

## Dawn of Tomorrow

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

### Subscription Rates

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## Editorial

### WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS

We come into our 5th Anniversary with a heart filled with gratitude to the Canadian people, both white and colored. As this anniversary dawns upon us we are reminded of a letter which we received from one of the most prominent Negroes in America on the eve of launching out upon the publication of The Dawn. We had written him asking his opinion upon such a venture. His answer ran something like this: "In my opinion there are not enough Negroes in Canada to support a Negro paper that is worth while from the standpoint of championing the Negro's cause. You cannot expect assistance from a race against whom you must take issue in advocating the cause of your own race."

I had and still have the highest esteem for this distinguished gentleman and scholar, but still, somehow we felt we should make the plunge. So fools rushed on where wise men dared not tread. And now, at the end of five years the only explanation we can give is that sometimes, in some cases, fortune favors the fool.

The interest manifested by the colored people throughout the whole of Canada is more noticeable and more effective within the past year than it has been during any period in the history of The Dawn. Almost weekly there come to us requests for the paper from all over Canada and from little towns we have never heard of, from Scotland, England and Africa we are receiving subscriptions from our people.

Concerning the Anglo-Saxons, we could not expect a more whole-hearted, loyal support than they have given us. We might give a practical illustration by pointing out the fact that 19 out of 20 of our subscribers in London, are white subscribers. The advertisers, wholesalers, retailers, and manufacturers, in the city and in other cities have lent us most beneficent co-operation, without which we could not have lived. This is true in spite of the fact, (as has been pointed out by some of Canada's most prominent citizens in this issue) that we have never failed to lift our voice in protest against any injustice done to our minority group by the majority.

One of the advertising agencies who asked that they be put on our mailing list said: "I notice you stand solidly

and four-square for the rights of your people."

Finally, we would be sadly lacking in our gratitude did we not speak of the kindly and friendly attitude which our city daily papers and the daily papers of other cities manifest towards us. They have often reprinted our editorials and other news matter and have always made favorable comments. In many ways they have demonstrated a spirit of brotherhood and helpfulness.

It has taken a tremendous effort to keep the Dawn afloat but at the end of the 5th year we feel that all our hardships and anxiety, sacrifice and even privation, have not been in vain. The soft and radiant light of the Dawn of Tomorrow is beginning to peer from behind the hills and mountains of to-day.

### AS OTHERS SEE US!

#### THE DAWN'S ANNIVERSARY

The Dawn of Tomorrow and its editor deserve the congratulations that they will receive on the fifth anniversary of the foundation of the paper. It was an ambitious idea to publish a newspaper for a small racial group who could hardly be expected to take financial responsibility. There was the possibility of opposition to a paper which must, if it were a publication of any character, not hesitate to point out occasional abuses to which the people for whom it spoke were subject. It is distinctly to the credit of the editor that he has not hesitated to lay his finger upon wrong and has still maintained the good will and respect of the larger body of citizens.

The colored race in Canada has an interesting and romantic history. There was a danger that the earlier history of the colored people in Canada would be forgotten, but the work of several writers has set down for the future, the story of the race, and in the pages of The Dawn of Tomorrow will be found a large amount of historical data that will be of great value to the historians of the future. It is interesting to recall that more than seventy-five years ago there was a newspaper published by a colored man for his own race in Canada, The Voice of the Fugitive, edited by Henry Bibb, of Windsor. Bibb, in his day, was a great orator as well as a newspaper editor and publicist, and in the campaigns of the Liberty Party in the State of Michigan he did good service on the platform. That was in the decade before the Civil War when the great problem of the colored race was the question of its freedom. To-day the race has other problems, the problem of equal opportunity, the problem of its young people, the problem of its churches, the problem of education and the problem of occupations. These are all subjects upon which the Dawn of Tomorrow has had something to say and it will be agreed that Editor Jenkins has taken no extremist view but rather a sane and far-seeing attitude.

The Dawn of Tomorrow has a distinct function to perform. It can do much for the welfare of the colored people in Canada. It deserves better support from the colored people than it has received for week after week it speaks on their behalf in a way that commands attention and that convinces. It deserves the support

of the white population who have social instincts because it has stood for sane thinking and right living. May the next five years be even more successful in its conduct and its influence yet greater will be a wish expressed by many at this time.

—FRED LANDON

Librarian, University of Western Ont.

### CONGRATULATIONS.

Five years ago Mr. J. F. Jenkins established "The Dawn of Tomorrow" as the official organ of the Canadian League for the Advancement of Colored People. The fact that it has survived that length of time is proof that it occupies a distinctive field and has served a very useful purpose. Mr. Jenkins has carried on his newspaper with marked ability and has contributed greatly to the interests of the colored people in Canada, who are good citizens of this Dominion.

It is highly desirable that they shall have some newspaper to present their points of view; to stimulate their pride in their own race; to give expression to its highest ideals and sentiments; and to try to foster among the colored people a keener interest in public affairs. I believe that The Dawn of Tomorrow is fulfilling this mission and has done much to promote the moral, social and educational well-being of the race.

The colored people in Canada have the right, as good Canadians, to claim wider opportunities for themselves and their children in this country. They have a natural affection for the soil of Canada, which was to their ancestors a haven of refuge in slavery days. The spirit in which they were welcomed in the period before and during the Civil War is one which the white people of this country would do well to preserve. The Colored Canadians have shown themselves fully appreciative of the part which Canada has played in the history of their race. They are staunch upholders of the tradition of British liberty, which has meant so much to them in the past, and they are today a valuable element in the citizenship of the Dominion.

I congratulate The Dawn of Tomorrow on the success it has had, and hope that it will continue to flourish in the future so that its good work will be maintained.

M. W. ROSSIE,

Editor Advertiser,  
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