

ROUMANIA "GENDARME OF THE BALKANS" NOT LIKELY TO REMAIN NEUTRAL

Stopped the Last Balkan War in 1912 by Show of Force and Got the Dobrudja Province, Promised Her in 1878, and Has No Love for Teutons or Bulgaria.

(By a Student of the Balkans.)

Diplomats of all countries, neutral as well as belligerent, are watching anxiously the third struggle between Latin and Teuton that has begun since Austria's ultimatum to Serbia. This third struggle is between Roumania and Bulgaria; the earlier two were, of course, that between Mr. Cambon and Prince Lichnowsky in London and that between Prince von Buelow and Baron Sonnino in Rome. In both the earlier tussles the German protagonist failed in his endeavor. What will result from the present encounter?

Such lack of affection as exists between Roumania and her neighbor, Bulgaria, is no mere difference caused by propaganda. To be sure, the Bulgarians chant dismally about the fruits of victory being snatched from them by the treaty of Bucharest in August, 1913; but it is an old fact that Roumania asks nothing from Bulgaria and covets no possession of her neighbor. All that she wants is a square deal. And if a Roumanian talks rather cynically about his country's hopes of ever getting a square deal from Bulgaria one must remember that the cynicism is not without some reason.

A fruitful, generous country sustains an easily governed population as a rule, and to this axiom Roumania is no exception. Her last participation in actual warfare was in 1878, when her troops, defeating Osman Pasha at Plevna, saved Russia from the Turk to a far greater degree than even Belgium saved France and England at Liege last year. It is no exaggeration to say that the people have trusted their rulers and their governments, and that her statesmen, for the most part, subordinating personal ambitions to the desire for the country's industrial development, have deserved well of that confidence. Bulgaria, on the other hand, has had new programmes forced on her by a rapid procession of Prime Ministers, each of them having the ear in turn of a weak, vacillating monarch.

Roumania held only one international treaty for thirty-three years and changed it almost overnight, having discovered that being an appanage to Austria was unprofitable and reactionary. Thirty-three years of pipe dreaming came to an end. Thereafter, since 1911, Roumania has leaned toward her natural relative and educator, France.

Now, above all nations, it was Bulgaria which was responsible for that change. At the conference of Berlin, in 1878, which settled peace between Russia and Turkey, Roumania was forced to give up her rich productive vineyards of Bessarabia—because that province was strategically necessary to Russia, and rights for the little States, in the eyes of Bismarck, who presided at that conference, were about as real as dreams of Elysium—and to accept in exchange the small Dobrudja province, marshy, sandy and utterly infertile, which was to be handed over by the newly created State of Bulgaria, envisaged to Turkey by the treaty of the conference.

