

Dawn of Tomorrow

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

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Editorial

ARE WEST INDIAN NEGROES BRITISH SUBJECTS?

Judging from the many reports and complaints which are pouring into our office, the colored people from the West Indies are finding it extremely difficult to enter Canada. It is said that white persons from the islands experience no difficulty whatever in gaining free entrance. On the other hand, they are welcomed here and are shown every consideration and great courtesy. This of course is as it should be since the people from the West Indies Islands are British subjects. But the mere act, by the immigration authorities, of making it difficult for colored people and gladly receiving whites from the same country naturally raises the question in our minds: "Are West Indian Negroes British subjects?" For the kind of justice which we boast of here in Canada knows no color, has no favorites. British justice knows all of its subjects as members of one great family—The British family of nations. With such lofty thoughts ever in our minds we have felt a keen delight in priding ourselves LOYAL British subjects. It is why we always doff our hats and stand at attention when "God Save our Precious King" is played or sung. Of course we know that Australia has been bold enough to make laws which practically bar all colored people from that country. But Australia is Australia, and ignorant and superstitious and God-forsaken. When Canada begins to shape her destiny after the pattern of Australia, God forbid that we remain here thereafter.

And still we were shown a letter recently which was written by the immigration authorities to a private citizen. The letter was the answer to a request to the government that a West Indian Colored girl be allowed to enter Canada. Among other things the letter stated; "We are not encouraging the colored races to come to Canada," and why? Why are not Canada's future citizens picked on the basis of intelligence, physical fitness, a tendency to work, less likelihood of becoming public charges and anarchists, rather than on the basis of color. Why are the West Indian Negroes who are loyal British subjects and are both intelligent and industrious—Why are they refused when hordes of the trash and scum of Cen-

tral Europe and thousands of bums even from England are entering each year? Is it because they are not loyal to Canada? No. The war record of the Negro men who responded to the Canadian call to arms during the World War shows that the majority of them was from the Islands. Their loyalty to the King was well illustrated at a ball game which we were once privileged to witness. As the game proceeded a citizen of the States who was present, in jest, made a remark concerning the King which, to say the least, was not complimentary. A colored West Indian, on hearing the remark, resented the "insult" as he styled it. Although instant and fitting apology was made, it required much physical force to restrain the irate son of the tropics from doing violence to the offender. Perhaps it is such blind and fanatic loyalty which causes him to be an undesirable.

Among Negro business, in the professions, among the number of Negro men and women entering colleges and professional schools and business schools, the West Indians have almost a monopoly. Among the efficient porters and cooks in the employ of the Canadian railroads, the West Indians form fully 50 per cent.

If Canada is proud of the upward strivings of her citizens, of their honest achievements, however small, then surely she is proud of her adopted brown sons of the enchanted islands.

But still the unanswered question is, why deny the colored people of the islands free entrance? Surely it is not the bug-bear of social equality which frightens the immigration authorities. If this is so we are glad to make the following observation for their especial benefit. The West Indian colored man, not only invariably marries in his own race, seeks the society of his own people, but he very rarely marries a girl from any country except his own.

As loyal Canadians we call upon our government to come out into the open and state its reasons, if it has any, why colored West Indians are not allowed free entrance into Canada when white men from that country are accorded such privileges.

49 Winchester St., King's Cross,
London, N1, England

My Dear Mr. Editor,—

One sometimes wonders what the summer is like in the New Western World. To us here, it is the happiest of days; for we grow ever much more robust; and rolling in the midst of a most refined, highly cultured and elevated society, we are bound to be happier the world over. Absolute freedom from labour, and a careful substitution of a well-selected set of modern dances for the "tart-tasty-tat" days of the school year is our inheritance of the summer restful period. Permit me to say that my statement to the Union of West African Students and to the Union of Students of African Descent at London respecting receptions accorded me by my brethren and friends during my reading period at the 'West' was a tidings resounded by loud applause.

May some of our blessings and our ancient rights of absolute enjoyment of life flow 'Westward'.

ERED E. EBITO.

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LONDON NOTES

On August 4th Mr. Geo. Harris of Guelph was in the city visiting his brother and son who are Mr. Fred Harris of Trafalgar St. and Mr. Freddie Harris of Horton Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harris, Mr. and Mrs. James Hill were in Guelph on August 3, 4, and 5 visiting relatives and friends. They report a delightful trip.

Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Stopping of Leyland, Fla., were recent visitors as the guests of Mrs. Walter Cromwell.

Mrs. John Irons recently entertained her many visiting friends and relatives with a private outing at Port Stanley. The event was well attended and everyone enjoyed himself.

Mrs. Jamie Harris, who has been suffering with her eyes, is now much improved.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Cromwell and Major Cromwell, all of Gobles, spent the week end in the city as guests of their relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cromwell, of Epworth Ave.

Recent visitors to the city who came to attend the League picnic are: Mrs. Mary Brown of Wilberforce, Ohio, Mr. Frederick Pope of Evansville, Ill., Mr. Walter Cromwell, Detroit; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Butler and children, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Butler and Mr. Brown, Lucan, Mr. Albert Budd, Hamilton; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cromwell and children Gobles; Mr. Perry Norris, of Lansing, Mich.; Mr. C. Joiner, Hamilton; Rev. (Mrs.) J. H. Pinick, of Dresden.

News has just reached us of the death of Mrs. Mathews at her home in Stratford. Funeral services have not yet been arranged. A full account of the funeral will appear in the next issue of The Dawn.

Recent visitors to the city were Mr. and Mrs. Butler and their mother, Mrs. Demoyer of Lansing, Mich., as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. Brown; Mr. Perry Norris of Lansing, as the guest of his daughter, Mrs. G. Wilson and his son George; Mrs. C. Cherry and her son Thurmond of Chatham, Ont.; Mrs. J. W. Williams of Toronto as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Jenkins; Rev. (Mrs.) J. H. Pinick, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Berry; Mr. Walter Cromwell, Detroit; Mr. and Mrs. Cadwell and daughter and Miss Jones of Pittsburgh, Pa., as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Jenkins.

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