

THE EUROPEAN FERMENT

By NORMAN PATTERSON

TO any one even fairly familiar with the history of Europe in the nineteenth century, there can be no greater marvel than the peace which has existed since 1878. A continent, no larger than North America, contains nearly ten times as many separate and distinct nations. Russia in Europe is much smaller than Canada. France and Germany are about the same size, but neither has as many square miles of territory as Ontario. Italy is only half as large as France and Spain is not a great deal larger. Austria-Hungary is about the same size as one of the new provinces of Western Canada; so are Sweden and Norway combined. Turkey, including her tributary states, is a fairly big country. Then there are all the pygmies: Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Holland, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, Roumania, Serbia, Switzerland, and now Bulgaria. Twenty-one continental powers, including Great Britain, struggling to live together in peace and harmony, where in North America there are but three. Is it not therefore a marvel that for thirty years these people have dwelt together in peace, if not harmony?

The credit for the present disturbance must be divided about equally between Bulgaria, Austria and Germany. "Ferdinand Le Fin" of Bulgaria has been showing a *finesse* which looks rather much like highway robbery. Austria, which has occupied two Turkish provinces for thirty years, now takes them over without extra charge. The German Emperor is simply raising a row so as to keep in the centre of the stage; Morocco has been picked bare and he is looking about for a new bone of contention. There is no doubt, however, that the original portion of the dust-raising at the present moment came from Turkey and her tributary states. They are attempting to do some house-cleaning over there and hence the dust.

To even faintly understand the European peace which has made the past thirty years so notable and to understand this Near-East or Balkan question, one must recall the history of modern Turkey, and the Congress of Paris in 1856. It was then that the terms of peace, after the Crimean War, were agreed upon and the Sublime Porte was admitted to participate in all the advantages of the public law and system of Europe. The other Powers agreed to respect the independence and territorial integrity of Turkey which was thus admitted to a place in the European family.

Since 1856, Europe has had a sort of international police, with the governments of Britain, France, Austria, Germany, Russia and Italy acting as the policemen. When these policemen appear upon the scene of a disturbance, the combatants go peacefully about their business. There have been two distinct periods in this police business, 1856 to 1878 and 1878 to the present time. The first period was marred by only one great war, that between France and Germany. The second period was inaugurated by the Treaty of Berlin which in turn resulted from the Russo-Turkish war of 1877. The Treaty of Berlin then superseded the Treaty of Paris as the basis of Europe's peace.

The events which led up to the Treaty of Berlin are worth recounting. The other day, *Punch* represented Emperor Franz Joseph as Little John Horner, sitting in a corner, breaking the crust of a pie called "Treaty of Berlin" in the presence of the shade of Prince Bismarck. The Treaty was the work of Bismarck and Disraeli (Lord Beaconsfield) and so admirably was it adapted to future requirements that it has stood the test of thirty years of international rivalry. How much longer it will stand remains to be seen. Austria, apparently, would like to make it an historical document rather than a living force.

Between 1856 and 1878, Turkey showed few signs of repentance and her government fewer signs of improvement. Insurrections were common and the Turkish soldiers acted or did not act in a most

desultory and irregular manner. A large rebellion might go unpunished, a small one might bring down most repressive and brutal punishment. The various nationalities and the various creeds of the people who make up Turkey in Europe render the problem of government a most difficult one. As Justin McCarthy has put it: "Fate has given to the most incapable and worthless Government in the world a task which would strain the resources of the loftiest public spirit and the most accomplished statesmanship." Slavs, Greeks, Albanians, and Jews governed by Turks; Christian and Mohammedan living side by side. Bosnia and Herzegovina were in a constant state of rebellion, because they respected Austrian power more than Turkish. Serbia and Montenegro were really independent, but their independence was a source of inspiration to such of the other states who were less free. Roumania had finally succeeded in gaining independence under Prince Charles of Hohenzollern. Bulgaria was in a

firmed the reports which had been sent by a Mr. MacGahan, a correspondent sent out by the *Daily News*. Led by Mr. Gladstone, the British people began to shout for vengeance. Disraeli defended his government's inaction by warning the people that to punish Turkey was to assist England's arch-enemy, Russia. Mr. Gladstone went too far in his enthusiasm, and advocated turning the Turk "bag and baggage" out of Europe. Disraeli construed this to mean putting Turkey out and letting Russia in, and by skilful argument turned the tide of public sentiment against Gladstone and in favour of his own policy of non-interference. The traditional distrust of Russia won.

