

Dawn of Tomorrow

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Editorial

WHAT IS WRONG WITH CANADA?

The rate at which our trained young men are leaving their home land for other shores is becoming so alarming that it is calling forth lengthy editorials in many of our leading daily papers and magazines. Mr. E. R. Dennis, of London, Ont. even went so far as to suggest that we bind our young men who receive their education in this country to remain in Canada for a certain number of years. While Mr. Dennis' suggestion may be impracticable and unworkable, the fact remains that something must be done to keep our talented boys and girls at home. And why should this be so when our country is the fourth industrial country in the world? In currency we stand next to the United States, which is the highest in the world. We have 60 million acres of field crops and we are the largest wheat exporters in the world. In animal husbandry, our live stock has grown 47 per cent. since 1914. This is a greater percentage than that of any of the leading live stock countries during this period. Our fisheries are perhaps the most extensive in the world, whether for quality, abundance or variety of catch. The annual products of our forests in lumber and pulp wood are over \$4,000,000,000. We have 400,000 square miles of commercial timber. Our exports of pulp and paper for the twelve months ending in August was \$258,000,000. Our mineral resources are almost untouched, yet enough is known of them to assure us that in these too we are among the richest countries in the world.

What then is wrong with Canada that her young men are leaving? Do other countries—does the republic south of us offer richer fields with bigger salaries? If so, why? Is not Canadian capital being used to develop Canada's inexhaustible natural resources? Are we encouraging home enterprises by using, as far as possible, goods made in Canada? Do our young people receive more encouragement across the border than they do at home? Do merit and genius receive a more substantial recompense in the South Sea Islands than they do in the heart of Canada? What is there in this country that repels and what is there abroad that attracts? These are questions which we ought to ask ourselves with all seriousness and then

we should set about answering them with all earnestness. We can not boast of a national spirit—a thing which should be the dream of every true Canadian—so long as we are unable to keep Canadian born talent in Canada. If we are lacking in sacrifice for our children's sake, we must begin to make greater sacrifices. If we are hoarding our money while other countries have vision enough to use their capital to develop their resources we must wake up. While we readily admit that we are unable to state just what is wrong we are certain all is not well with our country. What is wrong with Canada?

THE NEGRO MIGRATION TO CANADA AFTER PASSING OF THE FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT

(Continued from last issue)

The Anthony Burns case attracted more attention than any other case arising in the execution of the Fugitive Slave Law. Burns, who was a fugitive from Virginia living in Boston, betrayed his hiding place in a letter which fell into the hands of a southern slaver and was communicated to a slave hunter. The slaver tried to coax Burns to go back to bondage peaceably but failing in this he had him arrested and brought before a commissioner who, on June 2, 1854, decided that Burns was a fugitive and must be sent back to slavery. Boston showed its feelings on the day that the Negro was removed from jail to be sent South. Stores were closed and draped in black, bells tolled, and across State Street a coffin was suspended bearing the legend The Death of Liberty. The streets were crowded and a large military force, with a field piece in front furnished escort for the lone black. Hisses and cries of "shame" came from the crowd as the procession passed. Burns was soon released from bondage, Boston people and others subscribing to purchase his liberty. He was brought back north, educated and later entered the ministry. For several years he was a missionary at St. Catharines, Canada, and died there in the sixties.

Along the international boundary there were exciting incidents at times, fugitives being chased to the border and often having narrow escapes from recapture. The Monroe family, mother and several daughters, escaped from slavery in Kentucky in 1856 and were carried by the Underground Railroad to Ann Arbor and on to Detroit, the master in hot pursuit. So close was the chase that as the runaways pulled out from the wharf on the ferry for Windsor, Canada, the master came running down the street crying out "Stop them! stop them!" He was jeered at by the crowd which sympathized with the Negro woman.

In June, 1852, three fugitives arrived in Detroit and in response to frantic messages from Toledo were held for their pursuers. In desperation the Negroes made a savage attack on their jailer, gained freedom and got across the border with the assistance of friends in Detroit. Rewards that were offered for their recapture were useless as the fugitives took care to remain on the Canadian side.

Hiram Wilson tells of an incident that came under his notice at St.

Catharines. A beautiful young girl, 14 years of age and almost white, was brought to Buffalo as maid for a slaveholder's daughter travelling in the north. She was spirited off by some Buffalo abolitionists, transferred to a steamer flying the British flag, and landed in Canada. She was taken to St. Catharines and sheltered in the home of Hiram Wilson. The master came over from Buffalo, bringing a couple of lawyers with him and tried to secure his property but his demands were refused. The owner claimed that he valued the girl at \$1,000. It was later discovered that she had been sold no less than four times before coming to Canada.

The brutality of the Fugitive Slave Law was shown on more than one occasion along the border. A case that attracted much attention at the time was that of Daniel Davis. He was cook on the steamer Buckeye. One day while the vessel was in port at Buffalo he was called up from below. As his head appeared above the deck he was struck a heavy blow by a slave-catcher named Benjamin Rust who had a warrant from the United States Commissioner for his arrest. The Negro fell back senseless into the hold and on top of a stove, being badly burned. He was brought into court at once and the newspaper accounts relate in detail how he sat during the proceedings "dozing and oozing blood out of his mouth and nostrils." After a trial that was rushed in a most unseemly way the Negro was ordered handed over to Rust, who was really agent for G. H. Moore, of Louisville. The brutality of the whole proceeding stirred up deep interest in Buffalo and a writ of habeas corpus for the fugitive was brought before Judge Conkling of the United States Court at Auburn and released. Before there could be further steps taken to hold the prisoner he was hurried into Canada where he remained. He was in attendance at the large Negro Convention held in Toronto in September, 1851, and with his head still in bandages afforded striking evidence of the effects of the Slave Law. Rust was afterwards indicted at Buffalo but allowed to go after paying a paltry \$50 fine

(To be continued)

NOT GUILTY

The magistrate looked sternly over the top of his gold-rimmed glasses and regarded the puny individual in the dock. "You are charged," he remarked, reading the formal complaint "with having willfully and feloniously and with malice aforethought appropriated to your own use a certain article, to wit, a one-wheeled vehicle, commonly called a wheelbarrow, the said vehicle having been wrongfully and feloniously abstracted by you from the premises of one, William Bones, butcher, on June the 18th, in the year of our Lord, 1923, contrary to the status in such cases made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of this great realm. What have you to say? Are you guilty or not guilty?"

The prisoner's face went quite yellow and his knees almost gave way beneath him as he murmured: "Not guilty, guv'nor; all I did was to take a barrow."

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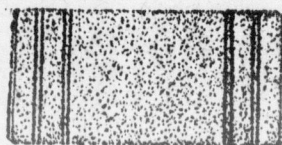
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