlinson, the noted authority on ancient races, says: "For the last 2,000 years the world has been indebted mainly to the Indo-European races for its advancement, but it was otherwise in the first ages. Egypt and Africa, Mizraim and Babylon led the way and acted as pioneers of mankind in the various fields of science and art. Literature, plastic art, sculpture, navigation, agriculture, textile industries, alphabetical writing, astronomy, chronology seem to

have had their origin among these people."

It is to re-light the candle of inspiration among a race whose ancestors had brought so many rich gifts to the children of men that the Pan-African Congress was called. It was to give them a greater vision, that from their bountiful resources they might bring even greater gifts to bless all the people of the earth.

Organizations which are truly interested in the problems of world peace would do well to learn of and co-operate with the Pan-African Congress. Africa has spread her roots too deeply and too widely over the surface of the earth to be lightly treated. If her children stand apart, separate and distinct from other men it is not the fault of Africa, and the fact remains that her children MUST and WILL be reckoned with in matters affecting the children of men.

THE TWO RACES THAT DID NOT GO

Often when we visit with friends who are Negroes, and at other times when we visit friends who are Indians, we can't help but think how it was predicted some years ago by supposedly very smart men that these two races were doomed to extinction in America. It was pointed out that the American Negroes were falling so rapidly into the clutches of tuberculosis that in a few more generations there would be nothing left of them. And it was said that the Indians would also disappear from this and other causes.

Well, if a man took these statements from the know-it-alls and took no trouble to investigate the facts for himself, he would be forced to the sad conclusion that after a bit we would have neither Negroes nor Indians to deal with in the human affairs of America. And the trouble is that very many people accepted the statements and let it go at that, with the result that they went about with their minds jammed with misinformation. Which malady—because it is really a mental malady—is rampant in this and other countries. The masses of the people know ten things that are not true to the one thing that is true. In other words, they do not stop to think.

We have seen some government statistics lately concerning Negroes and Indians that gave us a great thrill. Because the figures showed that the peoples of both these races have wonderfully increased in number from natural causes in our country. There are ever so many more Negroes in the United States now than there were 25 years ago. They have not been killed off by tuberculosis or any other disease. On the contrary, they have grown strong and healthy and have reared large families and have prospered materially, physically and spiritually.

Wherefore, let all who sit under the rafters of our far-flung synagogue this blessed Sabbath morning rejoice that our fellow human beings of the red race and the black race are on their way to better things and brighter days.—John Steven McGroarty in Los Angeles Times.

AFRICAN BACKGROUNDS.

(From the New York Times, Thursday, August 18, 1927.)

One who takes an hour to read a pamphlet of 25 pages by Dr. James Weldon Johnson, secretary of the National Association for the Advance-

ment of Colored People, will be disabused of the idea that all that the American Negroes have is to be attributed to their home in the Western Hemisphere—that their ancestors brought nothing with them out of Africa. There is, in the first place, no one Negro type. There are Negroes and Negroes, as there are white men and white men. They range from Hima to Hottentot, from the Negro whose features are preserved in the inscrutable sphinx to the pygmies in the deepest recesses of the Congo forest. Negro poets penetrated in ancient times to Damascus, threads of Negro genius wove themselves into the fabric of Mediterranean and Asiatic cultures, and the strains of their music reached shores far from their own African coasts.

Their states and governments decayed with the rise of the slave trade, 400 years of which, it is estimated, cost Africa 100,000,000 souls; but traces of their background of industry and art and manners have survived even this continental catastrophe. They learned very early, perhaps the earliest of men, to smelt iron and forged instruments of usefulness and beauty. They were the first to raise cattle and use their milk. Invention extended agriculture and surrounded villages with the verdure and fruits of gardens. The blacksmith plied his trade all over Africa, and with him in many parts the weaver, the wood carver and the potter. Some knew how to make rugs and carpets and to set gold and precious stones. Even without the tuition of other continents their handicraft became highly skilled.

And it is, as more are aware, a continent of music. "The fashioning of musical instruments is one of the industries to be found throughout the length and breadth of Africa." Speaking of one region, a traveler said that every little goatherd had his flute as the Greek shepherd had. But the paper by Dr. Johnson (author of a "Book of American Negro Poetry," and one of "American Spirituals"), which may be had of the trustees of the John F. Slater fund, gives more details of this background. Two or three of the proverbs quoted serve to suggest the folk wisdom which has been handed on from generation to generation:

Boasting is not courage.

He who forgives ends a quarrel.

Birth does not differ from death, as the free man was born so was the slave.

The conclusion which the author reaches and which the open-minded reader will be ready to accept is that even those whose ancestors did not come to America but were carried hither in slave ships brought something more than the strength of their bodies out of the Dark Continent.

ACROSS THE PRAIRIES ON

"THE CONFEDERATION."

"The Confederation," Canadian National's Jubilee Train between Toronto and Vancouver is becoming widely noted for the super-excellence of its service.

Continent travellers are finding the personal attention given, the dining service and the equipment more than satisfying to their expectations of the highest type of service.

The train leaves Toronto every night at 9.00 o'clock and arrives in Vancouver four days later at 4.00 in the afternoon. Full information and reservations from any Canadian National Agent.

Communication

81 D'Arcy St., Toronto, Aug. 2, 1927.
Mr. J. F. Jenkins, Editor Dawn of Tomorrow:

Dear Sir,—Having seen the article in the Toronto Saturday Night of June 18., written by one Mrs. Grace Frazier Macklem, showing the children of the other races at their best and desirable citizens, but a Negro at his worst and undesirable, I think that the writer is very unjust and prejudiced.

There was a time when no one would speak or protest for the Negro, but I'll say those days are gone forever. We have men with backbone now. If they think the Negro is inferior and undesirable, I am mailing to the editor of the Toronto Saturday Night a little book of 70 verses, compiled and written by a Negro in masterly fashion, entitled "The Tragedy of White Injustice," and I am quite sure that when the editor and Mrs. Grace Frazier Macklem read this book, they will have a different attitude toward the Negro. Please put this in your next issue and oblige, and I want all Negroes to read this book, "The Tragedy of White Injustice," price 2 cents. I am,

J. M. WILLIAMS.

FRIENDS

There were myriads of angels before this world was;
There are myriads that Heaven still on messages sends;
Some day I will join this great army because
Jesus and I are friends.

Yes, the friendships of earth may be noble and true,
Even glorified where Divine presence extends;
But when He is the Master and Governor too,
Then Jesus and I are friends.

And to answer the old question, "Lovest thou me?"
While on me this all-conquering love so descends,
I must give in return what I can full and free;
Then Jesus and I are friends.

There are millions of years and still millions more,
But for lost time there can be no amends.

In fidelity to Him I've learned to adore
And Jesus and I still are friends.
S. E. G. ALLEN.

Banquet Negro Minister

Miami, Ariz.—One of the most interesting get-together meetings between the various races of the city was the recent interracial banquet given at the Globe Miners Hall in honor of the Rev. L. T. Scott, pastor of the Globe African Church.

Entertained with music furnished by the Salvation Army Band under the direction of Capt. Pylant, the following prominent Globeites were among the speakers: John L. McCullough, assistant county attorney; Charles McBrien, merchant; Tom Gunn, Hudson-Essex dealer; W. G. Secord of the Consolidated Stage company; L. D. Martin, realtor; Rev. B. C. Brewster, pastor of the Methodist Church, and Rev. P. V. Moreno, pastor of the Mexican Presbyterian Church.