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THE RACE PROBLEM.

TUESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 1, 1908.

In the United States there is much evidence to show that the problem of dealing with the colored people in that country is becoming a question that will require adjusting before very long.

Indeed, recent events in the South, and more particularly the late outbreaks between the whites and blacks in the state of Illinois indicate that an acute stage has been reached; and that the trouble now aroused and likely to continue and probably further develop must be considered very serious.

In Canada, fortunately owing to the small number of negroes in the country and the totally different conditions surrounding them, we have none of the inconveniences which have arisen to the south of us. Consequently the adjustment of the relations between the two races need cause us no concern, but the outcome of events will without doubt be fraught with much interest to all Canadians.

The subject, pro and con, has for years past been ably debated and written about by Americans possessed of special and valuable knowledge of their topic. About a year ago the "Negro crisis" as it was even then entitled, was luminously expounded in one of the leading American Magazines. All the arguments and theories adduced do not put the matter any more plainly before the public than the following words of the late Carl Schurz:

"Here is the crucial point: There will be a movement either in the direction of reducing the negroes to a permanent condition of serfdom—the condition of the mere plantation hand, 'alongside the mule,' practical without any rights of citizenship—or a movement in the direction of recognizing him as a citizen in the full sense of the term. One or the other will prevail."

There are about nine millions of negroes in the United States—roughly speaking about one-ninth of the population. This immense number of people have to be cared for and controlled by the nation; their color makes no difference. It can be readily seen that the national life of the republic is vitally affected by this condition of affairs.

Of the causes which have produced the antagonism between the whites and blacks it is hardly necessary to speak. The social status of the two races before the Civil War had defined their

relations—those of masters and slaves. Emancipation freed the negro but worked no improvement in his social position in the southern states. Succeeding generations of negroes have been less tolerant of their position than the slaves of ante-bellum days, and resentment of the treatment accorded them by the white people has undoubtedly prompted many acts of lawlessness. Thus a bad name has become attached to the negroes and the white people by taking the law into their own hands and at times, indiscriminately lynching negroes have brought the matter to that condition where it is necessary to refer to it as a crisis.

In any case the natural order of things would have probably made the situation one that would demand the attention of statesmen. In the Southern tier of states from Texas to North Carolina the white population is said to number 6,622,281, and the negro population 5,483,460. A race war in this territory it can be seen is something to be avoided.

The adjustment of the relations between the negroes and whites is a problem demanding much skill. The securing of the welfare of the negroes of the United States and the fitting them for the duties of citizenship will be watched with eager and sympathetic interest.

TURKEY.

Recent events in Turkey have resulted in the Sultan of that country granting to the people, a constitution hitherto the Sultan had possessed despotic power, but his rule was actually opposed to the spirit of the age and the desire of the progressive portion of his people that he had to surrender his rights at the command of the Young Turk party—a party whose influence could have easily brought about a revolution.



So the old order of things will change in Turkey. The situation as it was was intolerable, and the chief blame for it is placed upon the ex-premier, Ismet Bey, who was the Sultan's chief adviser and the man at the Turkish wheel of state. He, reading the signs of the times, discreetly left his country for his country's good and is now an exile in England, amply provided with funds but living in fear of assassination. His case is very similar to that of ex-premier Franco of Portugal who is blamed for the recent upheaval in that country which resulted in the death of the king and the crown prince as a consequence of the dissatisfaction with the Government.

It used to be said that "uneasy lies the head that wears a crown," but he premiers of the old world are apparently unacquainted in their lots. The difference between them and certain other chief ministers who fear naught but occasional overthrows by elections is one that should make the premiers of Canada contented with their destinies.

TRADE AND SHIPPING.

Entered Aug. 31.—Sch. Ida M. Wilkins, Sydney; sch. Hazel B. Miller, Barke, Sydney; sch. Hazel Bell, Bandman, Vernon River; sch. Circassian, Skinner, North Sydney; sch. Swift Current, Beck, Sydney; S. S. Bonavista, Frassin, Montreal; sch. Sir Wilfrid, Roberts, Pictou; sch. Eva May, Davis, Sydney.

Entered Aug. 31.—Sch. Sir Wilfrid, Roberts, Pictou; S. S. Bonavista, Frassin, North Sydney; sch. Carleton, Skinner, Sydney; sch. Hazel Bell, Bandman, St. Peter's; C. B.; sch. Stanley Mac, Whittle, Sydney.

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