

Dawn of Tomorrow

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J. F. JENKINS—Editor
95 Glenwood Ave., London
Phone 6783 W

F. O. Stewart, Business Manager,
424 Gray St., Phone 2822 M

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1924.

Editorial**AN INDISCRETION.**

At the Canadian National Exhibition, which was recently held in Toronto, one of the most attractive features was community singing. All who cared to do so gathered in an enclosure where comfortable seats had been previously arranged. There was a leader, a piano accompanist and a big canvas, on which the verses were screened. The community singing was a big success since it was a departure from the regular routine of things and since it gave an opportunity for the rich, the poor, the high and the lowly to rub elbows and to feel the common bond of unity and sympathy that runs from breast to breast through all humanity. The Toronto Exhibition should be congratulated upon the addition of the community singing to its programme.

However, we are of the opinion that a great indiscretion was made when some one allowed the following verse to be screened. First came the instruction: "Sing loud for your singing is being broadcasted all over." Then came the verse:

"I went down South to see my Sal,
Sing polly wally doodle all the day,
I jumped upon a nigger for I thought
he was a horse,
Sing polly wally doodle all the day."
Or some such crazy lines as that. Of course our objection is to the word "nigger" as may be expected. It is reported that there were more than one thousand colored people visiting the fair from out of town. Many were from the States and there were several from so far as the Southern States. These colored visitors claim to have thoroughly enjoyed the Exhibition up to the time they were asked into the company of the community singers where they were requested to sing of the "nigger" who served as the faithful beast of burden. And during the singing of this special stanza it is claimed that all the colored folks were singled out as objects to be peered and laughed at. A very prominent Southern gentleman expressed himself in the following manner: "I am from the South where it is a common thing for the poorer class of whites to refer to us as niggers," but nowhere in the South would a fair board openly insult the colored people by allowing its community songs to include a stanza which contained the word "nigger" and then refer to him as a beast of burden. Remember too, you Torontonians told

us to sing loud for our voices were being broadcasted."

We must admit that the incident was an insult not only to the colored visitors but to all of our group, still we trust it was not intentional on the part of the board of directors of the Exhibition. We are hoping however, that the indiscretion will not occur again at any time in the future.

Of course I know, as you will say, that we colored folk are sensitive souls. But when one has to meet similar slurs day after day, when you must "work like a nigger," when you must be the nigger in the wood pile, when work is fit only for "niggers and mules," you dear friend, even your calm soul would become a little sensitive.

It will be remembered that some years ago the colored people of New York State rose in their might against the practice of "hit the nigger on the head and get a cigar." Their protest caused a law to be enacted against the practice. We trust that we colored Canadians will not be forced to do a similar act.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

We have no apology to make for the portrait of the Mayor which was painted by an artist of our group. Keep your eyes to the ground, pray, watch and wait.

HAMILTON NOTES

A very pleasant event took place at the home of Mrs. Mary Rhodes, when a reception was given in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Rhodes. Mrs. Rhodes was formerly Miss Vera Alligood. Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes were quietly married on Sept. 4th by Dr. C. Emery Allen, then pastor of St. Paul's AME Church. The reception was given by Mrs. Rhodes and Mrs. Alligood, mothers of the bride and groom. About forty guests sat down to a delicious wedding supper, the rooms and tables being decorated with pink and white asters and gladioli. Toasts were proposed by all to the bride and groom. The many gifts showed the esteem the young couple held among their many friends. The groom's gift to the bride was a handsome player piano.

Rev. Thomas Jackson passed through the city enroute from Brantford to Toronto and had dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Jess Brown.

Mrs. Catharine Saunders of Buffalo passed through the city enroute to Chicago to attend the Hair Dressers Convention. Mrs. Saunders called and had dinner with Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Hammond.

Mr. Johnny Preston spent the week end in Buffalo the guest of his sister, Mrs. Catherine Saunders.

Mr. Will Berry of Toronto was in the city visiting relatives and renewing old acquaintances.

The funeral of Mrs. Murdock, mother of Mrs. Waters took place from St. Paul's AME Church on Wed. at 2 p.m. Services were conducted by Rev. M. Hewitt.

Mrs. Charles Duncan of Cayuga, Mrs. Minnie Moxley of Brantford and daughters were the guests of Mrs. Morton, Charlton Ave. over the week end.

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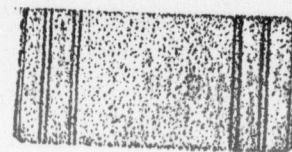
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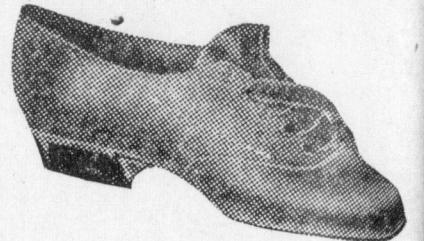
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