

Dawn of Tomorrow

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Editorial

ACT IN CONCERT FOR OUR OWN DEFENCE

It is gratifying to learn that the U.N.I.A., The Colored Political Club and the Canadian League for the Advancement of Colored People met "under one flag" last Friday evening to take up a common cause. Out of the three bodies grew a temporary organization whose object is to do whatever in their power lies to bring pressure upon the authorities in order that the injustice done the colored waiters of the C.N.R. might be righted. This body elected a quota of officers and a substantial sum was collected for the purpose of carrying on the work.

There were many prominent and fluent speakers at this meeting and addresses were not of an incendiary or Bolshevik nature. They savoured of soberness, thoughtfulness, and they rang with great earnestness. A desire was expressed that other organizations would join in this common effort and the doors are still open for them to do so. A committee was appointed to invite officers of the brotherhood of railway union to be present in order that the newly formed body might obtain all possible information on the subject.

It was unanimously decided to send a protest to the federal government after facts and data had been secured. We call the attention of all colored organizations and especially the Branches of the C.L.A.C.P. to the action of this Toronto body. We call upon them to raise their voice in solemn protest against this injustice to the race. Send your protest to the minister of railways and get your friends both white and colored to do so individually and collectively. Let us bombard the minister's office with Protest. Let us see if British justice includes its colored citizens as well as others. We shall be pleased to give any information we possess or otherwise assist any organization in making its protest. We hope every colored organization will take some action. We EXPECT every branch of The Canadian League for the Advancement of Colored People to ACT AND ACT AT ONCE.

Letter to the Editor

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THE NAKED TRUTH.

Mr. Editor:—

There has been a general opinion that race prejudice has been monopolized by the ignorant or lower classes.

But every now and then we get proof to the contrary, that the real royal palace of this monster is in the temples of the powers that be or the mighty.

The very latest proof of the source of this inexplicable race discrimination comes in an order from the General Superintendent of the Dining Car Department of the C.N.R. replacing all colored waiters operating on the International Limited from Montreal to the United States border, for no other reason that their faces were black.

And to add to this miscarriage of British justice, the excuse given for the move was, "That their services were unsatisfactory."—Laugh, everybody! Surely the joke is on the official, and not on the replaced men.

How flimsy, how indefinite, how shallow, how unbelievable such a statement, when colored men have served the travelling public on the Grand Trunk lines for more than thirty years, with efficiency, courtesy, and with the greatest respect for the satisfaction of the traveler, so much so that they made the International Limited famous, raising it from a three or four car affair to an up-to-date twelve car train.

This particular train is operated from Montreal to Chicago on both Canadian and U.S. territory, how strange the difference in color effects the service in the two countries.

The underlying truth of the matter is that this antagonism toward colored waiters has been incited by demagogues, who have represented the colored worker as a menacing competitor for their jobs.

We are grateful to the Can. Brotherhood of Ry. Employees for the opportunity it offered to these men to engage in collective bargaining, for an equalization of pay for both black and white workers for the same work.

This was the cue that gave the management the opportunity they so long desired to exert their prejudice under the guise of "Unsatisfactory Service."

Let us cite a few facts in connection with their methods of employment, and their appreciation for the men employed.

First, most of these men came from homes that were in the midst of the best social, educational and industrial environments—to what? A job, that's all, and conditions at times that were almost unbearable.

During the summer months, the busy season, there was continual doubling out of the home terminal, without proper rest, absolutely no concern or regard given to the health of the men; no steps made for wholesome recreation. Some of the sleeping quarters having as many as six men in one room and many other forms of intimidation that made conditions such that any efficient waiter would soon leave.

'Tis true they put on more equipment for service, but not additional help, and no increase in pay. This

fact alone would discourage the best of employees.

Summing up the whole question, "The Environmental Handicaps of the Colored waiter in Canada has been enormous."

Their removal from this train is purely a labor move and not for better service, as claimed, for the colored worker is a service man. The internationalization of labor is an important factor in the gradual social change, and the railroad problem of "Satisfactory Service" in Canada cannot be solved to the exclusion of the colored worker.

Thus, through thirty years of disadvantages and discouragement, the colored waiter has been able to carve his way into the intellectual life of the Canadian travelling public.

The fact remains, inferior pay, inferior workers, in this the management is in error for they reverse the thing entirely, for in the most part, untrained, inexperienced white dining car waiters, who replaced experienced colored waiters at \$65.00 per month, are being paid \$79.50, and moreover where there were five in the colored crews, there are six in the white.

More pay, more men, worse service the truth is obvious, "The Color Question." No one could blame Diogenes for looking for a perfect man.

These men higher up are so blinded by prejudice that they cannot appreciate that the capacity of the colored worker is no longer a question.

Too many successes have been made in the industrial and commercial world of records to allow the charge of inefficiency to stand.

Employers of colored workers in Canada may be provided with proof of the fitness of these workers.

The trouble is that the management has not popularized the idea of the use of colored waiters.

They seemingly are not aware of the excellent quality of service these workers have rendered or else they won't admit it for it is plain to be seen that they limit them to certain occupations without regard to fitness for better positions and meritorious service. We feel certain that the travelling public is not in accord with the stand taken by these officials, in dismissing these men because of their request for a decent wage.

It is bad enough to be under-paid but it is still worse to be branded as "unsatisfactory" when you ask for a wage, commensurate with your cost of living.

Will wonders ever cease? Indeed the reflection is on the company and not on the worker.

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