

Dawn of Tomorrow

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Editorial

THE CAUSE OF

UNPLEASANT MEMORIES

In two or more units of the Boy Scouts of the city there are a few colored members. They report, that on the whole, they are given the same treatment and consideration as any other members of their respective units. And yet they have one grievance which they voice in and out of season. It seems that a part of each meeting is given over for games or for singing in concert. The colored boys' grievance is this at this particular time, whether it be games played or singing, there is always the "nigger" introduced. It is either the game of "Nigger in the woodpile," or "Nigger in the corner," or if a song "Coon, coon, coon, I wish my color would change," or some other such songs which hold the "nigger" up to ridicule or which makes him appear to possess the intelligence of an ass. This is bad enough. But to add further humiliation the white boys, (most of them but not all we are proud to relate) look with a sinister grin on their faces at the colored boys.

Our own boy is a member of the Scouts. Relating to us one of these incidents he ended by asking: "Daddy, why do they do such things—is it to forever give the white boys the impression that there is a difference between the races and to have white children always believe that they are better than we are?" "I hope not," said I. Just a few days after this conversation he was just home from the Technical School where some one had given a long lecture. At the conclusion the lecturer said, "Now after such a strenuous half hour we shall relax by singing. What shall we sing—a nigger song?" Our boy in relating the occurrence to us asked again: "Don't you think they are all combined in an attempt to ridicule us in the presence of the white children?" "No, I think not and I trust not" was my answer, and if I lied I lied for the glory of the Anglo Saxons. I had still another reason. It is better to sow the seeds of love and forbearance and long suffering than the seeds of hatred. Only evil can be reaped from a crop of hatred. I had rather lie, if I must, and save my sons' souls from the poison of hatred than be truthful and cause him to hate any one or any race.

It is not the songs or the games which neither he nor any of us object to. If there are songs or games which bring out striking negro humour or negro characteristics we would be glad to approve of them. But why call them "nigger" or "coon" plays

or songs. Would the Englishman appreciate the songs being called "sparrow" songs, or the Italians "Dago" songs? Would not any race or nation object to an epithet which carries with it an insult or which is a brand of inferiority?

In the Southern part of the United States there is a fixed custom among the Scouts (whites) that colored boys are not accepted. Therefore, if they care to sing their coon songs and play games which reflect upon the Negro's intelligence, no one is deceived or hurt by the act but themselves. If here in Canada, where colored boys are allowed to join, if the Scouts must indulge in such games and songs in which the word "nigger" is freely used, if the colored race must be made the laughing stock of every vulgar joke, we would advise scout masters to refuse to admit colored boys into their order.

And to our schools, from whence everything grand and noble and educating emanates, we wish to vouchsafe this information: Judge Warner of the Juvenile Court will hold responsible the parents of any children who knowingly allow their children to call colored children "niggers."

We are asking nothing more for our children and for our race than what is due other children and other Canadians. With the Canadian colored folk the peculiar fact is their country comes first in their consideration and their race next. And it is meet therefore, that their country see to it that they are given the same treatment and respect that is due to other loyal Canadians.

"THE ENCHANTED ISLAND" A MAGNIFICENT PICTURE

"The Enchanted Island" is the feature attraction shown here for the first time to-day, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Patricia Theatre. As stated in the announcement, it is one of the most unusual pictures of the year with a story that holds one breathless from the very beginning to the terrifically dramatic finish.

The story tells of a man and his young daughter, who returning from Australia on a boat also carrying the animals of a circus, are wrecked and find themselves on an island with many of the trained circus animals who were able to swim to shore. For many years the young girl finds the island of enchantment a thing of joy and beauty until the advent of three men who are ship-wrecked, among them being a young and handsome American. The father, fearing for his daughter on account of the brutish mate who is one of the castaways, disguises her as a boy. This is kept up until by accident the hero discovers her sex. A battle for the possession of the girl and the destruction of the island by the eruption of a volcano are some of the dramatic highlights in the picture.

The cast of five including Charlotte Stevens, Henry B. Walthal, Pierre Gendron, Pat Hartigan and Floyd Shackelford give one of the best performances seen on the screen in some time. The story is by John Thomas Neville. The photography is a treat to the eye and helped materially in making this entertainment of merit. "The Enchanted Island" will be the feature picture attraction at the Patricia Theatre to-day, Tuesday and Wednesday.

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