

The Dawn of Tomorrow

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RACE LAW FAILS, NEGROES INSULTED

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DRESDEN, Sept. 2 — Ontario's new law against racial discrimination is not working out.

The men and women responsible for Dresden's reputation as the stronghold of color prejudice in Canada are ignoring the law.

And, as it now stands, the law gives a Negro no effective legal redress for the insults that are heaped upon him.

Yesterday I accompanied a young Toronto couple to Dresden. They are Julian Brooks, 28, of Dufferin St. and Miss Gladys Grizzle, 20 of Borden St. They are quiet, well-dressed, well-spoken Negroes.

I sat in Dresden restaurants, feeling ashamed and embarrassed as I saw the way they were treated, and I shared their helpless indignation as we discovered the police could do nothing about it.

The events I shall describe are illegal, according to the general interpretation of the Ontario Fair Accommodation Practices Act, 1954. The law provides a \$50 to \$100 penalty for race discrimination.

The act states: "No person shall deny to any person or class of persons, accommodation, services or facilities available in any place to which the public is customarily admitted because of the race, creed, color, nationality, ancestry or place of origin of such person or class of persons."

But the law can only be enforced by Labor Minister Charles Daley.

I sat in Kay's Restaurant, Dresden, with Telegram photographer Harold White and watched Mr. Brooks and Miss Grizzle enter. They sat down at a vacant table.

There was silence for about five minutes. A young waitress, obviously nervous, walked past the couple six times, although all the other customers had been served.

Then she stopped to speak to them: "I'm sorry but I can't serve you," she said. Julian Brooks asked why not.

"Rule for 3 Years"
Said the waitress: "It has been a rule for three years that we can't serve you."

Gladys Grizzle asked "What do you mean by you can't serve us? All we want is a soda."

Mr. Brooks asked: "Are you not serving us because we are Negroes?"

The waitress, nervously, "Yes. But they'll serve you across the street at Martin's." The other customers looked on silently. The atmosphere was tense. Mr. Brooks asked to see the manager.

The waitress went to the kitchen where she spoke with the owner, Morley McKay. Then she returned, using the aisle furthest from the colored couple, apparently intending to ignore them.

Mr. Brooks called over to her, asking if the manager was coming out. The waitress said no. Asked why she had been told not to serve the couple she replied. "He said I don't have to give you a reason."

Across the street at Martin's Dairy Bar, second of Dresden's three rest-

Law Useless For Negroes at Dresden



aurants, the two were served.

Bill Martin, member of the firm operating the restaurant, told me: "We kept in line with the other places in refusing to serve Negroes until a few months ago. Then this

new law gave us an excuse and we were glad to serve them.

Thinks Others Stupid

"We've had no trouble with colored customers. I think the other restaurant keepers are stupid to ig-

nore the law. They will have to comply sooner or later."

At Emersons the third restaurant, I went in alone and ordered a coffee from Mrs. Annie Emerson. Mr. Brooks and Miss Grizzle entered and

sat at the other end of the bar.

Mrs. Emerson saw them and retired to the back kitchen without saying a word.

After a few minutes she came out to sell me a box of matches. She called me over to the cash desk to receive the matches avoiding the couple. A woman came in and was served with chewing gum.

Mr. Brooks said: "We'd like a coffee and a coke, please." No reply. Mrs. Emerson went back to the kitchen. Mr. Brooks went to the door and said quietly: "Will you please tell me if we are going to get some service?" No reply. Mrs. Emerson remained sitting in the kitchen.

"All right, if you're not going to serve us will you tell us the reason?" No reply. Refused for a second time Julian Brooks and Gladys Grizzle walked out.

Since the Fair Accommodation Practices Act was passed on June 5, eight complaints of discrimination against Negroes in restaurants and barber shops have been forwarded to the Minister of Labor.

Await Report

This week Minister Daley announced that he would appoint a one-man commission to investigate them. No legal proceedings can be taken until the commission has made its report, and recommendations.

The minister can then direct the commission to "clarify or amplify" its recommendations. Then he may issue "whatever order he deems necessary" to carry the recommendations into effect.

No prosecution can be attempted without the minister's permission in writing.

The police can do nothing. The complaints must wait until the lengthy procedure listed in the Act is complied with.

Anyone just passing through is not likely to take the trouble.

The 300 local Negroes have long since learned the futility of protesting. They do not attempt to enter two of the three restaurants.

NOTICE TO BUS PATRONS SPECIAL SERVICE TO FAIR GROUNDS

For the convenience of our many patrons attending the Fair, we are operating a special service from downtown to the King Street Entrance of the Fair Grounds.



You will facilitate your travel to and from the Fair by using these buses. You can board these buses downtown, anywhere along Dundas Street. When returning, however, make sure to board them at the King Street Entrance (corner of King and Ontario). Please note that only the regular service will operate on the Dundas, Ridout and Quebec Routes. All extra buses will operate on the special route shown above.

The London Transportation Commission