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# The Daily Record

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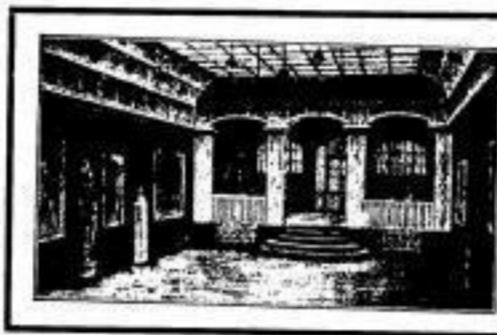
DRESDEN AND BERLIN, TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1908.

10 PFENNIGS.

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## THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT.

On the day preceding the news of the great change in Turkish affairs we ventured to assert that the Sultan would find an escape from his difficulties by resorting to the traditional method of setting his troublesome subjects against one another. We appear to have been mistaken in our judgment, but we had some justification for our mistake. Grave as the situation had become, that fact was not alone sufficient to encourage a belief that the Sultan would yield to pressure and revive the Constitution. He has revived the Constitution, at all events in name, and there are not wanting signs that he will be driven to establish it in fact. Matters move rapidly in the East; enthusiasms are great and reactions are great. It is frankly a matter of surprise to us that the Sultan seems to have yielded at the first pressure. The elements in the Young Turkey movement, of which we spoke as having a more than passing or fragmentary importance, are assuming a Western solidarity in keeping with their aims. Monastir, we read, is jocularly described as the capital of the Empire, and the press is doing everything in its power to support the Liberal movement by keeping the Administration to its task—its ungrateful task of amending its ways convincingly or withdrawing into obscurity. The Sultan, acting on the broad hints of a determined party, is dismissing the Yildiz *camarilla* man by man in order to satisfy those who demand the removal of dangerous influences from around the throne. The greatest authority of Mahomedanism, the Sheik-ul-Islam, has stated solemnly that the Sultan has sworn fidelity to the Constitution. There has been a certain amount of reasonable give-and-take; moderation is being urged and practised; and, so far as external symptoms are concerned, matters are proceeding along lines familiar to Western nations. In Macedonia itself, where the revolution was initiated and from which it gains its chief strength, there are tokens that racial feeling is likely to be abandoned in favour of a common nationality. The Greeks in the cities have led the way in this respect, and in their wake have followed the Bulgarian and other races no less decidedly if less enthusiastically. We do not think it would be safe to predict that this state of affairs is more than temporary; racial feeling is not overcome in a week or through the sheer effort of demonstration. Still, just this aspect is one of the most reassuring. The impatience to get rid of the Civil Agents of Russia and Austria-Hungary, the two Powers entrusted by the Concert of Europe with the supervision of Macedonian affairs, may possibly be accepted as further strengthening the feeling of nationality. In addition, the political exiles of Turkey are now allowed to return, and, though it is of course possible that they may strengthen the Young Turkey party, it is equally conceivable that their sympathies may diverge from those of the present organizers.

It must not be imagined that the desire for constitutionalism necessarily implies a spirit of constitutionalism. These things are not evolved ready-made. If Russians, for example, are sceptical about the Turkish revolution, we cannot hold them altogether wrong; but even Russia is postponing interference in respect of Macedonia. The probabilities are, in fact, well distributed on both sides. Not for a moment must we neglect to make allowance for the Turkish traditions of government, for fanaticism in patriotism and religion, for superstition in life and thought. These psychological factors play a great

part in dividing a free from an unfree nation, in establishing the conception of freedom as it appeals to the individual. Political freedom may be positive or negative; elementary nations are satisfied with freedom from oppression and injustice, but progressive nations fight for a more constructive freedom, the freedom to control and initiate government. We do not think that Turkey is capable as yet of more than the negative conception, and we do not imagine that the majority of Turkish Liberals have more in view. The love of order and justice, however, are certainly a part, and indeed the main part, of constitutional aspiration; but, given a constitutional form of government, it cannot follow as an immediate result that you introduce with the form the probity in administration which alone can render a constitution practically valuable. There are States in the Balkans, in more or less a condition of political prosperity, which have not changed the spirit of their administration in spite of constitutional forms and the release from Ottoman rule, States where it is difficult to obtain justice or to escape some sort of oppression. To discourage Turkish aspiration on that score would be an ungenerous and gratuitous display of the right to criticize. The Turkish Liberals have shown a fine scorn of tyranny, a great enthusiasm for justice, and a commendable moderation. But in a manifesto of the Ottoman Committee of Union and Progress, the chief organization of the Young Turkish Party, we find some of those strange contradictions which make us at once hopeful and distrustful of the Turkish people. "Good news, brothers. . . Today we are getting rid for ever of those eight or ten selfish brutes who have been trying to govern us with lies, dishonesty, and cruelty, and we have delivered the Fatherland's body from their ravenous claws. . . You must not attack the life, the property or the honour of anybody. Let all respect and defend these from oppression. . . Let us try to leave a lasting, shining name in the history of our people. . . Be assured that those acting against the advice and behests of our Committee will be very promptly and seriously punished." The manifesto is, in short, full of moderate counsels, substantial threats, wild enthusiasm, and bitter resentment. It is a shifting basis on which to place a Constitution, and Turkey will be fortunate if the superstructure is at once genuine and stable.

