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

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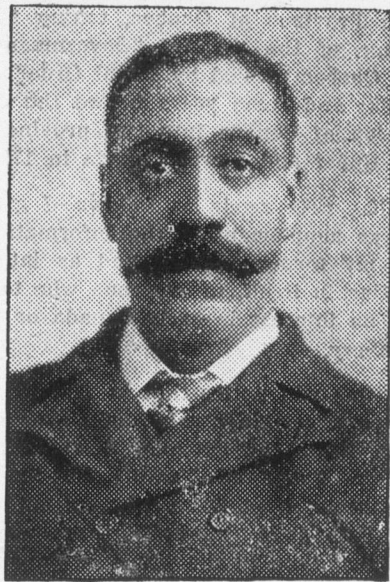
CANADA BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

(By Prof. Fred Landon, M.A.)

The negroes in London were quite ready to strike a blow at slavery as the following incident will show. In 1858 a St. Louis man named W. R. Morwin was travelling through Canada accompanied by a slave boy ten or twelve years old. At London he was seen by some colored men who were at the depot and they telegraphed to friends in Chatham to meet the train when it arrived there and look into the case. As soon as the train reached Chatham a body of colored men entered the car where Merwin was sitting and summarily emancipated the boy by taking him away and putting him in hiding. Merwin promptly laid a charge of abduction, claiming that the boy was dragged from him against his own desire. The case came on in court, dragged along for some time but came to nothing because the lad had disappeared and also because it was discovered that Merwin was not a Southern man at all but a travelling agent who had kidnapped the boy in Paterson N.J., and was evidently planning to take him south and sell him. There is an account of the incident in the Globe of October 8th, 1858, and in the Dec. 10, of the same year there is a further reference, the Detroit Advertiser of Nov. 27 being quoted as saying that the mother of the boy has arrived from Paterson to take her son back.

This story derives additional interest from the fact that it is told in similar detail in the sketch of the late senator Elijah Leonard that was published some years ago. Mr. Leonard tells that he was at the Grand Trunk depot when the man Merwin came through with the boy and he called the attention of some Negroes to the case. They at once got busy. When the case came to trial in Chatham Elijah Leonard was called as a witness.

The case attracted considerable attention in some of the American papers, exaggerated reports being published telling of the rescue of the boy having been brought about by a mob numbering between three and four hundred and armed with guns and knives. The Chatham Planet gave a prompt denial to this, stating that there was no riotous conduct, no violence, no threats, but that all was



C. H. BROWN, member of the Executive Board of the C.L.A.C.P., who is now convalescing at his home after a severe illness.

done peaceably but firmly.

The fugitive's rights of citizenship in Canada were recognized in a rather striking way by his enrollment in the militia of the province of Upper Canada. During the so-called "Patriot War" of 1838, when there was some threat of invasion along the border, the negroes in Canada quickly volunteered for service. Sir Francis Bond Head, governor at that time, has left on record his appreciation of the part played by the fugitives. "They hastened as volunteers in waggon-loads, to the Niagara frontier to beg from me permission that in the intended attack upon Navy Island they might be permitted to form the forlorn hope."

Rev. J. W. Loguen, well-known in the abolition cause, was offered the command of a company of black troops in Canada in 1838. He speaks in his book of the promptness with which several companies were organized and of the valor they displayed in the brief conflict. They could scarcely remain passive, he points out, when the success of the invaders would break the only arm interposed for their security and destroy the only asylum for African freedom on the North American continent.

Rev. Josiah Henson, founder of the Dawn settlement, took an active part in the Patriot War. He was a captain in the 2nd Essex company of colored volunteers, his command forming part of the garrison of Fort Malden for five months and also taking part in the capture of the schooner "Ann" in January 1838. "The colored men,"

Negro Is Test Of Democracy

James Weldon Johnston Declares
Oppression Hurts Both.

New York, Jan. 17—Negro oppression is harmful to the oppressor as well as to the oppressed, according to James Weldon Johnston, Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who spoke Sunday morning at the service of the Society for Ethical Culture. His subject was, "The White and Colored Races—How Can They Best Live Side by Side."

"The physical forces at work to push the Negro out, down and beneath the law are not only baneful to the Negro, but dangerous to American law and free institutions," he declared. "And deeper is the effect on the character of America or unfairness and brutality against a defenseless minority."

"Politically," he said, "the Negro is the ultimate and acid test of American democracy. There is danger of establishing a peon class, with the duties and obligations of citizenship, but without its rights. The Negro without the vote is not only wronged but a menace to American life, institutions and democracy."

A fortune teller is always willing to give you a future in exchange for a present.

he says, "were willing to help defend the government that had given them a home when they had fled from slavery."

The legislation of the old parliament of Canada was free from any discrimination against the Negro. Though individual members, occasionally, might show an unfriendly spirit towards the black population, no hostile legislation was ever passed and it was generally recognized that these outbursts of a Larwill or a Prince were political in their aim. The Canadian government showed clearly that it was willing to accept the runaway slave as a citizen and give him the opportunity to rise in the social scale. A striking example of practical help given to the refugees was the remitting of customs duties on clothing, etc., sent in by abolitionists of the United States for the use of the destitute fugitives. In the liberality of its land grants the gov-

(Continued on Page 6)

SKELETON OF THE EARLIEST MODERN MAN IS DUG UP

Man Corresponding to Millions of
Years Old Specimen is Traceable in
Europe at a Much Later Date—
Thought Nearest Original Cradle of
Present-Day Man.

Nairobi, Kenya Colony, Africa.—The discovery of what is declared to be the earliest specimen of modern man has been announced by Louis S. B. Leakey, leader of the East African Archaeological Expedition, who has been exploring for prehistoric remains in a big cave in the El Menteita Area of Kenya. If Mr. Leakey is correct it means that Kenya is very near the original cradle of present-day man.

The specimen is intact except for a pick-ax hole in the skull, and it has been removed complete with the surrounding earth. The body had been buried with the knees under the chin, and according to Mr. Leakey, it is unmistakably of the homo sapiens type. Mr. Leakey definitely places it in the early second African pluvial period, when Europe was still frozen under glacial ice, reaching as far south as the River Thames and into Central Germany and Russia.

So far fourteen distinct time layers have been uncovered in Mr. Leakey's African cave. They tell a connected story from the earliest prehistoric times to the present occupation by black tribesmen. According to Mr. Leakey's account today the conditions near the cave have been ideal for the preservation of geological deposits which establish a chronological sequence of the various cultures and show their relationships to the successive climatic periods.

The importance of Mr. Leakey's discovery may be judged from the fact that the Aurignacian man, corresponding to this African skeleton, is only traceable in Europe at a much later date.

Mr. Leakey hopes that by digging still lower in the cave he can establish the existence of human beings during the first African pluvial period.

Thousands of small traders have exchanged their paper profits for experience.