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The Dawn of Tomorrow

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

VOL. V, NO. 1

LONDON, ONTARIO, AUGUST 26th, 1929.

Price 5 Cents.

A Little "Dixie" In Oro Township

A colored refugee settlement in Oro township to the north of the present town of Barrie, is interestingly described in the article below which appeared in a leading Ontario newspaper a few years ago. We are indebted to Prof. Fred Landon of the University of Western Ontario for bringing the article to our attention. It is as follows:—

Early in the thirties a negro settlement was formed in the upper part of the Township of Oro, north of Lake Simcoe. This settlement was made up of run-away slaves, and Rev. Mr. Raymond, a brother of the Raymond of sewing machine fame, appears to have been mainly instrumental in the formation of the settlement. The Government furnished free land.

"Some of the best land in the township was," says James Smith of Edgar, "allotted to these negroes. What is now the Village of Edgar was the centre of their settlement. The farm at the northwest corner of Edgar belonged to Nelson Morrison, and the farm at the northeast corner to a negro named Munro. All told there were three families of Morrisons, and big families they were. There were also four families of the Bushes, besides the Jennings, Cases, Barbers, Smoots, St. Doneys, Thompsons (two families), Turners, Jacksons, Banks, Johnsons, Hawkins, Eddies, and others. Turner was an exceptionally big man, and Jackson was a preacher."

Good Only to Work for Others.
But the attempt to found a negro settlement in the bush proved a failure. "The Negroes were," says Mr. Smith, "splendid choppers, but their energy was exhausted in chopping down bush, and in a few years their little clearings were as thickly wooded as ever. The huts they built in starting remained to the end. The only effect of the formation of this Negro settlement was to delay the development of the township."

"How, then, did the negroes make their living?" I asked.

"They lived cheap," was the reply. "A little corn and the proceeds of the hunt went a long way. Then, while poor workers on their own places, they did well when working on farms belonging to others. They were excellent choppers, and made good hands at loggings and in the harvest field."

Still the settlement did not pros-



MRS. HATTIE BUTLER, wife of County Constable Peter Butler, of Lucan. Mrs. Butler is keenly interested, and lends her hearty support to all interests connected with the welfare of the Colored race.

per. Of the 30 or 40 families that were granted farms, only four held on until this spring, and one of these has since sold out. The great majority got their farms under mortgage to a Barrie capitalist, and then the descent was easy. To-day, outside of three families still on the old homesteads, little remains of a settlement from which so much was expected by well-meaning philanthropists. Here and there may be found a white-washed hut in which lives the family of a negro laborer.

They Went to the Towns.

"The great majority of those who left," says Mr. Smith, "went to the towns—Barrie, Collingwood, Chatham and Toronto. Few tried farming again."

Some intermarried with whites, but the offspring of these mixed marriages does not appear to be any improvement on the original black stock. The Negroes beem, too, after their removal to the bush, to have experienced a revival of something of the fierce spirit of their savage ancestry. In the early days it was a very unsafe thing to insult one of the negroes, and they were particularly touchy in the matter of their color.

An Old Negro Church.

A short distance west of Edgar there is a frame building that has been there for a generation. This is the old Negro church. Services are still regularly held in that building. "That church has witnessed some

(Continued on Page 6)

Get Acquainted Club Holds Annual Outing

The Fourth Annual Picnic of the Get Acquainted Club was held at Springbank Park, July 20th, which was a very successful affair. Out-of-town guests were Mrs. Eva Bollen, Warren Bollen, Mr. and Mrs. William Stickland, Cecil Smith and Miss Beulah Harding, all of Guelph; Miss Bernice Logan, Windsor; Mr. and Mrs. Nevills, Mr. and Mrs. Priestly, of Appin; Mr. Bill Harrison, Caro Harrison and Bobby Harrison, of Stratford; Mr. and Mrs. Hall and daughter of Stratford.

A sports program of 19 events was run off. Rev. E. A. Richardson, pastor of the Beth-Emanuel Church, was declared winner in the beauty contest for men only. Miss B. Harding of Chatham was the mysterious "Miss Get Acquainted" and was discovered by Miss Bernice Logan of Windsor. The "Has Beens" defeated the "Never Wasers" in a fast ball game.

F. Ball was general convener of the picnic. C. E. Poindexter, president of the club, chairman of the grounds committee; F. Kelly, of the sports committee; Mrs. Coursey, of the refreshment committee; and Mrs. Cabrera, of the prize committee. Supper was served at 6 o'clock.

Crime by Negroes Decreases in N. C.

GREENSBORO, N.C., August—(A.N.P.)—Because better education facilities, crime among Negroes was decreasing rapidly throughout the State of North Carolina, according to N. C. Newbold, state supervisor of Negro schools.

Speaking before the 232nd annual convention of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends, Mr. Newbold told of the progress being made in the state in the promotion of education among Negroes. He outlined the program of advancement which is being followed and declared that due very largely to the improvement of present institutions and the addition of other schools, the per cent of crime among Negroes had decreased from 68 per cent to 38 per cent and that the crime percentage was 4.8 per cent, below their percentage of population in the State of North Carolina.

Mr. Newbold pointed out that the

Many Attend The C.L.A.C.P. Picnic

On Civic Holiday, Aug. 5th, the C. L.A.C.P. held one of the most successful outings of the summer. The occasion drew visitors from many cities and towns throughout Ontario and from several points throughout the States. The weather was ideal—just the kind of a day for a grand outing. There were more than 175 people present. The different committees had done their work thoroughly and nothing was left undone which would add to the comfort and pleasure of the guests. Ice cream, ginger ale, ginger beer and crackleynut was handed out freely. The sports committee had arranged a long and varied program of sports, games and other contests, and the winners were rewarded with costly and valuable presents. There were 86 presents awarded the winners.

Mr. E. M. Burke of the city was one of the distinguished visitors. Mr. Burke brought with him two pipers from a Scottish clan, who rendered several quaint but beautiful Scottish tunes. This feature added greatly to the pleasure of the day. Supper was served at 6 o'clock and a fine supper it was. The ladies of the committee had spared neither pains nor expense to prepare the lunch and every person on the grounds was made to feel entirely welcome to dine. It is reported that the League has decided to hold their annual outings in the future on Civic Holiday.

The Committee wishes to thank the merchants and manufacturers of the city for their assistance in making their 4th annual picnic an overwhelming success.

THE GLUTTON

I was held up last night by a flapper bandit, said Oscar, and when she found I only had a dollar on me she gave me a big kiss.

Well, said Oswald, what about it? Gawsch! ejaculated Oscar, I wish I had had a ten-spot on me then!

strenuous efforts were being made to make schools for Negroes in North Carolina the best in the country and that the highest trained teachers were being attracted to the state. His observations also led to the opinion that Negroes were advancing in character building much faster than the whites.