

Dawn of Tomorrow

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

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CANADIAN CITIZENS

We colored folk are deeply interested in the welfare and in the prosperity of this country. Although, unlike any other people, there are many barriers between us and the high rewards for good citizenship and efficiency, we have never failed, when called upon, to prove our love and loyalty to Canada. Our forefathers helped to construct the highways and railways, to clear the land and to build many villages, towns and cities. Whenever danger threatened from within or from without we were among the first to volunteer our services. History does not record an instance in which a person of Negro descent has ever been suspected of traitorous designs. Our people have been content to labor and to live by the sweat of their brows, even though their labor and their lot were of the hardest kind.

In the matter of crime, statistics prove that our record compares favorably with any other class of citizens. We have been trained in Canadian schools. Our aims, our objects, our standard of living, our ideas and ideals are purely Canadian. Africa is the home of our forefathers, but Canada is our home. And so it is just as natural for us to be filled with patriotism for Canada as it is for any other class of citizens. And yet, how often are we called upon to close our eyes to petty insults, to mean discrimination and to small prejudice. The wonder is that we can and do overlook this smallness in life and that our lamp of inspiration keeps ever burning. How many other races could come out of this severe test, this fiery crucible without spots or blemishes? We hear of our government doing everything possible to encourage the RIGHT kind of immigrants to come to Canada. This is right and proper. But would it not be a little more right and proper, just a little more humane, just a little more Christian-like to assist and encourage our coloured citizens who have proven themselves worthy of a high standard of citizenship? Surely they are not casting their pearls before swine?

We are constantly being asked these days what kind of government we desire to see at Ottawa. First of all and above all we want to see a government in power which looks upon all men as equals, one which judges men by the worth of their souls rather than by such artificial and arbitrary standards as races, creed, color or political affiliation; a government which will sacrifice party interest for the good of the whole people; a government which by fair and just laws will bring prosperity and happiness to Canada; one which will give us an honest administration, free from graft and corruption.

You may ask how we shall be able so to judge a government when the issues are so beclouded by a multiplicity of claims and counterclaims, charges and counter-charges, by each one of the contending parties. We answer, that we can no more judge than you.

Your BOYS and Mine

THEY are More IMPORTANT than
All Other Things Combined!

Remember, I was a
Member of the Drew
Cabinet who introduced
and passed the Act
which made it a criminal
offence to discrimination
on account of
creed or color.



Bill Webster

Ontario Progressive Conservative, London

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