

THE CANADIAN LEAGUE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Preamble: Convinced that something should be done to arouse the public to a realization that we desire to be considered as a progressive people, and are trying to better our conditions in every possible way. In order to promote the general welfare, and secure the privileges of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, the raising of the status of the race in general along all lines is the earnest endeavor of this organization.

Aims and Objects

(a) To bring about the co-ordination and co-operation of existing agencies of all races for improving the physical, intellectual, moral, spiritual, industrial, economic, social and political condition of negroes, and to develop other associations and organizations having similar objects;

(b) To lend assistance, financial and otherwise and encouragement to negro boys and girls with special talent in securing for them special training which they could not otherwise obtain;

(c & d) To make studies and surveys of the industrial, economic, social and political conditions of negroes. To gather statistics and other information concerning negroes and publish the results in "The Dawn of Tomorrow" which is to be accepted as the official organ of the League;

(f) To promote and encourage by active assistance, all kinds of work for the betterment of the negro race;

(g) To organize schools and night classes for the education of negroes, when, and wherever possible and practicable. This organization seeks to be useful in every way and will go to any extent to help the race advance.

(h) To promote, organize, conduct and manage a League to promote the welfare of negroes with power to make and adopt a constitution and by-laws, rules and regulations for the admittance, suspension and expulsion of its members and for their government and for the establishing of different classes of members and for the collection of fees and dues.

(i) To give or lend money to negroes who are deserving of assistance in any way; Especially those of the race who may attempt to establish some worth-while business or industrial enterprise. The theory has been advanced by some of our influential friends that our industrial progress should keep pace with our intellectual advance: hence our desire as an organization to help all deserving cases.

(k) To use the funds of the League for benevolent, charitable and philanthropic work among negroes.
Following, we herewith present to the public and our own people in particular, some immediate aims of the Organization.

First: We plan to organize branches of this society in the various districts throughout the Province of Ontario, and to extend our work to other provinces, cities and towns thereof as soon as possible.

Second: Many of the boys and girls of our race show exceptional talent in their school days but are unable to continue to higher branches for special training along the lines they are especially suited for. The plan of this organization is, to seek out such boys and girls of the race, who show special talent in certain studies; such as art, literature, mechanics, architecture and etc., and give such assistance as is possible, to help these boys or girls in cultivating their talent.

Third: The immediate aim of this association will be, to endeavor through organization to more fully unite the people of the race throughout the Dominion of Canada, believing that in unity there is strength.

We call on all the Christian forces of our land, local and general, as individuals or as organizations, to lend their support and their co-operation to the humanitarian and Christian effort of the League on Inter-Racial Co-operation for the cultivation of a better understanding and more sympathetic and equitable relation between the races.

Organization an Indication of the Growth of Racial Consciousness

Organization is an indication of the growth of racial consciousness. This means not only organization through the church, secret societies and those forms of organization which are generally common; but in addition organization for the betterment of conditions, for better education, for economic development and for a greater participation in political affairs. Here the tendency is not so much for office holding as to secure those benefits which may be derived from participation in them. The growth of racial consciousness among negroes is manifesting itself in various ways, and it is the sincere hope of the League to bring about through its many tributaries a growing race pride, an increasing interest in race literature, more faith in Negro leadership, and the demand for patronage of Negro enterprises.

Many Prominent Men of the White Race Interested in Our Work

Some of the best mind of the white race have been attracted by our plea and have signified their willingness to help us by allowing their names to be listed among the Executive board, and the Advisory Council. Among them we mention the following: A. E. Silverwood, Chairman of the Executive Board; Mr. David Ross, Treasurer; Mr. E. Dennis, of Dennis Wire Co., Prof. F. Landon, of the University of Western Ontario; Sir Adam Beck, M.P.P.; Mr. G. A. Wenige, Mayor of London; Mr. James Gray, Merchant; Mr. Harry Wray, President of the London Command of the G.W.V.A.; Rev. G. Q. Warner, Judge of the Juvenile Court of the City of London; E. W. Gairns; E. J. Carty; R. H. Wade; John M. Gunn, Attorney at Law; Max Lerner. Because of the worthiness of our organization and its apparent usefulness in furthering the negroes' interest, these men amidst the busy trend of life, have given freely of their valuable time to help in the promotion of our organization. Too much praise cannot be offered on behalf of these men who are willing to help us rise in the ranks of our fellowmen if we are desirous of so doing.

The Advisory Council

Consists of such sterling characters as, The Honourable William Renwick Riddell, LL.D., F.R.S.C. Justice of Supreme Court of Ontario; Prof. J. A. Dale, in charge of the Social Service Dept. of the University of Toronto; W. Sherwood Fox, Ph.D., Dean, University of Western Ontario, London; Dr. H. W. Hill, M.D., Dept. of Public Health, London; Mr. John McDonald, president of Jno. McDonald Clothing Co. of Toronto; Mr. C. A. Burton, Mgr. of the Robt. Simpson Co., Toronto; W. T. Sampson of Gannonque, Ont.; Mr. W. J. Wray, London. The foregoing list with a number of our own men, constitutes the organization as it stands at the present time. The hope of the organization is, that other influential men throughout the Dominion of Canada may be persuaded to feel a kindly interest in our work and lend their assistance in any way possible for them to do. A large majority of these men hereon listed have not only given their moral support but have shown a decided interest by contributing very generously in a financial way.

The Canadian League for the Advancement of Colored People is Not Being Organized For any Radical Purpose or Intention

"There is a mistaken idea on the part of a great many white people of this country, concerning the Negro's ambition, hope and aspiration. The so called social equality is the least of our expectations. But we are ambitious to have every opportunity to develop our brain in the arts and sciences of the world, just as any other citizen of Canada. We have hopes that our boys and girls shall so prepare themselves that they may be able to take their places in the drama of life along side all men and women, where ability counts, regardless of race or color. Our aspirations are as lofty as the skies, and the rungs of the ladder by which we expect to reach them are limited only by the measure of our souls. We want to be men, free men, enjoying every right that others enjoy, limited only by our ability. We want to breathe the sunlight of God's love in the 'Land of British freedom and justice,' and be anything we are big enough to be. We believe that this will come through the united appeal of our race through the channels of this organization, which, if given a chance to function will present the cause of the negro people of Canada in a fair and intelligible way."