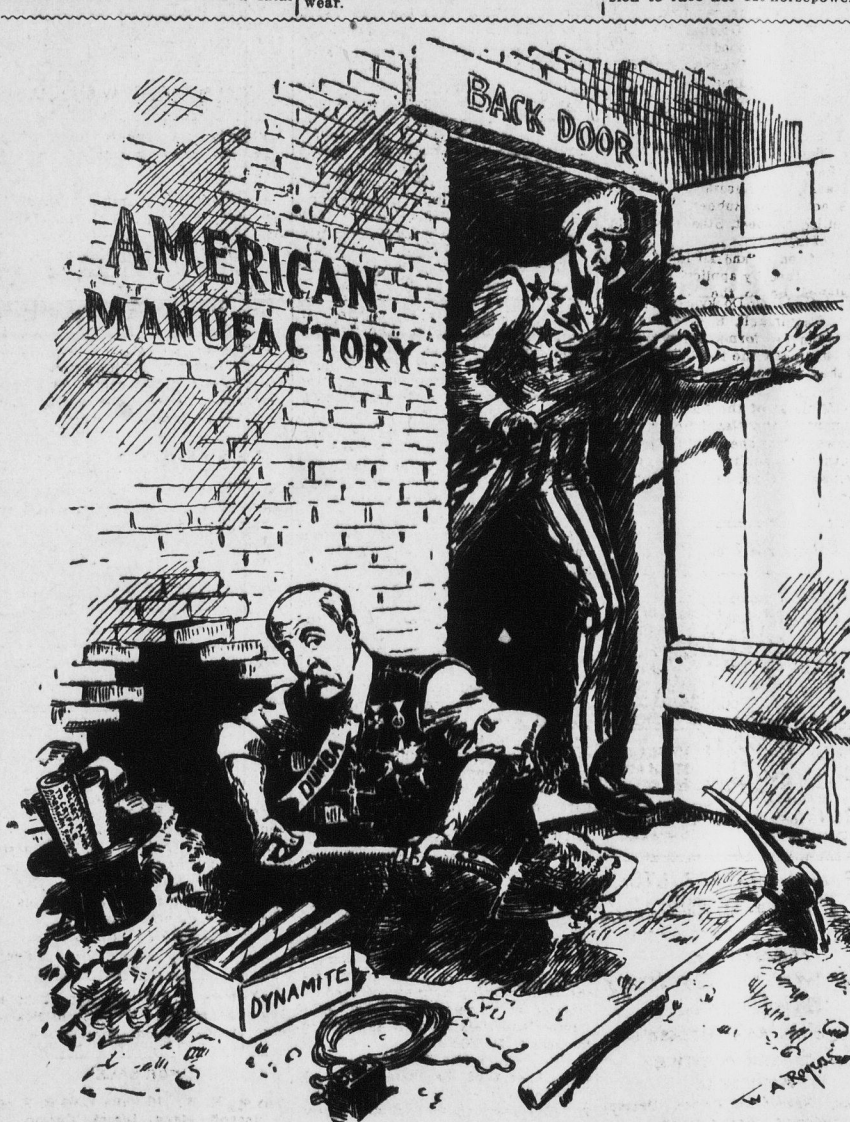
Bulgaria holds the Dobrudja. No Bulgarian statesman has ever explained why Bulgaria did not hand over the Dobrudja, as the treaty stipulated. For Roumania the plain fact remained that the conference had done its work, signed its treaty and gone away, and that Bulgaria's dishonored acceptance was never met; it was the Balkan prologue to Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg's "scram of paper." It may well be imagined that staring hard for thirty years at a broken promise imbued Roumania with no kinder feelings toward Bulgaria as time went on. And yet the desolate Dobrudja was not worth a war. Nor was the Concert of Europe vastly concerned by Roumania's grievance. To the Concert, indeed, it was as academic as somebody else's toothache. Roumania was incensed against Russia, which had snatched away Bessarabia, and turned to Austria. It paid Austria to act the part of the big brother; for one thing, such attitude kept the awkward question of Transylvanian quiet. Public opinion in Roumania began to waver, then to alter. And then came the Balkan War of 1912.

At this point a bit of secret diplomatic history is worth recording. The present writer was in Bucharest in September, 1912, when the war between Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro and Serbia on the one side and Turkey on the other was begun by the withdrawal of the Montenegrin Minister from Constantinople. Three months previously it was known to a few, but never disclosed, that King Ferdinand and of Bulgaria had privately met King Carol at Sinaia to obtain Roumania's promise of neutrality in the forthcoming war. King Carol, consulting with his Ministers, agreed, subject to King Ferdinand's assurance, readily enough given, that the war was to involve no territorial acquisition for any of the Balkan League but was to be a war for the amelioration of the Christians in Macedonia suffering tortures under the Moslem yoke.

When the Turks fell back at Lule Burgas and Kiri Kilisse, as the result of German army contractors' plundering in ammunition and their own Young Turks' backsheesh, the Bulgarians decided that they would like to keep the land they had won in the fighting. I make no doubt that King Ferdinand was quite sincere in June, 1913, but six months later Dr. Danef had his ear, and Gueshoff, with his English commercial training and his notions of playing fair, had been deposed. Viewing the change of mind seeing themselves being hoodwinked again by another Power, the third time in thirty-five years, Roumania's army was mobilized and stroled eastward, like a lot of gamekeepers, into Bulgaria while that unhappy land was engaged in fighting Greece and Serbia.

Not without some irony, in reply to King Ferdinand's protests, King Carol refused to regard the march of his own army as a military manoeuvre; his attitude earned him the sobriquet of the "Gendarme of the Balkans." The Roumanian army fired not a shot, but King Carol made the warring States compose their differences, and the treaty of Bucharest was signed and sealed in a fortnight. Incidentally, the Roumanians got the Dobrudja, a little State, after all this waiting, and King Ferdinand got another Prime Minister. In less healthy countries always in good fashion for mourning wear.

White Linen Skirt
The white linen skirt cut on simple lines and adorned with pockets is always in good fashion for mourning wear.



STRANGE DUTIES OF A TEUTONIC DIPLOMATIST.

Willis Pianos and Players

MADE IN CANADA

Endorsed by the World's Leading Musicians

Have attained an unpurchased pre-eminence which establishes them as peerless in tone, touch, workmanship and durability.

