

# The Monetary Times

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the TRADE REVIEW, Montreal, 1870; and the JOURNAL OF  
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## The Monetary Times

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## TWO COLORS ON ONE CONTINENT.

Not so long ago a telegraph operator was given promotion. As a result several of his colleagues went on strike. This happened at Montreal. The man who received promotion had negro blood in his veins. About the same time in Springfield, Mass. a negro committed an offence. The white population became incensed. They turned their city into a battlefield. The enemy, or the hunted if you like, were negroes. At the beginning of the Canadian Pacific Railroad strike this summer, Japanese citizens filled the strikers' places. There was some trouble. Wherein are three instances of the question of color and labor on the American continent.

A man may be as yellow as gold, but it matters little. Color is not so much the grievance. It is the history, the moral tone, the personality beneath the skin that counts. The three instances cited are good illustrations. The white men were not concerned with the actual question of superiority. They were fighting, unconsciously maybe, for a principle. Unwittingly they were wedging concrete examples into the poet's words that East is East and West is West.

In North America few realize the bitterness of the race question in the South. The extremes to which the white population frequently proceed, are looked upon with horror. In the Southern States two codes of ethics exist; two sets of rules and regulations are for the public. One is for the white man, the other, for the black. A Southerner in, say, Toronto is disgusted when a negro jumps upon the street car and sits beside him. It is a fraternizing of light and dark blood, or, to the Southerner, of dignity and impudence. And it is seldom seen at the other end of the continent. Roosevelt's popularity as president does not extend always to the scene of race

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questions. He might ride through the streets of Florida's cities. Practically no notice of him would be taken. His entertainment of a dark-skinned genius, of an exception to the black rule, is neither forgiven nor forgotten.

These outbursts against color in the United States must terminate one way one day. The advance of civilization may breed a spirit of condescension. It is more likely to cause greater bitterness, with an ending tinged with civil war. When the smoke clears a new complexion will be upon the negro question.

In Canada it is different. The sun shines hotly in summer. If it did so all the year round, a Southern population would be magnetized to North America. The winter prevents. But the Dominion has its color question. Small it may be now, but despite immigration regulations and compacts between Governments, the day of a crisis must come. The Oriental labor question here has had a respite. The Governments of Britain, Japan and Canada have conferred. The result is that officially the importation of Japanese labor upon a wholesale scale will cease. This may be for some years. It may even prevent international complications for a quarter of a century, perhaps more. The Japanese authorities are sincere in their intention to prevent a flooding of the Dominion's labor market. But the powers that be now in the Far East will not be powers forty years hence.

In the past half century, Japan has evolved from a mass of superstition to a nation ranking with first-class Western powers. During that period they have demonstrated their military power to China, a country with hundreds of millions of people. The Chinese are years behind their Japanese neighbor. Japanese influence cannot but help educate China. The relations of teacher and pupil grow friendly. In the same period, Japan has sunk the entire fleet of a Western nation. True, the conquered should be considered more as an Asiatic than a Western people, in spite of geography. Japan has raced past Russia in the matter of general development, progress and education.