

Dawn of Tomorrow

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Editorial

THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED ROAD DISPLACES ITS COLORED WAITERS

After more than forty years of faithful service the colored waiters on the C.N.R. have been rewarded for their faithfulness by being replaced on the International Limited by white boys. The order that removed them gave no reason for such actions, although it is reported that one of the officials in Toronto stated that inefficiency on the part of the Colored waiters is responsible for the change. If this really is the charge which the railroad officials have advanced against the Colored waiters, we will say with assurance that their charge has fallen through even before it was made. Since the Colored boys have been removed we have had scores of people, the very best people of the Dominion, who constitute an important element of the travelling public, state to us that one of the main reasons why they preferred to travel on the C.N.R. is that the dining car service is far superior to that on other roads and that the colored waiters are more efficient more courteous and intelligent.

We are personally acquainted with many of these boys. Some of them are working their way through college. Many of them have finished professional schools and are working in order to accumulate enough money with which to begin their professions. But even if, as the authorities claim, they had been bringing over from the States, discharged waiters from other roads, who is to blame but the railroad officials? This is an admission which has not marked those in authority with the brand of efficiency.

There is a certain division of the road which has used white waiters for a long period of time. These waiters have been paid \$89.50 per month for years! But the poor Colored waiters who began to work for the road 40 years ago for \$25 dollars per month were raised to \$65 per month a few years ago. Now through the union they have asked for equal pay and equal working conditions with the white waiters. Very soon after this request was made they were removed from the best diners on the roads. In asking for equal conditions with the white waiters it should be pointed out that the colored boys are frequently asked to double and re-double. Even weeks pass

without giving them an opportunity to see their homes and families. We are informed that no such demands are made on the white waiters.

The treatment which the company has meted out to the Colored boys is not only unfair and un-British, but it is inhuman. Shall Canada follow in the wake of South Africa and say that Negroes shall be allowed to do only a certain class of menial labor and work only on certain and inferior trains? Shall we in Canada point a finger of scorn at the people in the South because they refuse to sit beside Negroes in public conveyances when we refuse to allow them the chance to earn their bread and butter? The only recognition our government has given the colored people in Canada is by way of offering them a few servile positions such as waiters, cooks and porters on a road which they through personal sacrifice, have helped to stand on its own feet. And, too, as was pointed out in a letter written to The Dawn, some of these men are not only Canadian citizens and British subjects owning their own homes, but they went to France and offered their lives for their country's sake. But these facts mean nothing to the young life of our Government-owned C.N.R. The war has been won, the road is piling up enormous earnings and now we would not be surprised to read the following signs in their diners: "No Negroes and dogs allowed."

The Canadian League for the Advancement of Colored People has taken up the cause of the Colored waiters because we feel that the government, through the actions of the railroad officials, has done the whole race a gross injustice. We have written to the proper officials for a statement of all the facts surrounding the removal of the Colored boys. We have received no answer, but the public may rest assured that the matter will not rest there. If our letter is ignored we shall appeal to higher authority. If we get no satisfaction we shall go still higher—even to the Premier of Canada. The public stands solidly with us. We are especially indebted to the London Free Press, the Toronto Globe, the Toronto Mail and Empire and the Toronto Star for the friendly attitude which they have assumed towards our cause. With such encouragement we have re-kindled the lamp of our inspiration and only death can silence our voice or thwart our efforts.

HAMILTON

We are glad to know our Church is progressing under the able leadership of Rev. Claude A. Stewart,

Rev. C. A. Stewart occupied the pulpit at both services on Sunday and preached two very inspiring and spiritual sermons.

Rev. C. A. and Mrs. Stewart, Rev. J. C. Holland and Miss Elfreda, attended Bishops' Council in Detroit.

The Canadian League for the Advancement of Colored people is progressing very nicely. The League gave a concert which was a great success. The concert was for the purpose of purchasing a tennis outfit for the members and friends.

Mr. Victor Lewis and wife are the guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Lewis, Clyde St.

Several people from Cayuga worshipped at St. Paul's on Sunday evening. We are always pleased to have them with us.

Mr. Howard Lewis, Vice President of the local branch of the C.L.A.C.P. is at present sailing on the lakes. We wish him every success.

Those on the sick list are: Mr. T. J. Holland, Mrs. Greenidge, and the Wade children. We pray for their speedy recovery.

Those in the Mountain Sanatorium are: Mrs. Matilda Johnson, Miss Edith Murdock, Mr. Wm. Bell.

Much sympathy is extended Mr. Willis Hatchett and family in their loss of wife and mother.

We are glad to report that nearly all of our children were successful in their school examinations. Those receiving diplomas are: Thelma Hamilton, Beatrice Harris, Loretta Harris, Robert Harrigan, Ellen Wade and Peters.

No. 1 and No. 2 Clubs gave two very successful concerts, one a sacred concert in Queen's Theatre and the other a concert in the Church. Captains of these clubs are: No. 1, Mrs. Maggie Duncan, No. 2, Mrs. Jesse Brown.

Miss Agnes Barnes has returned home after visiting her sister, Miss Madeline Barnes.

Miss Madeline Barnes spent the holiday in Toronto, the guest of her sister Iolo Barnes.

Mrs. Rose Sharp of Toronto and Mrs. Florence Johnson of Walkerville have returned home after visiting their father, Mr. T. J. Holland and sister, Mrs. R. A. Hammond.

Those who attended a theatre party Saturday night were: Misses Vera and Dorothy Morey, Miss Gladys Walker of Brantford, Miss Viola Shadd of North Buxton, Miss Madeline and Agnes Barnes of Hamilton and Cayuga.

Colored Artist's Drawings to Illustrate Book

New York, (N.A.A.C.P. Service)—Two drawings by Aaron Douglass, young colored painter and draftsman now on the staff of The Crisis, are to be used as illustrations for Carl Van Vechten's forthcoming novel, "Nigger Heaven," the scene of which is laid in Harlem.

Messrs. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., who are publishing the book, said that the two drawings of Mr. Douglass are to be used in all the advertising of the book. The publishers are so pleased with Mr. Douglass' work that they plan to use in future, other work by him.

New York—Casper Holstein, a native of the Virgin Islands, but now a resident of New York, has contributed a second \$1000.00 to Opportunity Literary Prize Contest.

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