

Dawn of Tomorrow

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

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THE ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY

Eleven years have passed by since the late J. F. Jenkins first launched The Dawn of Tomorrow and to-day it constitutes one of the memorials of the work that he undertook and carried on during the remaining years of his life on behalf of the colored people of Canada. In days to come students of the history of Canada will delve through the files of this paper, as they have been preserved in a few larger libraries, and will gain therefrom a picture of social conditions among the colored people of this period and of their aspirations and achievements.

The Dawn of Tomorrow was not the first paper to be published in Canada by a member of the Colored race. Away back in 1850, Henry Bibb began to issue at Windsor, a little page not unlike The Dawn to which he gave the name "The Voice of the Fugitive." There is history in that name, for when Bibb began publication the notorious fugitive slave bill had just been signed by President Fillmore and even the northern states had become unsafe for Negroes, whether free or runaways from slavery. It was to Canada that these people then looked for protection and safety, and they came across the border at Windsor, Amherstburg, Niagara and other points by the hundreds, if not by the thousands.

Ten years later came the Civil War, then Emancipation Proclamation, the victory of the north under Lincoln and the passing of the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery. Many Negroes who had come to Canada now returned to their own country and people. But there were others who having made Canada their refuge in time of trouble, decided to stay under the British flag and their descendants are numerous in Western Ontario to-day.

It was on behalf of this little racial group of a few thousand people that J. F. Jenkins raised his voice and proclaimed through his paper that there was a tomorrow at hand when better things were in store for his people if they would prepare for them. His was not an easy task of leadership. He had many disappointments, he made many sacrifices, and he passed on without seeing his work completed. But there are others who have taken up the banner which fell from his hand and the work goes on.

The colored people of Canada need leadership, and leadership will come. There are barriers in the way of the young people of the race, there are hard social and economic problems to face. All is not sunshine. There must come other men and women who will be prepared to sacrifice, to

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the "pinch" the same as everyone else, but they are carrying on ungrudgingly, and in doing so are showing a splendid example.

H. W. Walker gave the address of welcome to the delegates on behalf of the local church. The banner of Christianity, he declared, takes precedence over any national flag. He outlined the obstacles that were overcome in Christianity's rise and spread. Mr. Rodd was introduced as "Rev. Mr. Rodd," but the error was corrected. Extending the greetings of the Ontario Prohibition Union, Mr. Rodd remarked lightly that it may seem strange to some to have the Union president in the Border Cities.

"I'm not sure whether that seems a joke on the president of the Union, or a joke on the Border Cities," he observed, and left the delegates to draw their own conclusions.

The church is the bulwark behind the Union, he stated, and for this reason he was pleased to have the opportunity to welcome the B.M.E. delegates to Windsor.

"You have a very fine and long and honorable record," he told them.

Rev. T. H. Jackson responded to Mayor Croll's and Mr. Rodd's addresses, and was followed by Rev. A. W. Barker, pastor of Calvary United Church, who welcomed the 19 or 20 visitors on behalf of the United Church of Canada.

Greeting from the First Baptist Church were extended by Deason Crawford Parker. Mrs. R. Wilson responded to Mr. Walker's welcome from the local church, and Rev. S. T. Bird, in a witty talk, gave a welcome from the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The B.M.E. Church choir was in attendance and special solo numbers were presented. Mrs. Marjorie Bais sang "Open the Gates of the Temple," Miss Hadel Solomon was heard in a violin solo and Miss Helen Lawson recited "Wits' End Corner."

Refreshments were served in the church basement on the conclusion of the reception program.

Victim of Streptococcus

Frederick Kelly, the son of Mr. Fred Kelly, 9 Marmora St. of this city died at 7.20 Saturday evening in St. Joseph's Hospital of this dreaded germ.

It is believed Fred got the germ while swimming in the Thames near Egerton St.

The young community of London feel keenly his loss. He was of a very pleasant disposition, using his talent whenever and wherever needed. It was this year only that he organized a harmony three using his guitar and voice accompanied by Fountain and Milton. He also was Secretary of the Coored Star Softball team and played 1st base. Also a member of the B.M.E. Sunday School and the Dunbar Literary Society.

meet disappointments with bravery and to carry on. The Dawn of Tomorrow has been their voice in the past, it deserves support that it may continue to speak on behalf of a people.

—FRED LANDON

WOODSTOCK NOTES

Mrs. J. F. Jenkins of London spent a few hours with friends in Woodstock.

Mr. Harold Marshall of Toronto spent a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Marshall.

A fine baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Blair.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Marshall had a delightful picnic at Burford.

Miss Loretta Harris of Hamilton spent a few hours with friends in the city.

Master Eugene Topp who has been a visitor in Toronto or some time is expected to reside with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Topp.

Mr. Smith of Windsor spent a few hours with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Topp and family are residing at Sweabury.

DRESDEN NOTES

Miss Hilda Johnson is visiting friends and relatives in Toronto.

The Green Valley baseball team held an entertainment in the Town Hall. A good time was reported by all.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Berry accompanied by Miss Florence Drake attended the memorial services of Madame Tully, Sunday, May 28th in the Queen St. Baptist Church. Mrs. Berry rendered a very touching solo. She was assisted at the piano by Miss Drake.

Mr. Benny Talbot was the guest of friends while visiting Dresden.

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