

Dawn of Tomorrow

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

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Editorial

A GRATUITOUS INSULT.

We were privileged to be in Toronto during the whole time of the Shriners' Convention. We have never seen a finer gathering of men. Judging them from their conduct they impressed one as being the back bone of the best type of citizenship of the continent of North America. We came in contact with them on the streets, in the street cars, in restaurants and in other public places and we have yet to see one who disobeyed the decorum of a cultured gentleman. If the order of the Mystic Shrine is to be judged by the conduct of the delegates we saw in Toronto, it is indeed a worth-while organization.

BUT—and withal, one of the committeemen of the Toronto Shriners went a long distance out of his way to offer a gratuitous insult to every Negro upon this continent. The opportunity came to him when he was interviewed by a reporter from the Mail and Empire. The reporter asked the committeeman if he expected any Negro delegates to attend the convention and if so what arrangements had been made to entertain them. His answer was to the effect that there were no Negro Shriners, and if any such orders existed they were a cheap imitation of the white order, that he had heard that certain such cheap imitations had been fought through the courts and had been ordered to disband. He further stated that he expected no Negro Shriners and that if they attended the convention they would not be received. With these uncalled for, sarcastic remarks the committeeman seems to have exhausted his spleen and hatred for colored folk since it is not recorded that he said more. We confess we have not been introduced into the mysteries of the order of the Mystic Shriners, nor do we know whether there are Negro Shriners, real, imitators or otherwise, but we do know, according to the committeeman's statement that none had applied to participate in any way in the convention, which fact makes his insult all the more stinging.

He could have answered the few simple questions without gusto and bombast. Negroes had not placed themselves in a position to receive this gratuitous insult nor did they deserve it.

Negro business places and even colored homes were appropriately decorated with "Welcome Shriners"

emblems and flags, showing their patriotism for Toronto and their respect to white Shriners. It is meet therefore, that they themselves should have been shown common courtesy in attempting to honor others.

"The HOME OF THE BRAVE"

In the United States, the "home of the Brave and the Land of the Free" six Negroes have been lynched within the past four weeks. Of these six, three were charged with rape. Among the three so charged was Geo. Hughes of Sherman, Texas. Evidence has been brought out (from the lips of white people), to prove that Hughes worked for a white man who owed him three weeks' wages. An argument over this ended in a fist-fight with his white employer. When his employer's wife entered the fray she was subsequently scratched and otherwise bruised. The cry of rape was immediately set up with the result that the courthouse was burned, the Negro baked alive, hundreds of colored homes razed by flames, and the entire colored population fleeing to the swamp for safety.

In the case of Henry Argo, a 19 year old half-wit of Chickasaw, Oklahoma, Argo and a Mrs. Skinner became embroiled in an altercation over a dog owned by Mrs. Skinner while Argo was out fishing. The usual cry of rape was set up which always gains sympathy and arouses the brutal passion of the Southern whites. Of course Argo was lynched.

These be the deeds of honorable governments in "The Land of the Free and the home of the Brave." The President and the Federal Government withheld action lest they interfere with State Rights. Should not human rights and human lives supersede any other consideration in the "Land of the Free?" Should armed majorities with brutality and utter disregard for law, shoot, burn, massacre the defenseless minority, destroy their homes in the "Home of the Brave?" We have recently seen in papers from the U.S. much advice to England on the present Indian situation. England should reply to her kinsmen in the U.S. that as her first cousins, they are a disgrace to England, to the entire white world and to the present civilization that they are giving the Nordic claim to superiority its death blow.

Hampton Negro Choir

During the past few days Mr. Paul Robeson, the Negro singer, has interpreted the "Spirituals" of his race to thousands over the wireless. He would be the first to tell you that "Spirituals" really are a matter of solo and chorus, and not of solo only, but seldom is the opportunity afforded in this country of hearing these wonderful religious songs thus rendered.

The choir of Negro students from Hampton Institute, Virginia, under the leadership of Dr. Nathaniel Dett, the leading Negro composer, is arriving in England in ten days' time, however, and "Spirituals" sung as they should be sung, by the best Negro choir in America, will form the

bulk of the programme of their afternoon concert at Queen's Hall, London.

Founded for Ex-Slaves

Hampton, the great Negro school, founded by General Armstrong for ex-slaves in 1868, has probably done more than any other institution to preserve, and then to revive, the singing of "Spirituals." This has been part of the many-sided training given Negro men and women in the arts as well as in practical affairs of life from brick-laying and cookery to photography and nursing. Hampton students are not only able to bring out the full beauty of their own race, but with equal facility they sing the music of the world—old church music, Russian folk songs, and modern music. In the latter category must be placed many of the compositions of Dr. Dett, including that for which he gained the Francis Boott prize at Harvard, based on old Negro motifs.

Spirit of the Negro Race

The Choir's visit is avowedly "missionary" and not profit-making in its purpose. The choir aims at showing the spirit of the Negro race through song and also the high standard of present-day Negro artistic achievement. Their visit, therefore is of considerable inter-racial importance and significance.

Just before leaving America, the Hampton Choir is singing to President Hoover. Besides singing in London they are giving concerts in Berlin, Dresden, Cologne, the Hague, Antwerp, Brussels, Paris, Geneva and other Continental centres.

LONDON NOTES

Pentecost celebration was observed by the city churches Sunday, June 8th; a union service was held in St. Andrews United Church under the Ministerial Association at 9.15 a.m. Beth Emmanuel Church was represented by Rev. E. A. Richardson.

Sunday, 8th, being the Nineteen hundredth anniversary of Pentecost. Rev. Richardson brought a very appropriate message to the people, Speaking from I Cor. 5: 8.—The Pastor said Paul would have known nothing about sincerity had not the Christ gone away. The speaker said God is to be worshipped not in some Cathedral, it mattered not so much if in cottage or shrine, but in spirit and in Truth, he said reality and accuracy. The historical fact of Pentecost made possible Spiritual power for individual life in Christ.

The evening service was conducted by the school, when all assembled in the choir place and platform rendered a very well prepared program under the direction of the Pastor.

Miss Florence Drake, accompanist, was assisted by Mr. George Fountain, cornetist, and Mr. Hiram Fountain, violinist, which added much to the rendering of the choruses.

Mr. Wes Fountain was chairman. Rev. Richardson, using Prov. 4: 23, gave a talk and object lesson in drawings showing the issues of the heart of folly and that of wisdom.

Rev. Seay, Presiding Elder of the A.M.E. Church, Ontario District, passed through our city en route to his home when he paid a visit to the Rev. and Mrs. Richardson.

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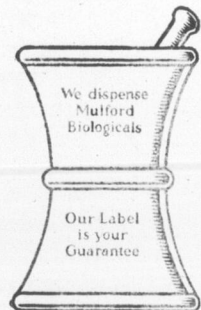
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