

# THE DAWN'S FIRST BIRTHDAY



THE NATIONAL NEGRO WEEKLY

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE DARKER RACES

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## "SUCCESSFULLY RIDES WAVES OF PUBLIC OPINION"

To the Editor,

The Dawn of Tomorrow.

Dear Sir:—

The first anniversary of The Dawn of Tomorrow finds the paper a lusty youngster, its brief past crowded with the success born of a work well done, and a future before it which opens a field of endeavour so great that only the love of race of its promoters will shield them from disheartening contemplation. For it is one thing to have an ambition to help one's own race, and quite another to provide the sinews of war, meet the arguments of intolerance of those whom it is sought to help and uplift.

But in these three things The Dawn of Tomorrow has successfully ridden the waves of public opinion at a time when but few publications in Canada have been able to keep their heads above water. No matter in what infinitesimal degree the ambition of this paper of the colored race has been achieved, its existence has been amply warranted, and it would be a thousand pities if its voice did not continue to preach the gospel of fair play between the white and colored peoples.

Canada occupies a unique position in relation to the colored man. In the middle of the past century she threw her territory open to the runaway slaves, and made men and citizens of them the moment their feet pressed the green of her sod, of the leaves of her maples sheltered them from the sun. She detested slavery then, and she detests it now. But intolerance dies hard, and there exists in most of us an almost unconscious prejudice which leads us to keep the colored man on the ground, though we would abhor the charbe that we would virtually perpetuate his slavery.

The Dawn of Tomorrow can lay claim to having made some progress in bringing to the attention of the white people the necessity for extending a helping hand to the less



J. F. JENKINS, B.A.

Mr. Jenkins, in collaboration with Mr. J. A. Pinckney, Toronto, was responsible for the birth of The Dawn of Tomorrow. They have jointly carried the financial load inseparable from the launching of such an enterprise and to them is due the fact that our people have an organ conducted by and for them in Canada. Mr. Jenkins has each week, not only written up editorials on live topics but has, in addition attended to all the many little chores incident to the distribution of the paper to its readers.

fortunate colored race. But after all is said and done, it lies first with the colored men and women to make good and by dint of personal endeavour to shoulder themselves into the place they covet in the social scale—a place which will afford them equal opportunity with the whites to make a living, educate their children, and live their lives in such peace and comfort as is the admitted right of those of any color in the station to which they belong.

The uplifting ladder is at the feet of every colored man and woman, but few have even their foot on the first rung. The Dawn of Tomorrow's attempts to improve the colored people have amply demonstrated this. There must be more team

(Continued on page 8)

## Prof. Fred Landon Compliments "Dawn"

More than 70 years ago the colored people of Canada had a newspaper voicing their ideas and their hopes, published by Henry Bibb, at Sandwich and bearing the very significant name "The Voice of the Fugitive." There is a bound volume of this little paper, running through 1850-51 in the Detroit Public Library and a similar volume in the library of the University of Michigan.

Henry Bibb, who was the editor, was born in slavery but escaped to the free states of the North where he took part in the campaign of the Liberty Party during the forties and is described by no less a person than Garrison as having been an effective public speaker. He seems to have come to Canada late in the forties and for the next few years he was influential. What eventually became of him, I do not know. Possibly after the end of the war in 1865

(Continued on page 8)



F. O. STEWART

Mr. Stewart has been connected with the D. of T. since its inception and has been a most indefatigable worker in its interests.

He has been willing at all times to take up and carry through any work that presented itself and has contributed in no small manner to its success.

## REV. S. DRAKE CONGRATULATES "THE DAWN"

To the Editor of The Dawn of Tomorrow.

Dear Sir:—

I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the splendid service you have rendered our race in Canada in editing so successfully The Dawn of Tomorrow during the past twelve months.

This paper has made a record for itself as a clean sheet, that could be welcomed in the home, as a family paper, to be read by all members whether young or old.

I think your policy as Editor has been fair and honest. Your editorials timely, thoughtful and practical, dealing forcefully with questions of vital interest to the race at large.

It has been inspiring to read articles by other members of the race dealing with subjects of general interest. These men have expressed themselves in fine terms, giving voice to honest opinions as men who no longer fear to speak as they think.

Your are to be congratulated on this splendid effort, and all who appreciate the time, the talent and cost of any publication today will only have words of commendation for the Editor of The Dawn.

Our Annual Conference, after hearing the report and statement of the year's operation, gave its endorsement and approval.

We trust that it will be only a short while until your Annual or Semi Annual subscriptions will increase sufficiently to warrant you to enlarge its size. Here is an opportunity for practical cooperation by boosting the Dawn until it becomes a publication of practical benefit to all our people.

Yours for Success,

S. R. DRAKE.