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# The Dawn of Tomorrow

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## AN ADVENTURE IN FAITH

A Brief Story of the Interracial Movement in the South.

By Robert B. Eleazer

The work of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation has been widely advertised as "an adventure in good will." It is that, undoubtedly, but it is something more. It is also an adventure in faith—a gamble on the essential soundness of human nature.

At the close of the World War, when the country was seething with interracial suspicion, distrust and hostility, when race riots were flaming in widely separated communities, and threatening to merge into a general conflagration, the Commission's mediatory work was inaugurated in the hope of tiding over the crisis. Its promoters believed that if the white and Negro people understood each other they would not fight, and that if given the facts about any particular situation, the best of each group might safely be trusted to try to do right about it. They believed that Negroes were both capable and worthy of having a say-so in dealing with the problems affecting them. They believed that white people in turn could be appealed to successfully on the basis of good will, justice and fair dealing. The Commission undertook, therefore, the stupendous task of establishing across the South, thousands of points of interracial contact through which mutual understanding might be created and the facts discovered and acted upon.

### Faith Justified.

The plan worked. Brought together for frank conference, the leaders of the two groups promptly came to terms, cast off their mutual distrust, and began to re-establish the relations of the races on the basis of friendly helpfulness. The threatened calamity was averted and the crisis was passed with far less friction than might have been anticipated. In this result human nature, white and colored, fully justified the Commission's faith.

Setting out then upon a constructive effort to remove the causes of conflict, the movement has attained results which have attracted the attention of thoughtful people throughout America and abroad. Many cit-



WE SHOULD FEEL THANKFUL FOR ABUNDANT HARVEST AND PROSPERITY.

ies of the North and Middle West have adopted the plan and even in far South Africa it is being put into effect.

### Objects and Method

But just what does the Interracial Commission stand for, and how does it function? Briefly, its purpose has been expressed in the phrase: "Not amalgamation of the races, but their amicable adjustment in mutual helpfulness." In more specific terms its purpose may be defined as twofold:

1. The correction of interracial injustices and the betterment of conditions affecting Negroes.

2. The improvement of those interracial attitudes out of which unfavorable conditions grow.

The first end is sought through the activities of state and local interracial groups who look carefully into conditions that need attention, agree upon remedial programs and endeavour to carry them out. The technique is simple. The best spirits of the two races are brought together to face their mutual problems and obligations. The Negro members are encouraged to lay bare any injustices which they feel they are suffering, or any needs of which they are keenly sensible. The facts having been ascertained, the committee confers frankly concerning them, agrees upon what needs to be done, and goes out co-operatively to accomplish it.

### Notable Results

The results have been notable. Assistance has been rendered in hundreds of educational enterprises for Negroes, involving millions of dollars; health campaigns have been promoted in every State, hospitals est-

Continued on Page 8.

## High School Debater Wins Unusual Honor

Seattle, Wash., Oct.—For the first time the Broadway Debating Association here elected a Negro, Marvin F. Gaston, to the office of its presidency. Young Gaston is a senior at Broadway High School, who with his partner, Paul A. Olson (white) won the city debate championship, winning four debates, three of which were won by unanimous decisions, last year. Gaston also won a very close second in the State-wide oratorical contest.

Young Gaston, who is just 18 years of age, is also the president of the Allen Christian Endeavour League of the First A.M.E. Church of this city. He has recently been given the leading role in the Congo Episode of the Gigantic Spectacle, "The Golden Bowl," to be staged at the civic auditorium soon.

## At MacDonald Lunch

New York, Oct. 17—One of the guests at the luncheon to Premier Ramsay MacDonald held today at the Hotel Astor, was Miss Katherine Gardner, one of the secretaries of the Commission on the Church and Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches. The luncheon was given by the English Speaking Union, of which Miss Gardner is a member, in co-operation with several other organizations. In the course of his address at the luncheon the Premier urged these groups to work for peace be-

## Made Editor Of College Daily

Columbus, Ohio, Oct.—Signal honor has come to a young college student here in the appointment of Thomas H. Young to the editorial staff of the Ohio State Lantern, student daily at Ohio State University, as Managing Editor.

Considerable significance has been attached to the announcement, because the color bar in the editorial office of student newspapers in the northern and western universities has been hurdled only once before as far as it is known.

Young is a popular and active student. He came to Ohio State after taking his freshman work at New York University, where he distinguished himself in freshman debating. He is a member of the varsity tennis squad and won his numerals being runner-up to the freshman championship in that sport as an athlete. A senior in journalism at twenty, Young is president of the local chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, a member of that fraternity's noted basketball team, and a talented amateur actor and debater.

Young is the son of Editor and Mrs. P. B. Young of the Norfolk (Va.) Journal and Guide. His brother, Bernard, who held a similar post on the Lantern here, graduated in June and is now a member of the Journal and Guide staff.

tween nations, which also implies peace between racial groups.