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The Dawn of Tomorrow

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Social Conditions Among Negroes Before 1865

(By Fred Landon, M.A.)

When the government of the United States emancipated the Negro slaves in the seceded states in 1863, there was instituted a Freedmen's Inquiry Commission to consider generally what should be done both with slaves who had been freed by the operations of the war and those who should later become free. The members of this commission were Dr. Samuel G. Howe, Robert Dale Owen and James Mackay. Dr. Howe, soon after his appointment, visited Upper Canada and later made a report to Secretary of War Stanton which presents much information on the condition of the refugees who had entered the British province and were making their home. His findings were highly favourable to the fugitives and one sentence of the report has been frequently quoted, where, after noting some of the advances made by these people in their new home, he adds: "The refugees earn a living, and gather property; they marry and respect women; they build churches and send their children to schools; they improve in manners and morals—not because they are picked men, but simply because they are free men."

Dr. Howe was deeply impressed with this idea, that it was freedom which improved the Negro. In Canada he found the black man facing severe hardships in many cases. The climate was harsh as compared with the South, sometimes there was difficulty in making a livelihood, and there was occasional prejudice. On the other hand, there was justice and opportunity and, above all, freedom. In the preface to his report Dr. Howe says: "When everybody is asking what shall be done with the Negroes—and many are afraid that they cannot take care of themselves if left alone—an account of the manner in which twenty thousand of them are taking care of themselves in Canada may be interesting, even if it be imperfect, and contain superfluous speculations."

Dr. Howe's estimate of the number of Negro refugees in Canada was between 15,000 and 20,000. This is but one of many estimates and it is rather difficult to arrive at any definite figure. The question is of some interest, however, as showing the ef-

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DAISY WILSON, age eleven, of 109 Rose Ave., Toronto, Ont., has been taking piano lessons for three years at the "Hambourg Conservatory" and is now preparing for her third examination. Daisy has shown remarkable talent and bids fair to become one of Canada's finest pianists.

Florence Mills Sings At New York

N.A.A.C.P. Press Service

Florence Mills, who has heretofore sung in musical comedy and cabaret, made her first appearance as a concert singer on Sunday night, January 24, when she sang agroup of four songs at the second concert given this winter by the International Composers' Guild, of which Edgar Varese is Director.

The songs sung by Miss Mills were composed for her by William Grant Still, young colored composer, one of whose compositions was performed by the Guild last year. Mr. Still has studied for some years with Mr. Varese, who is regarded as perhaps the leading exponent of the new music in America.

Miss Mills' singing pleased a large audience which applauded her generously, recalled her a number of times and made her give a second performance of three of Mr. Still's four songs. The songs were arranged for accompaniment by a small jazz orchestra.

Offers \$1,000 Prize For Novel By Negro

At the request of Messrs. Albert and Charles Boni, publishers, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, today announced a prize of \$1,000 to be paid outright, in addition to royalties for a novel of Negro life, to be written by a person of Negro descent. Hitherto unpublished manuscripts may be submitted to Messrs. Albert and Charles Boni, before September 1, 1926.

The judges of the competition are: Henry Seidel Canby, Editor of The Saturday Review; Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, Editor of "The Crisis"; Chas. S. Johnson, Editor of "Opportunity"; James Weldon Johnson, Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Edna Kenton; Lawrence Stallings of The N.Y. World; and Irita Van Doren, Editor of The Tribune Weekly, "Books."

The conditions for the contest state that in addition to being written by an author of Negro descent: "The novel must deal with Negro life in the sense that one or more of its leading characters must be of Negro descent and its action must show the influence of this fact."

Full details of the contest may be obtained from Messrs. Albert and Charles Boni, 66 Fifth Avenue, or from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Lincoln On Liberty

(from The Dearborn Independent)

The cause of liberty must not be surrendered at the end of one or even one hundred defeats If there is anything that it is the duty of the whole people never to intrust to any hands but their own, that thing is the preservation and perpetuity of their own liberties and institutions I fear you do not fully comprehend the danger of abridging the liberties of the people. A government had better go to the very extreme of toleration than to do aught that could be construed into an interference with or to jeopardize in any degree the common rights of the citizen.

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Hamilton Anxious For League Branch

Last Sunday evening, Executive Secretary, J. F. Jenkins, went to Hamilton, according to previous arrangements, and at the close of a brief evening service, spoke to the congregation of the A.M.E. Church. To a large and appreciative audience he told of the work of The Canadian League for the Advancement of Colored People. A profound impression was made upon the minds of the people when he told them of what the League has done already, in so short a space of time, to better the conditions of the race. He also outlined the programme for the present year and urged his hearers to co-operate with the Executive in their efforts to make a success of its present plans. "With your aid and with your moral support, with the co-operation of all the colored people, together with the co-operation of white people whom we count as friends, we are fully confident of success." "This is at least ONE organization that has come to you not seeking your money, but rather we seek your co-operation. We are trying to show our people the wisdom of that common but truthful axiom, 'in union there is strength.' When the League laid its foundation it had in mind thousands of colored children of the present day and millions of unborn children. The organization is centered around the children, for every race foreshadows its future by the attitude it assumes towards the children."

Rev. Townsend, pastor of the church showed great enthusiasm for the League. He urged his people to accept the organization, stating that in his own opinion the League, with such an influential Executive, offered an excellent opportunity to the colored people of Canada to improve their status from every angle. He also believed that the programme, as was outlined for the present year, is destined to bring a great blessing to our people in particular and to Canada in general. In concluding he asked for an expression of opinion as to the advisability of establishing a branch in the city. Every person present expressed a desire to have a branch as soon as possible. Mr. Jenkins, therefore, was asked to return on the night of the 10th of the present month for the purpose of establishing a branch of the League. He gladly consented to do so.