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The Dawn of Tomorrow

THE NATIONAL NEGRO WEEKLY

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE DARKER RACES

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DISCRIMINATION FIGHT IS WON IN ALBERTA, CAN.

Edmonton, Alberta, July 26—Race discrimination, characteristic of the United States, received what might be called a "black eye" here last week when the Edmonton City Council overruled the action of City Commissioner Yorath's order, barring the colored people the use of the swimming pools in the public parks of the city. This action by the Council also caused Yorath to be relieved of a \$9,000 a year job, because he resigned following the controversy. It is understood that he saw the handwriting on the wall and, acted in self defense by resigning.

Innocent Child the Cause

The incident started, when little 11 years old Marvin Poston, together with five or six of his school mates, of as many races, went to one of the bathing pools when all but little Poston were admitted, he being told he could not go in. The innocent child wondered why and went home and told his mother what had happened.

An appeal was made to the commissioner. He was old of the injustice of this order and it was pointed out to him that it was discriminatory and was the same as class legislation. But the commissioner turned a deaf ear and ruled according to his own feelings in the matter, in which he said:

"I regret exceedingly that the colored people of the city have decided to make an issue of the question of bathing in the swimming pools. I told a delegation of colored people a few days ago that I had the greatest admiration for their race and that they could make no complaint about their treatment in Canada and Edmonton in particular.

"When it came to a question of bathing in a mixed swimming pool, however, it could no be allowed.

"The objection may be taken for purely sentimental reasons, which may or may not be justified, but which unfortunately exist.

While he was not alone responsible for the order which has been issued, the delegation was informed that the order could not be rescinded, and that an appeal could be made to council if it was thought desirable.

Appeals to Council

Led by Mrs. P. S. Poston, a com-

REV. ANTHONY BURNS



America's most famous fugitive slave is buried in St. Catharines, Ont.

mittee immediately called upon and petitioned the City Council to take steps to over-ride the action of the Commissioner and restore to the people their common rights which were threatened by the arbitrary ruling of Yorath.

The Edmonton City Council, Honorable Sirs:—

"Through the caretaker of the East End Swimming Pool, we have been informed that all the colored citizens have been excluded from enjoying the same rights and privileges as other citizens to go into the pool, upon paying the usual entrance fee.

"Considering this to be a most dangerous precedent thus thrust upon law abiding and rate paying citizens, we appealed the matter to Commissioner Yorath from whom we received the reply that he personally thought that a white man and a black man should not enter the same pool and that the order must stand.

"Realizing that that sentiment and order excluding the colored people from enjoyment of a public utility as

necessary to our happiness and well being as to others, smacks so true to the form of hateful Ku Kluxism that discounts worthy people simply because of race, creed and color, thus working moral and legal injustice which has always and will always bring dangerous consequences to all concerned—knowing these things to be true and also that such discriminatory procedure flies in the face of that which we had considered "British Fair Play" to a people who have been as true and loyal as colored people to the Dominion as colored have, even to the point of making the "Supreme Sacrifice," we therefore,

"Appeal to the City Council of Edmonton to set aside this order and thus protect us from so gross an insult and injustice.

Respectfully yours,
Mrs. P. S. Poston,
Rev. Geo. W. Slater,
Mr. Ernie Walker,
Mr. Richard Cross, Committee."

Alderman Rice Sheppard pointed out that there was no discrimination

MOVE TO RESTORE LATE A. BURNS' GRAVE

It is a sad commentary on the interest our people take in their famous men, to note that the grave of one of the greatest has suffered by the neglect of the people who would naturally be expected to take an interest in it and keep it as a small reminder of the work he did for us. We are pleased to note that steps have been taken to restore the grave and surroundings to a state befitting his illustrious and useful life and memory.

The Dawn would be pleased to receive subscriptions to defray the very small cost of restoration.

All subscriptions will be acknowledged in the issue following their receipt.

EDITOR.

Business Is Business

Business is business, but men are men,

Working, loving and dreaming;
Toiling with hammer, brush or pen,
Roistering, planning, scheming.

Business is business, but he's a fool
Whose business has grown to smother

His faith in men and the golden rule,
His love for friend and brother,
Business is business, but life is life,
Though we're all in the game to win it,

Let's rest sometimes from the heat and strife
And try to be friends a minute;

Let's seek to be comrades now and then,
And slip from our golden tether;

Business is business, but men are men,
And we're all good pals together.

against the colored folk as regards fighting alongside our own boys in France; neither was there any discrimination when it came to collecting taxes.

The Council expressed itself as being almost unanimously in favor of allowing them full privileges of the pools.

A motion was made that the original order be rescinded and this carried with a goodly majority.

Commissioner C. J. Yorath tendered his resignation to the city and this was accepted by the Council, though many regrets were expressed at his departure.