

Dawn of Tomorrow

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

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Editorial

OAKVILLE AND THE K.K.K.

A few weeks ago members of the K.K.K. went to a home in Oakville in which an unmarried couple were supposed to be living together. The man was thought to be a Negro. The girl was white. The man was ordered to leave town forthwith, which orders he obeyed although he protested that there is no known Negro blood in his veins. The girl was taken home to her mother. The incident caused only mild newspaper comment and perhaps would have ended there had it not been for actions of a few far-sighted colored citizens of Toronto. An indignation meeting was held and by an unanimous resolution the colored citizens petitioned W. H. Price, Attorney-General of Ontario, calling upon him to make investigation of the occurrence and to prosecute the guilty parties. Whether or not the Attorney General acted we are uninformed but what we do know is that the Oakville authorities did act. And as a result of the subsequent prosecution of the Klansmen, one of its members was fined fifty dollars and costs. And thus our British law has been vindicated and British justice still stands firm in its majesty.

While we fully appreciate as a race, the steps the law has taken in this matter yet it seems to us that a more rigid exercise of the law would have served our country to a better purpose. For instance, three Klansmen were tried for assembling for unlawful purpose with their faces masked. Although it was proven that only one wore a mask, still the other two readily and boldly admitted their participation on the occasion. We call upon the magistrate of Oakville to state his reason for not punishing all three men.

We know full well the colored citizens of Toronto look with as much horror upon immorality as any other people or any other organization in the Dominion. The Klan not excepted. We feel sure, they (the colored people) would go as far BY LAWFUL MEANS, to stamp out forever, not only immorality, but all forms of evil and vice and sin as any other loyal citizens would go. But the great and all important question raised by the Oakville incident is not the question of morality or immorality, but it is the question of who shall govern, who shall represent the majesty of the law. Has the Klan or any other organization the right to take unto itself the functions of the law?

Let us suppose that there would spring into existence one hundred

different societies with the purpose of exterminating as many different forms of evil—societies with lofty intentions and with an earnest desire to do their country a great service. Now after they have found the sources of evil, what method of procedure shall they use? Shall they coarce their faces and sally forth under cover of darkness with stolen authority in their hands or shall they lay their findings before the law and demand it to act? If the former method is pursued the society puts itself beyond the pale of the law and therefore in the eyes of the law becomes a common mob. Such procedure must of course lead soon to chaos. If the latter procedure is followed the society acts wisely and justifies its right to exist.

Regardless of what our personal opinion may be of certain religious sects or of the inferior complex of certain races we have no authority to attempt to abridge the rights or privileges which the constitution and the laws of our country guarantee to all citizens. Any attempt to do so on the part of any organization is simply to begin upon the march of anarchy, discord and chaos.

Canada is the land of the rising sun and her face is turned eastward; her millions of virgin acres of fertile land, her broad expanse of most valuable timber, her almost untouched wealth of mineral deposits make it apparent that Canada is destined to be one of the leading countries of the wide world. Chief among her many heritages is the assurance or her citizens of absolute justice and absolute protection by her laws. To say there is no race prejudice in Canada would be far fetched but even the humblest citizen will stand before the bar of judgment here with the assurance that he will receive full justice. It would be unfortunate—nay a catastrophe, at this particular stage in our development as we are assuming the status of a great nation, as Canada is being called upon to help to settle questions affecting the whole world, when is this human melting-pot, as it were she is successfully blending many and diverse races into true Canadians—it would be unfortunate should some inauspicious organization be allowed to creep in and destroy the good that has been accomplished through earnest, patient toil and honest endeavour to set one religion at the throat of another to inoculate the minds of one race with poison against another race, to foster hatred and breed dissension. We believe and we sincerely trust we are correct when we say that Canadian soil is both too fertile and too barren for the successful growth and spread of any such organizations.

THE MISSION ON PALL MALL STREET

We have come in personal touch with Billy Matheson's Mission for men on Pall Mall Street. And what we have learned speaks volumes for that devoted, consecrated soul, Billy Matheson. We saw a well-kept little cottage where men were well fed, clean,—who were being taught self respect, men who were being shown as well as told of the meaning of the love of the lowly Nazarene. We heard men, who perhaps had been hoboos, tell what the mission had

done for them in the spiritual as well as in the material sense. One young man whom we saw had a position in Montreal. He was in the city on business but was visiting the mission out of respect for what it had done for him. Years ago, while out of employment he had found his way to the mission where he was succoured and was given a chance to get on his feet. In our estimation, this one young man's case justified the existence of the mission.

We were informed that thousands of well prepared meals are served to the unemployed each month. Each man, as far as possible, is given something to do, some chore by the way of instilling in the men the spirit of self-reliance. As many men are given nice clean beds as sanitary laws will permit. The mission should be given larger quarters by the people of North America since it serves the whole continent in its humble way. Think what it means to the forces of law when thousands of "down-and-outs" have been gathered in by this mission and fed and sheltered and clothed, and, most of all, have, from the mission's influence, become Christians. Men without employment, without food or shelter often become desperate criminals. How many men have been saved from a life of crime by the Pall Mall Street Mission we can only vaguely conjecture after seeing what we did of the mission's work we came to the conclusion that Billy Matheson deserves great credit and as much assistance as the good citizens can give him. He is doing a noble service to his country.

Delta Negroes Work

Clarksville, Miss.,—Mississippi Delta agriculturists, largest employers of colored labor in the state, told the interracial conference of the South, which began a study of racial conditions in the Delta and North Mississippi that the Negro problem in Mississippi is rapidly nearing a solution by giving the race an opportunity to work out its own problems by industry and in agricultural pursuits. Walter Clark, leading Delta planter; P. F. Williams, Clarksdale business man; Mrs. Ernest Moore, Clarksdale civic leader, and Mrs. John Bell Hood of Coahoma, head of the Matagorda plantation interest and sociologist who has for a number of years studied the race problem first hand, all white, were among those who spoke on the race question as affecting Mississippi. Religious, social, civic, humanitarian and educational organizations, it was said, have done much to assist the race, as a result of which the Negro is being left free to work out his own destiny. The Negro problem it was said, is now almost a thing of the past so far as the Delta is concerned. Speakers said Negroes own more farms at present than ever before and the number of land owners is annually being increased. In very instance where Negroes have turned to agriculture, it was said, working for themselves, especially where educational and economic assistance has been given, the race has advanced.

Speeches are always made after dinner so the guests may enjoy their dinner.

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