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The Dawn of Tomorrow

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Chatham Branch President Passes

Was Very Active and Highly Respected in Fraternal and Civic Circles

Chatham, Ont., April 22, 1928.—Charles Melvin Cooper, president of Chatham Branch of the Canadian League for the Advancement of Colored People, of high standing in the Masonic fraternity for fifty years and a highly respected citizen of this city, passed away at his home here this morning.

Mr. Cooper, who was a contracting plasterer, had been ill for several weeks, but not wholly confined to his home until recently, the seriousness of his illness not being realized until his two daughters returned from Cleveland, Ohio, where they have been making their home, too look after him, about a month ago.

He was a prominent factor in practically every uplift movement that has been put forward by the race here in the last forty years, and was president of the Chatham Canadian League from its inception.

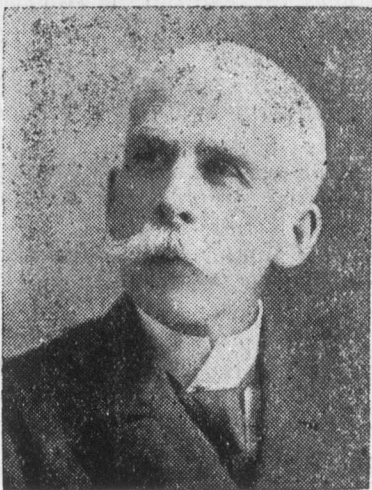
Mr. Cooper's wife predeceased him only seven months ago. He is survived by one sister, Mrs. Brown, of Detroit, Michigan; one brother, living in Erie, Pa.; two daughters, Mrs. Gertrude Jones and Mrs. Louise Hemsley, both of Cleveland, Ohio, and a host of other relatives. He was 74 years old.

Funeral services will be held from Campbell A. M. E. Church, of which he was a lifelong member, on Wednesday, April 25th, at 2 p. m., Pastor Reid officiating.

HARROW

Miss Alice Drake, of London, was here on Sunday, April 15th. She put on a Easter program, which was well attended with about 60 children beside adults. The program was splendid, the children enjoyed it immensely.

On Monday, April 16, at 7.30 p. m., a social was given and a short program was rendered. Miss Drake rendered a beautiful selection. About 100 guests were present. We all hope to see Miss Drake again soon.



Mr. John Moule, who has been clerk of the police court in London for 35 years, has been a consistent friend of the colored people for many more years.

Let Freedom Ring

By A. G. Hays.

New York, April 20.—"Let Freedom Ring," a book by Arthur Garfield Hays of New York, associate counsel with Clarence Darrow in the Tennessee evolution trial and in the Sweet case in Detroit includes among its six chapters a full and circumstantial account of the Sweet Case and the trial of the colored defendants, under the title "Freedom of Residence."

In his introduction Mr. Hays points to the whitening away of freedom in the United States by violations of the spirit of the Constitution and flagrant disregard of laws. The first chapter entitled "Freedom of Education" is an account of the Scopes trial in Dayton, Tennessee. The second chapter, "Freedom of Speech and Assemblage," includes suppression of meetings of strikers in Pennsylvania and West Virginia coal mine districts, in Passaic, N. J., during the silk strike, in Paterson and elsewhere. The third chapter, "Freedom of the Press," recounts cases arising out of attempts to suppress books distasteful to various groups.

"Freedom of Residence," the 4th chapter, deals with the Sweet Case and the Negro segregation problem. The chapter gives not only a complete summation of events leading up to the fatal shooting of a white man, but an analysis of testimony offered during the trial of the colored people who had garrisoned the

Riot Over Fugitive In Old Niagara, 1837

During days of Refugee Slaves.

William Kirby's chapter on the year 1837, in his "Annals of Niagara," contains an interesting story of an escaped slave who sought refuge in Canada in connection with which there was a "serious riot in the quiet town of Niagara." About that time the institution of Negro slavery was "dominant in the Southern States" and the fugitive slave laws were strictly enforced in all the free States of the union.

Great numbers of slaves made their escape and sought protection under the British flag in Canada, the only country in North America, says Kirby, who refused to surrender an escaped slave to his former owners. Niagara was a "convenient city of refuge" and in time there was a population of between four and five hundred blacks—a portion of the town being called Negro Town from so many of the refugee slaves having settled there. "They were quiet, peaceable and industrious," says the writer, and "most loyal and grateful to the British Government, which protected them in their self-acquired freedom."

But increased complaints and demands were addressed by the slave owners and slave-state governments for the return of the fugitives, under one pretext or another. A few were even kidnapped "if they offered a chance" to men on the other side "hired for that mean busi-

Sweet home against the Detroit mob. Included in the record of testimony is an account of the brutalities and injustices to which the Negro has been subject in America and which played a part in the state of mind of the colored people resisting segregation by mob.

"Newspapers and reports of the N.A.A.C.P. were introduced," writes Mr. Hays, "not to prove the facts, but to show the material which went to make up the psychology of the colored men."

The last two chapters concern "Freedom of the Stage" and "Freedom of Opinion," an extended analysis of what Mr. Hays believe to have been the judicial murder of Sacco and Vanzetti in Massachusetts.

ness," but on the whole the Negroes kept a strict watch over the slave-hunters, some of whom "came to grief" when they ventured too far in search of their "property."

The Canadian Governments were "inflexible in their resolution" to protect fugitive slaves, but in 1837 a case occurred in which the then Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Francis Bond Head, gave his decision in favor of the demands of the owners of a slave named Moseby, of Kentucky.

A grand jury in Kentucky had found a true bill against Moseby for horse-stealing and a requisition for his arrest in Canada and surrender to them was brought by American civil officers to the Governor for his extradition. Moseby was arrested in Niagara on the charge mentioned and lodged in the district gaol. "The charge was a pretence," declared Kirby, "his owners avowing that they only wanted to get him back to Kentucky to whip him to death, as a warning to slaves against seeking liberty in Canada."

The method of Moseby's escape from Kentucky was this: One day he was sent on horseback to carry a message to a neighboring planter, but the temptation was too great. He followed the lead of hundreds of his fellow-sufferers, by succumbing to the lure of the Northern star and took this occasion to escape into Canada, the horse being merely a means to an end, and utilized in quite as honorable a way, for instance, as that adopted by William Lyon Mackenzie, who fled in the same year, only in an opposite direction. As a matter of fact, the comparison is not to Mackenzie's credit for, as Mr. Kirby suggests, the Governor might have strained a point in favor of the slave; but "he would not consider the fact that the slave had worked gratuitously all his life for the master claiming him, and might fairly claim to be the creditor of his master by the price of many horses."

Anyway, an immense excitement over the ruling, arose in Niagara and caused the aforesaid riot and final rescue of the refugee by the

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