

Dawn of Tomorrow

Published in the interests of and for the Advancement of the colored people of Canada.

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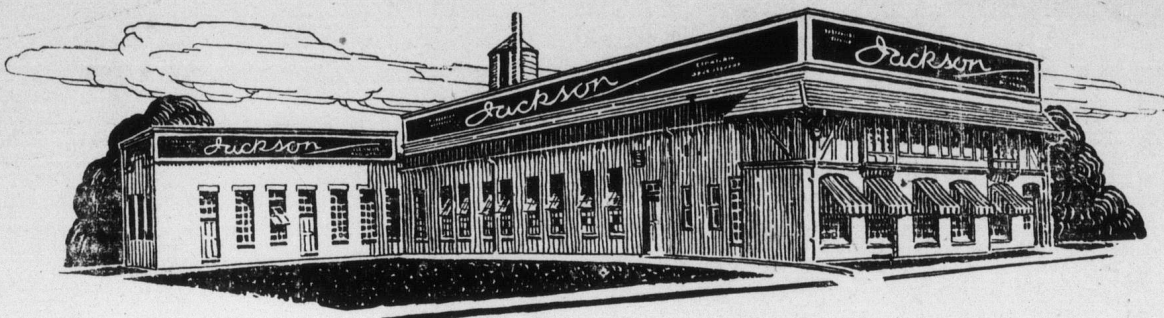
CONTENTMENT

To be content in body, mind and soul is one of the firetest blessings which we poor mortals can possess. It comes as a result of a sound, healthy body; a body free from ailments and disease, wholesome living. It comes from having found our place in the world and from knowing that we are giving to the world the best that is in us to give; from a knowledge of the fact that we have developed to the fullest extent the best there is within us. Contentment comes as a result of having done well our portion of the world's work. Contentment of soul comes as a result of pure motives, right thinking, unselfish devotion to high ideals, faithfulness and loyalty to some religion and from looking upon all men equally as our brethren. Such a state is the common heritage of all.

But there is another kind of contentment which is both false and misleading. There is the kind which comes as the result of inertia, as the result of a lack of energy to push forward and struggle for the best things in life. It is expressed in that oft-repeated saying, "let well enough alone."

I fear too many colored Canadians are affected with such contentment. In attempting to make economic and industrial conditions better for our boys and girls you will find many of our colored citizens who will exclaim, "What's the use of establishing colored business places?" They are contented to help build big business enterprises for other races in which their sons and daughters can never expect to find employment. There is also the "self-sufficient" and contented "business man" who, when asked to cooperate in race building, will point you to the GREAT success he has achieved single-handed. "Let the race do as I did," is as much cooperation as can be had from him.

A little education is sometimes a dangerous thing. A little success is sometimes detrimental. A little liberty is sometimes disastrous. Some colored Canadians have run away with the idea that because we are accorded full justice in the courts of law, because we enjoy many privileges denied our race in the republic south of us—that because of these equalities, our economic and industrial condition is a thing not to be concerned over. They are content in their own ignorance. They fail to see that as the years go by the sphere of our industrial opportunities becomes more narrow. They fail to see that Canada is only in the making and that the attitude which this country will in the future assume toward us depends very largely upon the attitude which we assume toward ourselves. If we are willing to see without a protest opportunities which are rightfully ours passed on to others, no one will protest for us, no one else will offer any serious objection. The problem is our problem and we must play the major part in solving it.



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