

EDITORIAL

A Tribute To James F. Jenkins

I am glad to have the privilege of paying tribute to James F. Jenkins because I was associated with him for a time during the production of his little journalistic venture, The Dawn of Tomorrow, and in the organization of the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

I think that I first met him in the store on the Market Square operated by my cousin and his friend, Frank Smith. They were close friends and frequently met to talk over his plans. Jenkins was a native of Georgia State where he had received his early education and had graduated from Atlanta University. How or why he came north I never heard him say nor did I ever learn what was his first occupation after his arrival in Canada.

Somewhere and at some time he had visioned for himself a mission in his adopted country. He was not satisfied that the colored people in London and elsewhere in Canada were realizing their possibilities and opportunities. Something was lacking and he wanted to help. This led him to begin the publication of a little newspaper, a simple four page sheet which would chronicle any achievements of his people, and any advance that would spur young people to self effort. At first an issue appeared whenever there was sufficient copy; later it appeared more regularly. I saved the issues as they appeared and later had the file bound and placed in the library of the University.

Dawn of Tomorrow

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

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Telephone GL-1-0522
95 Glenwood Ave., London

J. F. Jenkins
Advertising Manager

Subscription Rates
One Year \$2.00
Six Months 1.25
Three Months75
Single Copy05

The Dawn of Tomorrow
Publishing Co.

Feeling the need of a group of citizen support to back his efforts Mr. Jenkins personally brought such a group together as an association. Among those connected with the movement were the late Mr. A. E. Silverwood of Silverwood Dairies, the late Mr. John M. Gunn, barrister, Mr. Frank Smith, Rev. Canon Quintin Warner and myself. He did not ask for large contributions, he wanted only enough to finance his little paper and some funds that might be used to assist members of his race to advance their education. Annual financial reports showed how the money was being spent. Jenkins inspired confidence in those who were associated with him.

His sudden death in 1931 came at a time when his efforts were seemingly bearing fruit. His passing was noted in the press and his funeral in Bethemanuel Church on Grey Street was attended by a large number of citizens who heard from Canon Quintin Warner of Bishop Cronyn Anglican Church an eloquent tribute to the man's efforts on behalf of his people.

James Jenkins was a man of medium height, modest in manner but with an air of conviction that he had a mission to perform. It was his own movement. Cut short by his death at the age of 47 the leadership was gone. His little newspaper does still appear through the effort of his wife and widow, who has strived to enlarge the size of the paper as well as its circulation in Canada and the U.S.A.

I have often wondered what stand James Jenkins would have taken in the current unrest of his race in the United States. He could not fail to have been sympathetic but his interest, I am sure, would have been chiefly in the future of his own people in Canada.

Fred Landon

In 1900 influenza and pneumonia took a toll of 80 persons per 100,000 population in the young adult ages (15 to 44), according to Health Information Foundation. By 1955 mortality from these causes had dropped to around 4 per 100,000 persons in the same age group.

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"His Message"

By Rev. Winston H. H. Clarke

Nearly two thousand years ago, the messengers of God proclaimed "Peace on earth and goodwill towards men." Today, as ever before, this transcendental message is as much misunderstood by mankind, as we speed swiftly towards the annihilation of all mankind.

Men of goodwill are deceived and mocked by the enslavers of men. We see the enunciators of human rights change into heartless tyrants striving to destroy "His Message of Love". But it is enough to know that we are loved by our Heavenly Father. The Infinite God is love. His love must be responded to with human love, sincere and stable. We must direct our love towards God if we want to be under His Infinite protection.

One In Purpose

Below the island of Montreal the water that comes from the north, from the Ottawa, unites with the waters that come from the Great Lakes to the west, but uniting they do not mix. They run Yparallel, separate, distinguishable, and yet they are one stream, flowing within the same banks of the mighty St. Lawrence, and rolling on toward the sea

There is the perfect image of our nation. We may not assimilate, we may not blend, but for all that we are the component parts of the same country. We may be French in our origin, we may be English or Scots or whatever—but we are Canadians, one in aim, and one in purpose.

—Sir Wilfrid Laurier

tection. The end result of such reciprocation of love will be immensely benign and vibrant. A kind of invincible dynamism will ever emanate from it to rekindle in us the light of the lost hope, and revive those convictions which remain dormant in us; which in the past had led our fathers, the saints of Christ and all sincere Christians to victories when all around them appeared lost.

If we want to protect the freedoms we now enjoy, we must prove ourselves as lovers of God, brothers of men, separated from the vice of deception, warriors against tyranny. Let us repulse the lethargy that has befallen mankind with Christian conviction, resolved to protect our

dearly beloved traditions from the approaching threat.

As we prepare to celebrate the first Christmas let us in our prayers think of all who suffer through stubbornness that His Light will ever shine to illuminate our pathway and that "His Message of peace and goodwill will ever endure." May the mystery of Christmas enrich our hearts and minds with unshakable courage and stability of decision to live as Christians, to proclaim with conviction the values of our faith, to pray as brothers and children of the same Divine Father, the Ruler of the Universe and of all men.

After looking up and down the crowded city street, the little boy approached a policeman standing on the corner. "Sir," he said, "did you happen to see a lady going by without me?"

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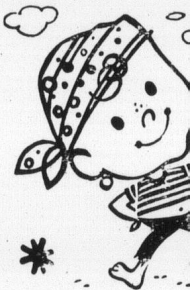
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