

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

The Dawn of Tomorrow

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

VOLUME III. NO. 50.

LONDON, CANADA, JANUARY 29, 1927.

Price 5 cents.

TRENDS IN RACE RELATIONS DURING THE PAST YEAR

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Human progress, like a river, never proceeds at an even pace. Here it races through the rapids, there it sleeps quietly in some still pool, yonder in confusion it eddies and swirls. A short range view often leaves one in doubt whether it moves at all, or, if moving, whether forward or backward. The long look is necessary if one would know whether the current is going and how fast.

Present-day trends in American race relations are like that. The observer may see in them every degree of progress or of reaction, depending entirely upon the point at which they are viewed. But looking at them objectively over even so short a space as one year, one must admit, I think, that the stream is moving, moving in general in the right direction, and moving rapidly in comparison with the historic slowness of great social changes.

Probably the most encouraging development during the past year has been the increasing integration of the interests of Negroes with the social welfare agencies of communities and states. The State Welfare Boards of North Carolina and Georgia have established distinct departments of Negro welfare. In Alabama, Louisiana and Tennessee the state welfare and interracial organizations meet in joint annual sessions, while in the other states close and co-operative relations are maintained between the two groups.

Closely related to the above has been the inclusion of Negro welfare agencies in community chest budgets, which has now been accomplished in a large number of cities. These agencies are generously provided for in chest budgets, and the colored people of the community are enlisted in systematic support of the chests. This means that at last Negroes are recognized as an essential part of the community, both as liabilities and as assets, and entitled to the same public consideration as any other group. From the standpoint of immediate results and also as a promise of permanence this development is of the utmost importance.

Notable progress has been made in the improvement of Negro school facilities. Atlanta, for example, having just expended \$1,250,000 on new Negro schools, has promised to the colored people fair participation in a new school bond issue of \$5,000,000. In Louisville provision has been made for two new junior high schools, a graded school, and the enlargement of several others, while preparations are under way to open a department for Negroes in the University of Louisville. Raleigh, N. C., is expending several hundred thousand dollars in improving its schools for Negroes. Memphis has just completed a new high school at a cost of \$350,000, established a new junior high, and made extensive additions to others. Scores of Negro school enterprises have been promoted elsewhere in Tennessee, involving an outlay of \$300,000. The new Craig school, at New Orleans, has just been completed at a cost of \$250,000.

The newspapers have become powerful influences for better race relations. Flaming front page stories of Negro crime, largely responsible in the past for more than one race riot, are now tabooed by every respectable paper in the South. Such stories are either "played down" to inconspicuous proportions or left out altogether. Concurrently, another change no less notable has taken place, namely, the featuring of constructive Negro news. Stories of achievement in education, business, literature and art, stories of heroism and human interest, of interracial co-operation and welfare work; every-day news events, athletics, etc.—stories which promote race pride and ambition on the one hand and interracial understanding and appreciation on the other—these are of constant occurrence in hundreds of papers.

The new attitude of the press is reflected also in the editorial columns, which almost without exception voice the demand for interracial good will, justice and opportunity. More than any other class in the South, the editors have been outspoken and unanimous in the condemnation of lynching and the demand that it be suppressed. Undoubtedly this has had much to do

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REV. I. McEWIN WILLIAMS,
Pastor, First Baptist Church,
Toronto, who recently delivered a
masterful address before friends
of the C.L.A.C.P. at St. Andrew's
Hall, this city. His subject was
"The Contribution of the Negro
to North America."

Negro Defense Lawyer In An Important Case

Toronto, Jan. 24.—Attorney E. Lionel Cross, the only Negro barrister of Toronto, has been chosen as chief defense lawyer for the Rational Society of Canada. Lawyer Cross is engaged in defending his first case for this society which grew out of charges of uttering blasphemous, indecent and profane libel concerning the holy scripture and the Christian religion. The plaintiff is one Ernest V. Sherry (white), an Englishman. Mr. Cross has announced he has been assured by members of the Rational Society in Chicago that Clarence Darrow, famous criminal lawyer of the United States, will come to Toronto to assist in defending the case. International interest is being aroused in the case in view of the fact that it marks one of only a few cases of blasphemy in which this particular statue has been invoked.

Darker Races To Gather Next Month

New York, Jan. 19.—A meeting of the colored races of the world will be held in Brussels, Germany, the first week of February according to a report received here. The assemblage, it is said, will be to protest against white political rule and ascendancy.

The report states that Dean William Pickens will represent colored

Young Students Favor Equality

Milwaukee, Wis., Jan. 17.—Gathered here in a great national conference, December 28 to January 1, 2,500 boys and girls, representing every state in the Union and hundreds of institutions, gave earnest consideration to the question of race relations, and on the final day by almost unanimous vote adopted the following: "I am willing to give to the members of, every race the same opportunities that I have." The opposite view was then submitted—"Regarding some races as inherently inferior to my own, I favor keeping them in their places,"—and received only 11 votes.

On a previous day Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University, had delivered an address and conducted an open forum on race relations which was followed by group discussions in which the whole conference participated. Dr. Johnson made a very favorable impression, as did also Rev. Howard Thurman, of Oberlin, Ohio, who spoke on another subject.

At no previous conference of like character had the delegates gone so far in their thinking about races or reached conclusions so liberal and so nearly unanimous. Among the students present were representatives of 30-odd racial and national groups including many Negro students. The hotels of the city were open to all delegates alike and the relationships between the various groups were uniformly considerate and cordial.

Other subjects featured on the program were war and industry, but on these the conclusions reached by the students were not nearly so unanimous. The proposition: "I will not support any war, got 327 votes; "I am ready to support some wars but not others," received 740; "I will support any war that is declared by the authority of my country," got 95; while 356 stated that they were not ready to commit themselves.

Americans at the gathering. Other colored races of the west who will be represented at the meet the account says will be Cuba, Porto Rico, Colombia and Peru. Those of the eastern hemisphere expected to have representatives at the meeting are South Africa, Egypt, Arabia, China, Mexico and India.