

aturday, May 19th, 1928.

vention will sit here May 30 and 31, just prior to the celebration. Further details will be announced later.

RATFORD NEWS.

Harrison has gone on a tour.

Wesley has gone to the city.

Lazel Wesley has gone to the city.

last two months Mr. and Mrs. Cromwell, of Woodville, have had relations in the city.

Mathew has returned after being away for the last two months.

sorry to report the death of our race. within the last few weeks.

for wedding bells soon.

our people are on the move.

MY FRIEND.

call himself friend and I him much too talk long and well and promises make, promises, not words, tell me re our friends low his lead I could not make.

want me to dance, but I the thought, had taught me to shun from a child, numberless pleasures to enjoy could indulge and redefined.

that the dance in itself bad, people who led it were "my child," I am to love pleasure higher thought I not do that without defined.

judgment matures then thankful we are discipline that we once so severe, we to be brought up in an home st of blessings that we live here.

S KILLED IN 1927

n, May 9th.—Aviation during 1927 cost resulted in injuries persons. total deaths, twenty-reged to experimental planes of untested character.

Official Organ of the Can. League for Advancement of Colored People



THE NATIONAL NEGRO WEEKLY
DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE DARKER RACES

VOLUME IV, NO. 16.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JUNE 23rd, 1928.

Price 5 Cents.

Interesting Report Of American Anti- Slavery Society

(Courtesy Prof. Fred London)

The fourth annual report of the American Anti-Slavery Society published in the Quarterly Anti-Slavery Magazine for July, 1837, gives the report of an agent of the American Anti-Slavery Society who was employed "to investigate the conditions and prospects of the colored people in Upper Canada, where he finds a population of about 10,000, almost entirely fugitives from American oppression. Having crossed the line with no other wealth than their own bodies and souls, many of them have made themselves quite comfortable, and some have become even wealthy. Several have sprung up among them by the efforts of the agent. Full and satisfactory evidence of their good behaviour and value as citizens has been given by the highest civil authorities and by men of standing of different sects and parties.

The following letters were received by the agent in reply to his enquiries from gentlemen in Toronto whose character is too well known to need any description:

1st from Hon. R. G. Dunlop, member of the Provincial Parliament.

"House of Assembly, Toronto, January 27th, 1837.

Dear Sir:—Permit me to assure you that I feel much pleasure in replying to your communication of yesterday, and in recording my testimony, whether in my private capacity as a subject, or in my public as a magistrate and representative of the people, it gives me infinite satisfaction to say that after much observation and some experience I have arrived at this conclusion, viz, that there are not in His Majesty's dominions, a more loyal, honest, industrious, temperate and independent class of citizens than the colored people of Upper Canada. Go on, therefore, my dear sir, in your work of charity, and let us pray fervently to the Most High, that He will look down with compassion on the degraded children of Africa, and lead them as He did the chosen



MRS. PEARL BROWN, Secretary
London Branch C.L.A.C.P.

people of old, from your modern Egypt of oppression.

Yours very sincerely,

R. G. Dunlop,
Captain of R.N., M.P. for the County of Huron."

"Toronto, Jan. 30, 1837.

Sir,—In reply to your inquiries, I beg to offer as my opinion, with much diffidence. 1st, that nearly all of them are opposed to every species of reform in the civil institutions of the colony—they are so extravagantly loyal to the Executive that to the utmost of their power they uphold all the abuses of government, and support those who profit by them. 2nd, As a people they are as well behaved as a majority of the whites and perhaps more temperate. 3rd, To your third question I would say, not 'more numerous.' 4th, Cases in which colored people ask public charity are rare, as far as I can recollect. I am opposed to slavery, whether of whites or blacks, in every form. I wish to live long enough to see the people of this continent, of the humblest classes educated and free, and held in respect, according to their conduct and attainments, without reference to country, color or worldly substance. But I regret that an unfounded fear of a union with the United States on the part of the colored population should have induced them to oppose reform and free institutions in this colony, wherever they have had the power to do so. The apology I make for them in this matter is that they have not been educated as freemen.

I am, your respectful, humble

(Continued on Page 6)

Righting a Wrong Devotes November Issue to the Negro

(Nashville Banner)

One of the most distressing situations in human experience comes when it is discovered that a man has been imprisoned for years on false charges, and the State of South Carolina is faced with it now. Thirteen years ago, Ben Bess, a Negro, was sent to the penitentiary for thirty years on the testimony of a white woman that he had attempted to attack her. The woman is nearing the end of her life from an incurable disease and has but lately relieved her conscience and admitted that she testified to falsehoods on the stand and sent Bess to prison for a crime of which he was innocent. Bess is now broken physically and absolutely destitute, and the injustice that has been done him is glaringly obvious. South Carolina was guilty of a grave wrong in the first place and is now apparently just as eager to do what is humanly possible to right it. The fault has been admitted and steps are being taken to apply what measure of remedy lies within the state's power.

Governor Richards of South Carolina has been exceedingly active in Bess' behalf. As soon as the case was presented to his attention he tried to have financial aid given Bess from the State's contingent fund, and when he was advised that such procedure was illegal, he started a public subscription for Bess' benefit. He has likewise announced that he will seek to have the next legislature do what it can to repay Bess for the almost irreparable damage that has been done him. All this is precisely as it should be. Society cannot make up to Ben Bess the thirteen years of freedom it has unjustly taken from him, but it can prove to him its genuine remorse for what has happened and make the rest of his life at least a partial recompense.

CHURCH PUTS END TO SEGREGATION

TULSA, Okla., June 13—Standing by a decision to meet in a city in which Negroes were not so likely to be segregated, the Presbyterian Church has designated St. Paul, Minn. as the meeting place of the 141st General Assembly of the church next year.

New York, June 15—The American Academy of Political and Social Science is devoting the November issue of its Annals to 'The American Negro' it was learned today, under the special editorship of Charles S. Johnson.

The number is to be made a comprehensive survey, both white and colored leaders in race relations being among the contributors. The list of contributors includes: Charles S. Johnson, on "Change in Educational Status of the Negro," Will W. Alexander, Secretary of the Inter-racial Committees, "The Negro in the New South," James Weldon Johnson, Secretary and Herbert J. Seligmann, Director of Publicity of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, "Legal Aspects of the Negro Problem," R. R. Moton, "Organized Negro Effort for Racial Progress," J. H. Dillard, Director of Jeanes and Slater Funds; J. E. Gregg, C. H. Tobias, Kelley Miller, N. C. Newbold, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, George E. Haynes, Forrester Washington, E. K. Jones of the National Urban League, and others.

CHARLES W. CHESNUTT, SPINGARN MEDALIST, GOING TO LOS ANGELES

New York, June 15th—Charles W. Chesnutt, of Cleveland, winner of this year's award of the Spingarn Medal, has notified the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that he will attend the Los Angeles Conference of the Association and will be present to receive the Medal in person on the night of July 3rd.

The movement against segregation was provoked at the meeting of the assembly in this city recently, when the annual good will banquet of the church had to be abandoned because of segregation practices in the city, which would have prevented the Race delegates to the meeting from dining at the same table with the white delegates.