

The Dawn of Tomorrow

THE NATIONAL NEGRO WEEKLY

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE DARKER RACES

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COLORED PEOPLE ORGANIZE FOR ADVANCEMENT OF RACE IN GENERAL

The much talked of meeting for the advancement of our people in the Dominion of Canada was held in Ulster Hall on Monday evening, August 11th, with a goodly number of the citizens present. Outlining the idea which prompted the formation of the organization, J. F. Jenkins, editor of The Dawn of Tomorrow, a paper devoted to the interest and ideals of the colored race, declared that the time was ripe for colored people to exert an organized effort to better conditions among themselves throughout the entire country.

Mr. Jenkins set forth the aims of the society in a three fold way. 1st, to fit the colored man for better positions; 2nd, to find such positions for him, and 3rd, to keep him fit for such positions. Mr. Jenkins pointed out the deplorable conditions with which we are confronted and also charged that the colored people of Canada had not progressed in the 100 years of free British rule as they should have done, citing as causes partly the lethargy of his own people and partly the prejudice of the white race. It was distinctly pointed out by the speaker that the solution of the problem lay only through united effort in a similar manner to the workings of the Urban League in the United States. We in Canada have not advanced nearly as much as our brethren across the line, said Mr. Jenkins, and the time has come for us to cease marking time and advance. Organization would help to alleviate present conditions. And with the assistance of the Anglo-Saxon people, whose innate sense of fair play would rally to our cause as soon as they were convinced that the people of our race were trying to help themselves. He believed that great strides could be made in that direction.

Mayor Wenige also addressed the meeting, assuring the audience that he was heartily in accord with the movement that was being launched, and pledged himself to give any support possible either from his official or private position. His Worship claimed that the colored man has ability and cited many cases that he himself knew of and had come in contact with. He was of the opinion that perseverance and industry would conquer all obstacles.

Several other speakers were present and expressed their views regarding the organization. David Ross, president of the Brotherhood Federation, declared that the white race owed much in the way of atonement to his darker brethren and expressed hope that the Brotherhood movement would pave the way for better understanding.

W. J. Wray and John Moule spoke along similar lines.

Rev. S. R. Drake, Rev. E. M. Wood, and Rev. F. O. Stewart also were speakers and gave inspirational addresses, exhorting the colored people to stand by the organization and help them in their endeavour to be firm for the right.

Rev. N. J. L. Gonzales, M.Th., of Lexington, Ky., was listened to with much interest. Rev. Gonzales claimed that every race of people in the world was trying to preserve its racial identity, but the Negro in Canada apparently was ashamed to own his nationality and seemed to be trying to discard the fact that he was a member of the race. The speaker claimed that we are Negroes and should not try to hide the fact by becoming hostile at the mention of the name. He said that we should demand that the name be spelled with a capital "N" and make it stand for something. The constitution and by-laws were presented and adopted and the following officers elected.

Hon. President, Sir Adam Beck; President, Mr. Jno. W. Montgomery, Toronto; 1st Vice-Pres., Byron Fountain; 2nd Vice-Pres., Rev. E. M. Wood; 3rd Vice-Pres., Paul Lewis; Sec.-Treas., J. F. Jenkins. A meeting will be called at an early date to complete the organization. In the meantime, any city or town desiring to form such an organization locally, may communicate with the Secretary, who will be pleased to forward any information possible, as the object of the parent body is to establish branches throughout the Dominion of Canada. A selection by Mme. Hunter, and a trio by Messrs. Jenkins, Ball and Mrs. Jenkins helped to keep the audience in good spirits during the evening.

The meeting was brought to a close with the National Anthem and benediction by Rev. F. O. Stewart.



J. W. MONTGOMERY, of Toronto who was elected President of the Canadian National Association for the advancement of Colored People. The organization had its birth in London, Ont., on Monday last.

Chautauqua Form of Education Introduced

New York City, Aug.—(By The Associated Negro Press)—The pioneer effort to introduce the Chautauqua form of education and entertainment among Negroes in Greater New York was presented at the Abyssinian Baptist Church with a programme that began on the afternoon of August 10, and is to continue for a complete week.

The church in its effort to perform a community service interested a number of speakers of both races, most of whom are persons of national reputations. Among these are, John Louis Hill of Chicago, author of "When Black Meets White"; Congressman Hamilton Fish, Jr., Gordon White, dramatic editor of the Billboard; and Dr. J. W. E. Bowen, of Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Ga.

Some of the entertainers who were presented on one or other of the daily programmes were: Melville Charlton, organist, who was recently given the honorary degree of Doctor of Music at Howard University; Abbit Mitchell the internationally known soprano; J. W. Cooper, a lyceum ventriloquist; the Chautauqua Quartette, Richard B. Harrison, dramatic reader; William Elkins, of Choral Club fame.

THE NEGRO RACE; WHO ARE THEY?

(By S. E. G. Allen)

Who are they? What is their condition? What position do they hold among the white races in America? These are questions that too many of us, as white people, hardly pause to consider. Their black faces alone disqualify them for being on any kind of equality, no matter what their condition of mind, no matter how beautiful and honorable, how practical and useful, how pure and unselfish, how noble their lives may be, their faces are black and that is enough. "Thus far shalt thou come and no further" is the attitude we have too long assumed, and is but a proof of a selfish narrow-mindedness that will take an indefinite period of time to entirely overcome.

In the meantime, the Negro himself, in spite of his numberless disadvantages, is forcing himself, by sheer merit, into positions where many a white man would be proud to stand. This in itself, is proof of his value as a citizen. Surely, God is his Father, and loves him as His offspring. Surely He listens to his prayer as to yours or mine. Surely He guides him with the same love that He feels for you or me. Surely there are no color distinctions in the Divine mind, that is not the basis on which we will be judged, we all know. Yet we forget, and in our insolent and often disobedient attitude, we assume positions to which we have no claim. Let us note how many of this race are being led by our Father into positions that not only do honor to Him, but are a credit to themselves, and the country in which they live.

I have recently been reading an article in one of our standard American magazines, headed: "Negro contributions to American Life," which begins in this way: "The Negro is an intimate part of our American history. Increasingly it has become clear that America cannot do without him. He is one of her great assets." and in the opinion of the writer of the article, "Regardless of handicaps, he is better off in America than anywhere else, and he is in America to stay."

The Negro first landed in Virginia, a slave, "one year before the Pilgrims landed on the bleak New England (Continued on page 6)