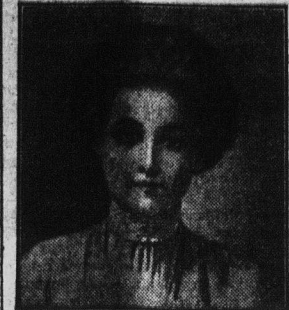
WILLIS & CO. LIMITED - Manufacturers

580 ST. CATHERINE STREET, W. MONTREAL, P. Q.

Branch Houses and Agencies from Ocean to Ocean

HOW LONG WILL THE WAR LAST?

The War Against Health is Quickly Ended By "Fruit-a-tives"



MRS. DEWOLFE

East Ship Harbour, N. B.

"It is with great pleasure that I write to tell you of the wonderful benefit I have received from taking 'Fruit-a-tives.' For years I was a dreadful sufferer from Constipation and Headaches, and I was miserable in every way. Nothing in the way of medicine seemed to help me. Then I finally tried 'Fruit-a-tives' and the effect was splendid. After taking one box, I feel like a new person and I am deeply thankful to have relief from these sickening Headaches."

Mrs. MARTHA DEWOLFE, 500, a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size, 25c. At all dealers or sent on receipt of price by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

A CHANGE FOR MISS DAHLGREN
Although the highway commission has no power to grant a request by Miss Katherine Dahlgren for permission to race her 120-horsepower auto-

mobile against the motorcycle of G. E. Turnure, Jr., over the State highway near Lenox, where she is spending the summer, the young woman may try her speeder against Turnure at the Narragansett Park Speedway, Providence.

Dear Miss Dahlgren—The management of the Narragansett Park Speedway respectfully wish to offer you the use of their absolutely new and unique asphalt automobile race track at Narragansett Park, Providence, that you may be able to try your speed against the motorcycle ridden by George E. Turnure, Jr.

This track is the only asphalt track in the world, and on Sept. 18 some of the most famous drivers in the country will drive for \$11,000 in cash prizes over its smooth surface, but to you we offer the first chance to try out its possibilities and show the mettle of your little yellow roadster.

Trusting you will advise us at your earliest convenience when you and Mr. Turnure will accept our invitation and on what date, we beg to remain, The Narragansett Park Speedway.

F. J. Perkins, Secretary.
The highway commission has no authority to grant permission for such a race as was proposed to take place between Miss Dahlgren and Turnure. Only the Legislature may grant the right. A city council or town authorities may authorize a hill-climb but cannot sanction a race.

According to Secretary Bieler of the commission, Miss Dahlgren applied for a chauffeur's license last July, but did not send enough money with her application. She was informed that she would have to pass an examination to prove her fitness. Later she registered her machine and obtained an owner's license, giving her age as twenty-one years.

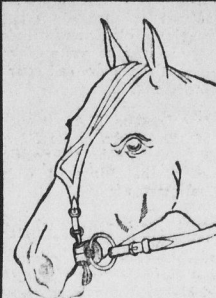
Miss Dahlgren who is a prominent young society lady has been fined twice for speeding at the rate of ninety miles an hour on the roads near her summer home, at Lenox, Mass. The last time the judge, who tried her case, threatened to have her license to time cancelled.

You don't have to lean over hot cooking top and steaming pots to work damper on

McClary's Saskalta Range

Patented Direct Draft Damper is operated from the front. Ask the McClary dealer to show you

Sumner & Co. Moncton
J. E. Wilson Ltd. City Agent
Quinn & Co. North End Agent
R. Chestnut & Sons Fredericton
Boyle Bros. Ennisville



Ready For Driving

We are showing an excellent line of Driving Harness in Nickel Solid Nickel, also rubber mounted. We also carry a full and complete stock of Horse Furnishing Goods, all which we offer at low prices.

H. Horton & Son, Ltd.

9 and 11 Market Square, St. John, N. B.



Hotpoint Electric Irons

3, 5, 6 lb.

\$3.50 each

MAZDA LAMPS, 10 to 60 watt, 30c each
In dozen lots.

PHONES: M 2579-11
M 1395-11
HIRAM WEBB & SON
91 Germain Street

No peat is employed in the curing of the malt for McCallum's Perfection Scotch, and the "smoky" taste, so objectionable in many Scotch whiskies, is noticeably absent. Perfection, with all the "elegance" of a distinctively high-class Scotch, is a mellow, epicurean beverage, with a distinct appeal to the cultivated palate.

Beware of Imitations—Always Ask for D. & J. McCallum's