

Dawn of Tomorrow

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Editorial

WHY NOT THE CANADIAN NEGRO?

Jan. 19th, 1928.

Mr. J. F. Jenkins,
Editor, Dawn of Tomorrow,
London, Ont.

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

We were very much interested in a recent issue of your paper in which the achievements of the Negroes of the United States were reviewed. We were agreeably surprised to learn of the great progress which your race has made within the past few years. We have reprinted the entire article. We shall be glad to reprint from your paper any article or articles which tell of the progress of the colored people, for as a duty to that race, we should encourage them in every possible way.

Could you not also give us such a comprehensive review of the achievements and the progress of the Canadian Negro?

Very truly yours,

Editor, The——

Yes, why not give a comprehensive review of the achievements of the Canadian Negro?

That is the question we have asked ourselves many times over. We make it our special business to tell every single achievement the Canadian Negro makes. We do this week in and week out. We search the heavens above, the earth beneath and the waters under the earth for data concerning their accomplishments. If, perchance a deed worthwhile escapes our observation, it is because we have searched and failed to find it. We even record deeds of mediocrity and commonplace and give them as much lustre as we dare without appearing over-zealous and over liberal in our praise. Still, withal, we are not able to give a comprehensive review of progress made by the Canadian Negro. And the fault lies mostly within the ranks of the Canadian Negroes themselves. The main reason why we are not able to make a "comprehensive" report upon this subject is that the Canadian negro is not making outstanding progress. There are, of course, bright jewels, here and there, oasis in the dreary wilderness, men and

women who are forging ahead in spite of the lethargy, lack of co-operation and even discouragements of their own people. But such cases are the exception, not the rule. Our young people are not preparing themselves, on the whole or even in reasonable numbers to "achieve." With every institution of learning open to them to enter, they are content to grow to manhood and womanhood without the necessary education, without a trade or a profession. Our men and women are too indigent, too distrustful of each other to pool their interests and begin businesses in which their boys and girls might labor and learn. They are too serenely content in their boasted assurance that "we can be served in any white business place here in Canada." And in this we are not so sure they are correct. Again, as much as the ideal of British fair play grips the hearts and conscience of every Canadian, our white brethren who are our business world, are not as yet ready to remove the color barrier and employ negro help on the same basis of merit as is applied to other races.

Every negro who has succeeded in Canada in business, at a trade or in a profession will tell you the same sad story, that he succeeded, not with the help, but in spite of his own people. Even our small and inconspicuous newspapers that champion the negro's cause as best they know how to do, must look to other races for support.

Let us here mention a few worth while achievements which negroes are making in the republic south. In the January Opportunity, Eugene K. Jones tells us that a Mr. Alexander, a civil engineer of Iowa has built most of the largest bridges in the southern part of that state and has been associate engineer on some very important constructions. He employs 289 men; that a negro mechanical engineer is manager of the Pittsburg office of a large Chicago manufacturing concern; that the largest house-moving business in Ohio is that of a negro, Bryant of Columbus. He has scores of auto trucks constantly busy; that Samuel A. Irving, a negro, has the contract for building all the concrete moulds for the foundation of the seven million dollar Columbia University Hospital. His contract is for more than \$350,000. He employs 125 carpenters in his work and a negro civil engineer for all his calculations. He was employed for seven years on the engineering staff on English railroads; that the metallurgist of the Deuth-Hampden Watch Company in Canton, O. is a negro; that the chief chemist in the Cleveland Hardware Company is a negro girl and that the head of the die press room and the fastest press hands are negro women; that Ferdinand D. Morton is a Civil Service Commissioner in New York and that Edward H. Wright is Public Service Commissioner of Chicago; that David Manson is manager of the western office in Chicago of the Ohio Iron Works; that there are ten negro members of the city councils, thirteen members of state legislatures, one state senator, one member of editorial staff of metropolitan daily papers; three negro assistant U. S. District Attorneys; three negro judges of municipal courts and hundreds of other col-

ored men and women holding responsible positions in public and private institutions.

Without doubt such achievements must be considered "comprehensive." If we could but tell such a tale of the achievements of the Canadian negro in this (so called) land of equal opportunities, minus race prejudices (as the saying is) we would, like Moses after viewing the promised land, be willing to close our eyes in death.

