

The Dawn of Tomorrow

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

VOL. V., NO. 6.

LONDON, CANADA, DECEMBER 20TH, 1929.

Price 5 Cents.



PROF. WILLIAM KING AND NORTH BUXTON

(By Prof. Fred Landon, University of Western Ontario.)

The most important and also the most permanent Negro Colony in Upper Canada was that established in Kent County by Rev. William King and known as the Buxton or Elgin Association settlement. King, a young Irish clergyman, married the daughter of a Louisiana planter and after her death and the death of his father-in-law he became the owner of more than a dozen slaves. His religious principles forbidding him to dispose of these people by sale, he determined to bring them to Canada and to devote himself to their improvement. A non-sectarian body known as the Elgin Association was formed in 1830 and this body secured from the government of the day a grant of 9000 acres of land in Kent County. This was divided into fifty-acre farms upon which Mr. King's own Negroes and others who might join them were to be placed. The rapid growth of this colony is recorded in its annual reports. By 1852 there were 75 families in the settlement, which number doubled by 1854. A representative of the New York Tribune who visited the colony in 1857 found there 200 families or 800 souls. More than 1000 acres of land had been cleared by that time, while on 200 other acres the trees had been felled. The industries in the settlement apart from farming included a steam saw-

mill, a brickyard, a pearl ash factory as well as blacksmith, carpenter and shoe shops. The two schools, one for boys and one for girls, had an enrollment of 140.

Striking testimony to the success of the undertaking was given in 1864 by Dr. Samuel G. Howe, who came to Canada as representative of the Freed Men's Inquiry Commission to investigate the condition of the free Negroes in Canada. Concerning his visit to the Elgin Association settlement, Dr. Howe in his report said:

"Buxton is certainly a very interesting place. Sixteen years ago it was a wilderness. Now, good highways are laid out in every direction through the forest; and by their side, standing back thirty-three feet from the road, are about two hundred cottages, all built on the same pattern, all looking neat and comfortable. Around each one is a cleared space, of several acres, which is well cultivated. The fences are in good order; the barns seem well filled; and cattle and horses and pigs and poultry abound. There are signs of industry and thrift and comfort everywhere; signs of intemperance, of idleness, of want, nowhere. There is no tavern and no groggery, but there is a chapel and a school-house.

"Most interesting of all are the inhabitants. Twenty years ago, most of them were slaves, who owned no-

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Negro Composers Contest Announced

Philadelphia, Dec.—Captain John Wanamaker Jr., capitalist and philanthropist, Monday announced a third contest in musical composition for composers of the Race, to be conducted through the Robt. Curtis Ogden Association of the Wanamaker department store.

The composer's contest was started by the late Rodman Wanamaker, father of the present sponsor of the contest through the instigation of the Ogden Association which is made up of the colored employees of the store.

Originality and quality of musical thought and workmanship will be the determining consideration. All compositions must be in the hands of Robt. Curtis Ogden Association no later than Aug. 1, 1930 and manuscripts should be addressed to the association at the John Wanamaker store of Philadelphia.

Life Sentence Given 13-Year-Old Boy

Searcy, Ark., Dec. 12—A mere boy Olether Long, 13 years old, was sentenced to life imprisonment Monday following his indictment on a charge of assaulting an 11-year-old white girl.

Long was arrested after he had frightened the child and caused her to scream. He was accused of attempting to assault her. A special grand jury indicted him.

HAITIANS PROTEST AGAINST SLAUGHTER

Washington, Dec.—A protest against the killing and wounding of Haitians by U.S. marines Saturday was made in a telegram to President Hoover signed by Albert Martinez, president of International Co-operation of the Society of the United American Countries. The message contained the text of five resolutions adopted by the society.

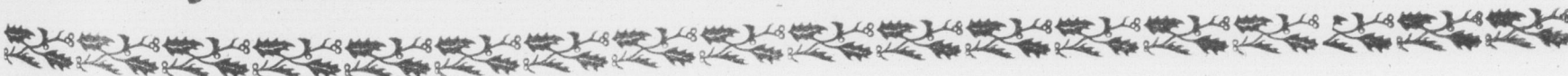
The first two resolutions voice approval of President Hoover's proposal for the appointment of an investigating commission and urged that the commission's investigation will be thorough and impartial. Part of the text of the telegram follows.

"Deplored the heartless slaughter today, apparently by order of the High Commissioner, by a merciless Gatling-gun fire, of these five poor Haitians and the severely wounding of a score more, who were armed only with machets, clubs and stones.

"Appealing to your sense of humanity, your Quaker love of peace and to live, to give immediate imperative orders to those in power in Haiti, that not another drop of Haitian blood is to be spilled by your men and in your name, and under your command.

"Sympathizing with the horror, profound regret and shame we and all Latin-Americans believe you and your countrymen felt today when that easily avoidable tragedy was brought to your and their attention."

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to One and All



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