

Dawn of Tomorrow

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Editorial

AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE.

"Herein lurks Opportunity. The seat-warmers and the whiners will heed it not. But those whose hearts are aflame with a righteous desire for worthy gain, will stretch out welcoming hands and measure off their share of fame and fortune."

The Executive Board of the Canadian League for the Advancement of Colored People has set aside a substantial sum to encourage and to assist worthy boys and girls in securing an education. This was done because after very careful investigation, it was found that very few of our boys and girls are fully prepared to answer the call of real opportunity when she does rap at their doors. Further the Board had in mind this fact: in order that colored citizens or ANY citizens may be able to maintain a high standard of citizenship in order that they may become well-balanced, well rounded men and women and to be able to take their proper places in the community, an education, and a liberal education, is indispensable.

That there have been isolated cases of prejudices towards some of our people who have prepared themselves is undeniable. But such prejudice, we believe, is due to the fact that, on the whole, we are unprepared for higher services. Our race does not furnish the class to which the country has looked for its artisans, skilled mechanics, bookkeepers, stenographers and so forth. But let us suppose numbers of our boys and girls (instead of a lamentable few) were prepared to render such services—who can say how different the results might be.

The Board is not only planning to assist worthy boys and girls to prepare themselves for life's work but it has decided also to carry on an extensive and intensive campaign for the purpose of securing positions for colored people. This, however, is not a task of a day nor a year. Rather it is one that will require patience and endurance as well as the co-operation of our own people. It will also require an earnest effort on the part of those for whom we seek opportunities.

The standard we have set for our boys and girls is one which we feel certain will be attained. We believe this because we believe in the real worth of our boys and girls. The as-

sistance and the consideration which we are asking from our white friends, we believe will be given us, for we are seeking only simple justice, equal opportunities and encouragement. If we are given such assistance we feel certain that the day is not far distant when all Canada will have reasons to be proud of her colored citizens.

Reports continue to reach headquarters from the different branches telling of the fact that one meeting night in each month is given over to suggestions and the discussion of questions and plans for self-improvement. This is one of the most potent signs of a healthy organization. It shows that although our people have been asleep for a long period of time as to matters concerning their highest interest, they are at last awakening.

THE COMMISSION ON INTERRACIAL CO-OPERATION

In an address delivered at Washington, D.C., last October, President Coolidge said: "The Interracial Commissions, it is generally agreed have been of great importance in the past few years in promoting better understanding and relations between the white and colored people. The example has been an inspiration to students of the problem of race relations in all parts of the world."

We are in receipt of a booklet published by the commission which sets forth in a concise manner the work and the accomplishments of this organization. This is proving to be an earnest endeavour on the part of the best minds of the white South to unite with the colored people for the purpose of creating more cordial relations between the races. Looking over the list of the officers, Executive and members, we find the names of some of the most outstanding men and women of the continent.

Their programme is a real, constructive one, including such work as research and survey, an anti-lynching drive, education, health and housing, community chests, legal aid and conciliation. One of the most promising signs of success for the commission is the fact that the women of the South are deeply interested in the movement and that the Woman's Department is functioning equally as well as the men. While the white women are interested in the general work, they interest themselves particularly in those phases of it which especially concern the welfare of colored women and colored children.

The Commission sends out releases to all Southern daily papers, the principle white religious papers and to all the Negro papers in the country. It is a significant fact that 117 papers in the State of Georgia (mostly white) are using this service.

Too much cannot be said in praise of this commission or any other organization whose aims and objects are to bring about better relations and better understanding between people who must live within close proximity. Any movement which is likely to lead one race to think more kindly of other races and to "promote mutual attitudes in which co-operation for common welfare can be carried on", is a thing whose good results we can not properly measure.

We know the Southern States well. We know its people well, both white

and colored. We also knew that ultimately some good COULD and WOULD come out of Nazareth, and although the South has not in the past, nor is she at present, treating the Negro with absolute fairness, still we could never forget that the South possessed some of the warmest hearts some of the finest natures that could be found this side of heaven. It is from this class of Southerner we venture to say; that the Commission on Interracial Relations is made up.

Man Who Made Fortune Dies at 104

Washington, D.C., January 7th—With a record of having climbed from slavery to the heights of business fame and wealth, Robert Holmes, of Georgetown, died in the Freeman's Hospital, Friday, at the age of 104, after ten days illness.

"Uncle Robert," as Holmes was called, was widely known in this section of the country. His age was reckoned from the records of the birth of his wife, which showed that she was 85 years old when she died 21 years ago. He was two years younger.

Born in Farmville, Va., Holmes was the thirteenth child of Robert Haskins, a slave, and Abbie Holmes, a free woman. He took the name and adopted the status of his mother to avoid kidnapping by "patrollers," as the slave father was not allowed by Virginia law to marry a free woman. At the outbreak of the civil war, he was drafted by the Confederates. He served around Richmond until opportunity came to be "captured" and joined the Union ranks.

Locating here, he worked on the water front until able to acquire a wagon. Then he went into the wholesale oyster business, serving the principle hotels of the city. Georgetown University and many prominent families. He soon purchased a home. Later he went into the kerosine oil business about in the nineties. He operated his own tanks in Georgetown. He sold gasoline and kerosine to citizens until ten years ago, when he retired.

At the time of his death "Uncle Robert" had built up a fabulous fortune. He was the owner of five brick houses in Georgetown as well as other city property.

Although uneducated, "Uncle Robert" had the knack of calculating with great rapidity after his own system, which he boasted never allowed him to be cheated in a business deal. He was a chartered member of the Widow's Sons Lodge of colored Masons, and as grand treasurer of the Order of Samaritans traveled in every state of the Union and throughout the West Indies. His desire to return to Farmville to recover his free papers was never gratified. He made his last public appearance unaccompanied at the Mt. Zion Church.

Detroit, Mich., Jan. 7th—Detroit is soon to have its first colored priest. On Sunday, February 7th, Bishop Michael J. Gallagher, at St. Peter and St. Paul Cathedral, will ordain twenty-two Seminarians for the Diocese of Detroit. Among the twenty-two will be the Rev. Mr. Norman Du Kette, a colored Seminarian.

His First Bath Proves Fatal

Associated Negro Press.

New York, Jan. 6th—According to dispatches from Irkutsk in Siberia, government sanitary inspectors have discovered a large community of Russians who have never washed or bathed and who have never used water for any other purposes except to drink. When the inspectors tried to induce the natives to bathe there was almost a riot. The first man who was compelled to bathe was reported to have died of fright.

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