

Event and Comment

FEELING between whites and blacks in Atlanta, Ga., has been tense for some months. It has been caused by

A Race Feud in Atlanta rival candidates for the governorship

who in the recent political campaign scrupled not to rouse race hatred; it has been fanned by yellow journalism, exaggerating the number and atrocity of outrages on white women; it arises in part from the very worth and intelligence of the educated Negroes, who are hated by an element of the whites, the measure of their hatred being in exact ratio to the decency and intelligence of the Negroes they affect to despise. It had been hoped that Booker T. Washington's address before the Negro Business Men's League at its session in Atlanta a fortnight ago, and the pleasing effect of the array of substantial, well-to-do Negroes then gathered, would have a sobering, soothing effect, and it did for a time. On the 22d new outrages on white women occurred and were exploited by yellow journals; the white mob gathered and began to waylay and kill Negroes wherever found, and for a considerable portion of the 22d and 23d the city was terrorized by deeds of violence on both sides, Negroes and white men being killed. The mayor of the city endeavored to maintain order by warning words to combatants, but it availed naught and the militia were called out.

This most serious race conflict in any Southern city for some years has features which may be duplicated elsewhere unless there is a decided change for the better in sectional conditions. Education and increased property and race consciousness are making it inevitable that the Negro will not submit tamely to the political ostracism and civic subordination which the New South is disposed to insist upon. The physical and moral courage which makes the Negro a good soldier of the nation sooner or later will serve his race in defense of fundamental human and political rights. No civilized community can permit mobs to treat life and property as they were treated by the white ruffians of Atlanta last week without suffering for it in more than one way. "Yellow politicians" and "yellow journalists" are most guilty in this affair.