

Dawn of Tomorrow

Published weekly in the interests of and for the Advancement of the colored people of Canada.

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EDITORIAL

Papers this week reported that the Scottsboro boys have been denied a change of venue, on the grounds that they have not satisfied the judge that they would receive an unfair trial. In making such a statement, the Judge has implied that the counsels for the defence are derelict in their duty in not placing before him all that happened during session of the court and outside of the courtroom, all of which were reported in the daily papers in New York and relayed to the outside world. These in themselves ought to prove beyond shadow of doubt that sentiment in Alabama is strong against the boys and under such conditions it is doubtful whether a proper trial will be given them. How can angered and ignorant people be expected to mete out justice in its true sense to these boys?

In fact, to one who knows British integrity and honour and who is accustomed to seeing justice meted out in British courts by intelligent judges of high moral and social calibre, the Scottsboro case seems a 'joke', a high tribute to American education and intelligence. The behaviour of "Attorney" Knight during the trial was ungentlemanly, in fact, it bordered on certain characters in Shakespeare's plays whose part in the plays were to fill up the gaps to the amusement of the audiences or the entertainers of ancient kings rather than an honourable gentleman of the revered legal profession appointed as prosecutor.

Prosecution ceases to be what it should be when the prosecutor steps beyond the limits of the law. It becomes then persecution pure and simple, and nothing else.

Persecution bespeaks an ignorant mind, untutored, undisciplined, undeveloped, lacking in moral stamina. We would not expect to find persecutors among educated, rational, tolerant people. To-day we expect the educated man to be rational and the rational man in turn to be tolerant, listening to facts and being guided and governed by them only, in spite of personal prejudices or whims to the contrary.

The Judge, however much he apparently tried to appear fair and open-minded, is open also to grave censure and criticism in having any conduct in the courtroom unbecoming the legal profession. Derogatory and improper remarks to the legal opponents and to the prisoners should have been disallowed instantly as would have been done in any British court—where a lawyer has to control himself.

Apart from all these considerations one of the witnesses in the first instance—Ruby Bates—has altered her testimony claiming it to have been given under duress, a thing serious in itself. Now, instead of arresting Ruby Bates as crown witness and charging the parties who coerced her into lying, they are still charging the boys with the crime, which according to Ruby Bates' second testimony and the boys own statements of denial they are still charging the boys.

If Congress and the president would leave the affairs of Japan and Germany alone and clean up their own house which is very dirty, that smells to high heavens, the U.S.A. might be helped. It is time for Negroes the wide world over to shake off dull sloth, get together and arm themselves against white arrogance and domination. The Canadian Negroes must realize that the Scottsboro boys are their boys, "flesh of their flesh," and if they permit the Negroes to be treated unjustly in U.S.A. or elsewhere it will be just a short way from their being handled unjustly in Canada. As it is the Negro in Canada is not considered as a factor in the equation of life at all. They are not given any positions here that count for much and this alone is sufficient reason in itself for them to bestir themselves and link with the N.A.A.C.P. of which Dr. DuBois is head in America. It is our wish that branches of this great organization could be established on a proper basis as in U.S.A., not for entertaining at socials and other functions but to rectify some of the ills which the poor unfortunate Negroes are suffering at the hands of their oppressors.

To the Voters of the City of London

I am asking your co-operation by the use of your vote on Monday, Dec. 4th making me one of your representatives on the Board of Education.

1st—I believe that if the Ward system as used by the Aldermen was put into action the condition of the schools could be looked after more efficiently in each district.

2nd—I believe that the Youth Movement that we are facing at the present time should be given every consideration. Each scholar as he leaves school should be equipped to fit a material useful life.

3rd—I am not in favour of children having to study under underpaid teachers. If we expect our boys and girls to have what is best, and if we expect our teachers to give them their best service we must pay for it; for is it not so, we can only expect to receive the kind of service or goods we pay for.

4th—I am strongly in favour of the children whose parents are on the unemployed list receiving text books and an education to suit their ability, also that the junior grades be given more attention and this can be done by more co-operation of the Municipal Board composed of interested men and women in all angles of child welfare.

MRS. ANGUS McLEAN,
(Mrs. Nellie J. McLean)

LONDON NOTES

Mr. Alfred Jones spent the week end Nov. 27 at Chatham visiting friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith of Yoodstock paid a short business trip to London on Thursday, Nov. 30th.

Miss Rosette Wilson returned from her home to London where she was called to bury her cousin who died suddenly.

Mr. James Jenkins is a visitor in Chatham for a few days and is the guest of Mr. Donald Martin.

The Dunbar Social Guild held a birthday party in the school-room of the church Nov. 20th. The executive prepared an elaborate affair which was enjoyed by all. Mr. Paul Lucas was the recipient of the birthday prize.

The financial board of the G.M. E. Church held a public service Nov. 29th. Many interesting improvements were related by the many speakers. The board is making a tour of all the B.M.E. Churches in Canada.

Miss Jennie Brown is now making her home with M. Drake, 208 Simcoe St.

The Dunbar Social Guild will meet at Dorothy Moxley, 522 Phillip Street.

Mrs. Clark, Missionary worker from Toronto gave a very interesting sermonette on Nov. 19th at the B.M.E. Church.

Mrs. E. Groat of Trafalgar St. is quite ill at her home.

Mrs. Gladys Coursey is able to be about again.

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