Letters to the Editor

THE STUDENTS VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

Dear Mr. Editor:

The question of "Adjusting Missions to meet the changing world" has very recently occupied the attention of the International Assembly at the Chapels of Wycliffe and Knox College, Toronto, Ontario. The different races and countries of the world were represented both in the morning and evening addresses.

The chair was functioned by a well known gentleman, Dr. J. L. Murray, who introduced the representatives to the audience. The mouth-piece of India was a past graduate student, Miss C. Eipe, clad in her native costume so becoming that even if she were not fully equipped as she was, she would, nevertheless, have been noted as typical of her people. Africa spoke through a man, who, leaving his home (Nigeria) to study abroad willfully forgot his native dress many thousand miles away.

I suggested for deliberation and debate whether the attitude of Missions in Africa (the continent I represented) at all times of peace or conflict will follow the example of the attitude, at such times, of Christ on earth. The question was very fully analysed, debated upon and answered in the affirmative. I was embolden, therefore, to step right up to the platform and inform the representatives of the world and the auditors, in effect, that I am instructed to say that there is plenty of room in Africa for Christ and true religion.

Very sincerely yours,
Ered Etim Ebitio.

FRIENDS

There were myriads of angels before this earth was,
There are myriads that Heaven still on messages sends;
Some day I will join this great army because,
Jesus and I are friends.

Yes, the friendship of earth may be noble and true,
Even glorified where Divine Presence extends—
But when He is the Maker and Governor, too—
Jesus and I are friends.

And to answer the old question: "Lovest Thou Me?"
While on me this all-conjuring love so descends,
I must give in return what I can, full and free
Then Jesus and I are friends.

OWEN SOUND.

The Sailors Supper held in the B.M.E. church on January 11th, was the best ever held in the history of the church; in fact, it exceeded all previous records, both financially and otherwise. H. Woodbeck was chairman and filled the position creditably, assisted by Rev. H. Logan, pastor of the church. The program after supper was provided by Mrs. Wm. Harrison, who deserves great credit for the excellent way in which every member on the program acted, which pleased the crowd, who responded with loud applause. The opening chorus was O Canada, sung by all standing, while Rev. H. Logan opened with prayer. The second piece, Our Native Flag, by the choir was well received. Then a musical selection by Wilmore Johnston, Teddy Miller and Sam Harrison. Mrs. Wm. Miller gave two recitations with great applause; Mrs. Wm. Harrison and Bell Miller sang a duet; male quartet, W. Johnston, Bill Miller, T. Green and C. Woodbeck; Mrs. C. Johnston, guitar selection; Master Ted Miller, banjo selection; Mrs. Wm. Harrison, W. Johnson, Sam Harrison and Teddy Miller, a musical selection; Miss Norma Miller gave two splendid recitations. In all there were 24 pieces on the program. Miss J. White gave two solos which were very pleasing to the audience of about 300 people. The proceeds amounted to \$145.69 which was used for paying debts of the B.M.E. church. The official board wishes to thank all who helped to make the sailor supper a success, especially H. Woodbeck, who worked so hard in selling tickets, selling \$54.00 worth at 50cents each. The mothers' club is working hard in their efforts to raise their \$50 on the capital debt on the B. M. E. church parsonage which is due on February the first, by way of an Old Maids Concert, this being a leap year there might be something happen among the old maids of the city. Mrs. Clifford Johnson is the leader in the contest. The officials of the B.M.E. church are live wires these days. They are bringing a singer from Detroit, Mich., Mr. Gretnlaw, who is billed to sing in Knox United Church in our city on February 6th and are making great preparations.

We are sorry to report that Charlie Burns had the misfortune of being burnt out during the second week in January. The society of our city came to his assistance and helped him out. The B. M. E. church gave \$5.00 to help him.

Mrs. Rev. Logan is on the sick list at the time of writing.

How can I this love prove? How can I this love show?
For on Him all true happiness ever depends.
If I labor and live for Him I'll surely know
That Jesus and I are friends.

Yes, millions of years pass, there will be million more
Such a time not too long to be making amends.
For lost time on earth, and to prove more and more
That Jesus and I are friends.

—S.E.G. Allen.