## SOLVING THE COLOUR PROBLEM.

(From our New York correspondent.)

White negroes is what the children of the black race will have to be called in future, if a discovery made by the Reverend Zed D. Coppo, a Washington clergyman, does not play him false. The reverend gentleman, whose professional duties take him much among the negroes, has publicly announced that he has discovered a bacillus which, if a negro is inoculated with it, will turn his skin white, however black it may be by nature.

Mr. Coppo says he had at various times remarked that the skin of negroes assumes a lighter hue; and that a close study of such cases has convinced him that the bleaching process is the work of a bacillus which he has just secured. He now wishes the Department of Agriculture to assist him in spreading this bacillus among the negroes, and thus in a simple and easy way to solve that delicate question the race problem in the United States, finally and to the satisfaction of all. Mr. Coppo has not yet told the public whether the benefits of the bacillus are transmitted to the progeny of inoculated negroes.

## GENERAL NEWS.

### NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

#### ANOTHER UNIONIST VICTORY.

London, August 2.  
In the bye-election for the Haggerston division of Shoreditch, consequent on the death of the late Liberal member Mr. Cremer, the Unionist candidate, the Hon. R. Guinness, received 12,867 votes; the Liberal candidate, Mr. W. R. Warren, 1,724; and the Socialist, Mr. Herbert Burrows, 986.

We give the above telegram as it reaches us, but a brief reference to our records convinces us that the figures are erroneous. The total electorate of the Haggerston division numbers 8,547; the 12,867 votes attributed to the Hon. Rupert Guinness should therefore doubtless read 2,867.

The Liberal majority in 1900 was 24; in 1906, 401; so that Unionists may well congratulate themselves upon the result of Saturday's polling.

### NEWS FROM AMERICA.

#### THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNREST.

It is admitted at the State Department (says a contemporary's Washington correspondent) that there is still some prospect of trouble in Honduras, and the report is confirmed that the United States cruiser "Milwaukee" is on the way to Amalpa by order urgently cabled to Honolulu by the Navy Department. Nicaragua and Guatemala are accused of fomenting revolution in Honduras, with a view to the eventual partition of the last-named Republic, and there appears to be at least some ground for the charge.

General Davila, President of Honduras, has taken the drastic step of expelling the Nicaraguan and Guatemalan Consuls-General, and he is reported to be at loggerheads with most of the other members of the diplomatic and consular bodies. Meantime he is struggling to put down a rebellion, which is undeniably assisted from the outside, despite most solemn assurances given and exchanged at the Central American Congress, held in Washington at the beginning of this year. A good many Americans are beginning to believe that the best policy for the United States is to step aside and leave Mexico to deal with the ragamuffin Republics.

Anything that the United States could usefully do seems to be invariably nullified by the ever present jealousy of the Latin Republics. Even in Panama, which owes everything, even its existence as an independent Republic, to the United States, there is a strong anti-American feeling and talk of rebellion, should the newly-elected President concede certain demands which are said to have been made from Washington.

#### GREAT FOREST FIRE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

New York, August 2.  
The town of Fernie, in British Columbia, has been almost totally destroyed by fire. Only seventeen houses were saved. Five thousand people are rendered homeless and hundreds were injured. The loss is estimated at 2½ millions of dollars. The fire, which was spreading in all directions, threatened other towns.

#### NATIONAL FINANCIAL STATISTICS.

Washington, August 2.  
The revenue in the month of July amounted to 52,170,000 dollars; the expenditure to 77,038,000 dollars.

(Continued on page 4.)