

### Wolverton Decides For Armenians

The decision of Judge Wolverton of Portland on the question of Armenian naturalization is pleasing in that it adds no further threat to the established order of things in the relation of Armenian residents to current political conditions.

It would be distinctly unfair and unreasonable, after we have been, for a third of a century, welcoming Armenians in large numbers to this country, both as residents and as citizens, to discover, by law process, that they were not entitled to citizenship.

Especially would this be unfair if arrived at by what is such a vague and elusive process as that of determining what are and what are not either "whites" or Asiatics.

No such network of rights, precedents and prejudices exists in the cases of those races about which, rightly or wrongly, there has been decisive action. These races are the Hindus, the Chinese and the Japanese. In these cases, while a considerable number of them have come to the United States, this number is small in proportion to the number that might come. The Far Eastern and the Middle Eastern race questions are of terrible moment to the United States because of the flood of these men who might come to the United States. The Near Eastern question—relating to the Syrians, the Armenians and others—is of comparatively small matter.

And further, whatever our race prejudices, there is at least this qualifying condition with regard to the Armenians and the Syrians. The Chinese and the Japanese are forced out of their homes by economic, not by political conditions. They have a "country" of their own to stay in. While the Armenians are a race without a country. They are on suffrage, politically, wherever they exist. By that very fact they are entitled to more thoughtful consideration than are the races farther east.

In any case, the Wolverton decision is a mere milestone in the route toward a judicial determination of the question, once formally raised. The only valid guess as to what are now "whites" and what are now "Asiatics" is the guess of the supreme court of the United States.

For we are now talking in terms that were considered definite and intelligent a century ago, when these laws were enacted, but are now, because of our more intricate knowledge of the human race, neither definite nor intelligent.

We are no longer so cocksure as to what is a "white" and as to objecting to Asiatics,

## COURT HOLDS ARMENIANS ARE CAUCASIAN

Entitled To Become  
Citizens Of This  
Country

TEST MADE OF  
CARTOZIAN CASE

Government To Appeal  
To Highest U. S.  
Tribunal

Armenians are Caucasian within the meaning of the naturalization laws and are entitled to citizenship in the United States, it was held yesterday in Portland by Federal Judge C. E. Wolverton, in deciding the noted T. O. Cartozian case by defining the status of the Asia Minor peoples.

The Government will appeal from Judge Wolverton's decision, it was indicated, as the Government brought suit to annul Cartozian's citizenship papers as a test case. The action was prosecuted under the direction of former United States Attorney John S. Coke.

Judge Wolverton's decision directly affects about 10,000 Armenian residents in the San Joaquin valley and another 9,000 in other sections of the state, for had the Government's position been sustained, naturalized Armenians would lose their citizenship, others would be prohibited from becoming naturalized and thousands would be barred from holding land in the state by reason of the antialien land law.

#### THOUSANDS AFFECTED

Other large centers of Armenian population are New York, Detroit, where there are about 10,000, Chicago, Boston and Troy, New York.

In bringing the action to cancel Cartozian's citizenship, the Government based its case on a contention that Armenians are of Asiatic descent and therefore not eligible to naturalization, and arose after the United States supreme court held that Hindus are not white within the meaning of the naturalization laws and are therefore not entitled to citizenship.



We are no longer so cocksure as to what is a "white man". And as to objecting to Asiatics, that would be as absurd as to objecting to "Americans".

Especially are these considerations foolish in being applied to those races of the borderlands of Europe and Asia, the Near East, across which races and nations and empires have been quarreling and fighting and migrating ever since the dawn of history. There are, and have been for centuries, Asiatics living in the heart of Europe. There have been, for centuries, "white men" living in the heart of Asia. There are whole clans of men in Hindustan who are no darker than the dark Irish. There are Mongolians who are as white as the Germans or the French. Hindus and Japanese have good title to claim a fair proportion of Caucasian blood, if we any longer give consideration to "Caucasians" as being white. And the Hungarians and the Basques and other races of Europe are not Caucasian. Nurmi, the Fin, who recently flashed across the firmament of Europe and America, is doubtless mostly of Mongolian blood. Some of our most distinguished American citizens have an equal Mongol blood, although it must be traced down through a long line of European and American ancestry and culture.

So, as Judge Wolverton plainly sees, there is no reason for making exceptions to the Armenians on any such ground as that they are Asiatics, or that they are not of the Nordic "white" type that is to be found purely in Sweden and is so dear to some of our racial philosophers.

But we should not lose sight of the fact that the distinction that our ancestors sought to make, in the simplicity of their then knowledge, should not be ignored now in the confusion of information and of geography.

There was and is a reason, for keeping the emigrant hordes of another continent out of ours.

Mere logic should not interfere.

The incoming of individual Armenians is now regulated by quotas, as is the immigration of Germans or French or any other Europeans. Our new national immigration policy gives us the sort of economic protection we want. And the "principle" of racial intrusion, definitely established in the case of Japanese and Chinese and Hindus, is of small moment in any case arising in the Near East.