While Great Britain was standing by, Russia came forward as the bucklered champion of Christianity. On April 24th, 1877, the Czar declared war against the Sultan. In the previous year, Serbia and Montenegro had made a bold attack on Turkey. Serbia was soon subdued but the mountaineers of Montenegro kept up a prolonged struggle. A conference of the Powers at Constantinople proved a failure. The Turk was unrepentant and unconvinced. Then Russia stepped in and the fat was in the fire. Beaconsfield (for Disraeli had gone to the House of Lords) threatened that if

Russia wanted war, Britain was quite prepared. He made no move, however, when Russia's announcement came. He left Russia and Turkey to fight it out. That was in 1877.

In the following year, the Jingo party arose in Britain. Some one wrote a war song for the London music-halls which had this refrain: "We don't want to fight, but, by Jingo, if we do,

We've got the ships, we've got the men, we've got the money too."

The Jingos worked the rest of the public up to fighting pitch against Russia, and the Mediterranean fleet was sent to Constantinople, near to which Russia's victorious armies had already pierced. Lord Carnarvon, the Colonial Secretary, resigned, and he was followed soon by Lord Derby. The Liberal Opposition protested against going to war with Russia, but the people seemed to be with the Government. While armed interference was likely to occur at any moment, it so happened that the tension was suddenly broken by a treaty between Turkey and Russia—the famous San Stefano Treaty. This treaty was nearly as objectionable to Great Britain as Russian occupation of Constantinople, but it gave time for possible negotiations. Russia offered to submit certain portions of the Treaty to a congress of the Powers. Beaconsfield demanded that all of it should be submitted and to enforce his demands called out the Reserves and summoned a contingent of Indian troops to Malta. Lord Salisbury, who was openly in favour of strong measures, had become Foreign Minister in succession to Lord Derby, and the peace party almost gave up hope.

Enter Prince Bismarck. He invited all the Powers to Berlin. Russia hesitated but finally accepted. It is said that her acceptance was secured only after a secret treaty with Great Britain guaranteeing her certain concessions.

On June 13th the Congress met. Great Britain was represented by Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury—the first time a British Premier ever left a sitting Parliament to take part in a foreign conference. Lord Beaconsfield no doubt felt that it was a great moment, the greatest in his career. If he could bring back a peace which would be acceptable, he would be the greatest figure in Europe.

The Congress agreed upon the now famous Treaty. The complete independence of Roumania, of Serbia and of Montenegro was recognised. Montenegro in addition was given a seaport. Bulgaria was made a self-governing but tributary state. Eastern Roumelia was likewise given a measure of independence. Bosnia and Herzegovina were to be occupied by Austria but the territory was not actually made Austrian. Russia gained Bessarabia in Europe and a Black Sea port in Asia Minor.

This famous treaty was much criticised at the time. Lord Beaconsfield justified giving the two provinces to Austria by stating that Austria's influence would be an offset in the west to Russian

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CANADA'S TEN BIGGEST MEN

A VOTING CONTEST IN WHICH EVERY READER OF
THE "CANADIAN COURIER" IS INVITED
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In order to discover whom the people regard as the Ten Greatest Men in Canada, the "Canadian Courier" has decided to hold a voting contest. Any resident of the Dominion, male or female, over 21 years of age, may vote. Each voter may name any number of men, from one to ten. Any ballot containing more than ten names will be disallowed.

The counting will take place on January 1st, 1909. The leader from each of the nine Provinces will be announced, as well as the list of the ten who receive the highest general vote. Each Province will thus have a chance to show whom it regards as its most prominent citizen, even though the general vote throughout Canada may not be large enough to place him in the general list.

Any voter may give reasons for his choice. If these are brief, pointed and worthy, they may be published. A selection of opinions will be given from week to week. The names of those giving opinions and the names of voters generally will not be published, but no list will be counted to which a voter's name and address are not attached.

The "Canadian Courier" has no object to serve, other than to afford its readers the opportunity of taking part in what must prove a most interesting and instructive competition.

Address all letters

VOTING COMPETITION,

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TORONTO.

distressed condition and Crete occasionally broke into open revolt. Greece wanted Thessaly. What a situation for possible fireworks!

In 1875, trouble became so common that the Great Powers set about the work of interference. All were agreed upon a certain course, with the exception of England. Apparently she still regarded Russia with suspicion and hesitated about taking strong measures against the one Power which stood between Russia and the Mediterranean. Finally, the insurrection reached Constantinople itself, and the Sultan Abdul Aziz was dethroned. A day or two afterward he committed suicide. His successor had no greater administrative success. An insurrection broke out in Bulgaria, and the Bashi-Bazouks were sent to suppress it. They did so in a manner which caused the whole Christian world to shudder. Men, women and children were murdered by thousands, and "the Bulgarian atrocities" have ever since been historical in Europe.

It was the Bulgarian crime which brought Europe to its feet. In England, it drew Mr. Gladstone from retirement into one of his most active campaigns. Mr. Disraeli, then premier, joked about the rumours of massacres and according to Mr. Stead, deliberately "lied" about them; but Mr. Baring, a British consul sent to investigate, con-