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THE PASSING OF PERSIA

After four or five years of turmoil and suffering, which, if the country had been left to herself, would have undoubtedly led to its successful reorganization on as firm a basis as that of the average Christian state, Persia is being seized and her ancient liberties subverted by Russia. Russia has no more excuse to interfere in Persia than had Italy to invade Tripoli or the United States to seize Hawaii, Porto Rico and the Philippine Islands. But Russia is strong and Persia is weak; and Britain, having purchased French and Russian acquiescence in her seizure of Egypt by agreeing to allow them a free hand in Morocco and most of Persia, respectively, has refused to interfere with Russia's plans.

Britain and Russia delimited their future spheres of influence in Persia in 1907, and immediately Persian patriots awoke to a sense of their danger. The result was the forcing of the Shah in 1908 to grant a constitution. Having failed to keep his promises, he was dethroned in 1909, and a new era seemed to dawn for the ancient Empire. A capable financier was hired in the United States, and to him was given great power in the reorganization of the State. Matters were progressing favorably until a few months ago, when the ex-Shah, who had taken refuge in Russia, reappeared in Persia and started another civil war. A few weeks ago the Persian government suspected the ex-Shah's brother of taking part in the movement to replace the tyrant upon the throne had his property confiscated. Russia intervened and ordered restoration of the confiscated property and an abject apology to Russia, under the penalty of seizure of Persia's two provinces on the Caspian sea—Ghilan and Mazanderan. Persia appealed to Britain and was advised to submit. She did so, but Russia, nevertheless, occupied the capital of Ghilan and showed no disposition to retire. Then Russia, found to gain more territory, by fair means or foul, ordered Persia to dismiss her American advisor, W. Morgan Shuster, within forty-eight hours or have Russian troops marched to Teheran. Persia appealed again to Britain, but without success, and the Persian parliament, at the last moment, voted against agreeing to the loss of their country's independence. They rejected the Russian ultimatum last week, and Russia is preparing to take possession of that part of Persia which, by the treaty of 1907, lies within her sphere that is the northern and centre portions.

Thus passes off the stage, the most elegant and refined and the most promising of the Mohammedan States of the world—the state in which the great Babist religious revival of recent years has done so much to break down religious prejudices and establish peace and tolerance where bigotry and intolerance used to hold sway.

The lesson of Egypt, Tripoli and Persia, each of whom fell immediately after the establishment of parliamentary government and before either had had a chance to put her new institutions to a fair test, should not be lost upon the few small and weak nations that are still independent. Their only hope is union with their most powerful neighbors anyway near of kin and the making of common cause with the most liberal elements of such nations in order by that means to hasten not only the day of their own freedom but to be instrumental in liberating the masses of their conquerors.

The day of the small State, like that of the small business, is doomed, and the quicker this fact is universally recognized the better for all concerned.

Commons Will Likely Rise Dec. 7

Ottawa, Dec. 1.—It is practically certain to-day that the Commons will rise for the Christmas recess on Thursday next, Dec. 7th. The Government has all piled practically all the business which the late administration left over. The Opposition is willing to expedite the vote.

DAVID RUSSEL LOSES BOTH SUITS

Montreal, Nov. 29.—Rendering judgment this morning in the famous case of Mr. David Russell against the Pinkerton Detective Agency for conspiracy, Mr. Justice Archer declared that there was no evidence of any conspiracy to place Mr. Russell in an asylum, and that while Mr. Russell was undoubtedly one of the defendants were justified in thinking that he was not normal. Consequently, Mr. Justice Archer dismissed the action for \$250,000 for alleged conspiracy, and also the action in which Mr. Russell demanded that the Pinkertons should reimburse him the sum of \$2,000 paid them to shadow James Patterson and Mrs. Allen in connection with the alleged badger game.

That there was no more evidence of any badger game against Mr. Russell than there was of an asylum plot was his lordship's conclusion.

Mr. David Russell stated that he intends appealing the judgment of Judge Archer, as he can prove every statement that he made under oath.

SWEDEN ELECTS NEW UPPER HOUSE

Socialists and Liberals Make Gains at Expense of Conservatives.

Stockholm, December 1.—The elections to the Swedish Upper Chamber of Parliament concluded yesterday. The new House will consist of 87 Conservatives, 51 Liberals and 12 Socialists, as compared with 116 Conservatives, 30 Liberals and 4 Socialists in the previous House. The elections for the Lower Chamber were held in September, of 230 members the Liberals elected 101, the Conservatives 65, and the Socialists 64.

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