

"getting on," even in spite of the terrible hindrances to which they are subjected. It is these that the white Southerners do not know, partly, perhaps, because they fiercely refuse to have anything to do with negroes who "do not keep in their proper place"—who, in other words, are not "the old darky."

**Invited
a Big
Discussion.**

Gov. HUGHES, in overruling Gen. ROE in the matter of accepting the Secretary of War's invitation to assign certain National Guard regiments to assist the regular army in testing the efficiency of the coast defenses this Summer, has taken action of great importance—action that illustrates the Governor's courage, for it is sure to cause endless discussion and no little resentment in National Guard circles, and may have effects the seriousness of which could hardly be exaggerated.

It is evident that, in the eyes of the Governor, the National Guard regiments have an end, an object, which is not—the National Guard regiments. This will be a novel and displeasing view to not a few members of those regiments, for, though they have never expressed, perhaps never even consciously held, the theory that the preservation of "the organization" is the first consideration, they have acted on it again and again, occasionally with consequences most harmful to the repute they intended to guard so jealously.

We all remember what happened when a call came from the President for some of the New York regiments to take part in the Cuban war. All of them showed willingness, even eagerness, to go to the front, and no reasonable person ever doubted either the courage or the patriotism of the militiamen, but in one instance the response was conditioned on an assurance that "the organization" would be kept together under its own officers, and, as this assurance was not given, the regiment staid at home—to be, for many a month thereafter, the sullen object of popular scorn. This feeling died out in time, and it was never very strong, since the Cuban war was not a great emergency, and only a few Bostonians could get the thrill of thinking the country in danger.

The proposed testing of the coast defenses is still less likely to give that thrill, but Gov. HUGHES has been able to see the point at issue, which is whether the National Guard is an end or a means—whether the interests of the National Guard or the public service are to be determining. Gen. ROE decided that the Secretary's invitation should not be accepted, because acceptance would involve potential or probable injury to "the organizations." Gov. HUGHES decided the other way—decided that the National Guard was for use, and that anything which interfered with use should be ignored. We think his opinion will receive a lot of public approval.

**Held the
Dead
Responsible.**

After considering the Larchmont case until most people have to be reminded what the Larchmont case was, the United States Steamboat Inspectors—who were in part trying themselves, by the way—have decided that, while there was nothing in Capt. McVAY's conduct which they could praise, yet they could not charge him with any definite incompetency, negligence, or bad conduct. They put all responsibility for the collision that cost 150 lives upon the First Pilot, whom they charge with "careless and unskilled navigation," in that he did not keep out of the way of a sailing vessel.

That First Pilot, as it happens, did not, when the crash came, get into a boat and row ashore with a few members of the crew. He remained on the steamer, perhaps out of some old-fashioned idea that his place was there on deck while any passengers were unrescued, and there he died. He may, as the Inspectors hint, have invited the collision while trying to "teach the windjammer a lesson," but he did belong to the old school of seamen, while the exonerated McVAY lives to enter, according to report, the congenial business of undertaking. Well, he can easily learn to handle the dead better than he handled the living the night the Larchmont went down.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

**New Negroes
in the
New South.**

In the second of the illuminating articles on the negro problem which RAY STANNARD BAKER is contributing to The American Magazine, he puts one of his discoveries in regard to the Southern whites in the well-found and striking phrase, "They want the New South, but the old darky." And in Mr. BAKER's opinion, the old darky they cannot have, since he was the product of conditions that are gone forever, and failure to realize this fact has much to do, he thinks, with making the race situation what it is, an ever-growing menace to the Nation.

Of course Mr. BAKER has been told again and again in Atlanta that no Northerner can hope to understand the negro as do the people who have lived among them all their lives and been forced to study them with ceaseless attention. "But curiously enough," he says, "I found that these men rarely knew anything about the better class of negroes—those who were in business or in independent occupations—those who owned their own homes. They did come in contact with the servant negro, the field hand, the common laborer, who make up the great mass of the race. On the other hand, the best class of negroes did not know the higher class of the white people, and based their suspicion and hatred upon the acts of the poorer sort of whites with whom they naturally came into contact. The best elements of the two races are as far apart as if they lived in different countries; and that is one of the chief causes of the growing danger of the Southern situation."

As Mr. BAKER says, the New Negro is not less inevitable than the New South and the New White Southerner. And the "worthless negro" is not, as so often asserted, the New Negro; he is only the Old Negro who has proved himself incapable of adaptation to the New South and is going down to extermination in vagrancy and crime and general shiftlessness. But there are negroes, relatively very few, as yet, though absolutely in considerable numbers, who are showing the power of adaptability to new conditions, in some degree, at least, and are