

# WHY TURKEY IS MIXED UP IN WAR

## Drift Toward Attack on Russia Has Been Apparent

Turkish sympathy for Germany and faith in her Eastern aims contrasted with fear of English Partition of Empire — How Germany gained friendship formerly felt for England.

The news that Turkey has entered the war against Russia lends special interest to a letter from Constantinople by Henry Griswold, printed in the current number of the Nation, up to German sympathy in Turkey, the country's unready for war, although the issue is popular, and the recent revocation of the capitulations exempting foreign citizens in Turkey from Turkish law. The letter in part is as follows:

Constantinople, Sept. 30. "Will Turkey fight? I have been hearing that question in various accents and degrees of interest, all the way from Persia to the Bosphorus. The way it was asked in Hamadan, whence I started in the fourth week of the war, made me wonder whether it could be possible to get through. For to reach Constantinople, which as the crow flies is a bit over a thousand miles from Hamadan, you have to travel nearer two thousand through the Caspian, the Caucasus, and the Black Sea—unless you have time and money for the Bagdad route. But the Bagdad route was closed by reason of the Turkish mobilization, English ships were withdrawing from the head of the Persian Gulf, and the Turkish Consul was confidentially giving out that his people were about to occupy the Caucasus.

"The Caucasus, however, as I presently had occasion to learn, is not unwarlike. Turkey would like to play Germany to Persia's Belgium. Not only did I myself see evidences of Russian military activity on the road to the Caspian, but Frenchmen with whom I afterwards travelled told me that Azerbaijan was being fortified like a Russian frontier province. As for the Caucasus itself, I found it prepared to give the Turks a warmer welcome than perhaps they imagine. Cosacks bound for the Turkish frontier were chiefly to be seen in Batum, where the question of Turkey's fighting comes nearer home than in Trebizond or Baku. Batum lies just within the border, it has been Russian for barely a generation, and it still contains a large Turkish element. Such members of it as might be disposed to swell the armies of the Sultan were not finding it easy to get away, I was told, and there were steamers in the harbor that preferred to remain there rather than risk being held up in the Bosphorus or the Dardanelles.

Turkish Troops Gathering. "The next morning in Trebizond the Turkish soldier was tooting on the sputnik in the way known to him alone. At close quarters he looked a very solid specimen, equipped with a rifle left something to be desired, especially in the article of boots. He was shod for the most part in the slippers or moccasins of his country, which are better for his feet than Government boots, but which in a campaign among mountains or in a hostile country would soon put him in a bad way. In Karsun it was the same. In Samsun it was the same. In Inebull it was the same. And on the fifth morning we arrived off the mouth of the Bosphorus, just behind the big French liner from Odessa, and were promptly stopped by a plunging torpedo boat.

"Constantinople proved to be a task, with even greater interest than Batum, the question I had first heard in Persia. Some people find an answer to it in the omnipresent signs of mobilization. Martial law, which Batum had not yet thought necessary to declare, is in vigor. So is the moratorium. The War Office is filling its coffers, or at least a few of them, with service exemption taxes of \$200 a man. And requisitioning goes on gaily on. This is to the Turks an old diversion under a new name, and they practice it with a zeal which sometimes out runs military necessity. There may be reasons why Gen. Liman von Sanders, the German reorganizer of the army, should be using a motor-car taken from an Englishman, but it is less clear why the Chief of Police should roll through Istanbul in another Englishman's car. The major military authorities have made the great mistake of killing what little commerce still attempted to thrive. They proceeded to requisition all incoming cargoes of coal, rice, flour, sugar, salt, etc., paying for them, if at all, at prices below their actual first cost. The consequence is that no merchant cares to take the risk of importing further shipments, and the cost of living rises alarmingly. It is the more necessary because the crops were unusually good in Asia Minor this year. They are now rotting in the fields, thanks to the general mobilization at harvest time.

Turkish Sympathy for Germany. "Another and more significant answer to the question of the day is the remarkable manner in which the Turks interpret neutrality. A story is going around Pera of a Belgian diplomat with whom a Turkish official consoled on the occupation of Belgium. The diplomat thanked the official and offered condolence in return. 'But why?' inquired the Turk in surprise. 'Because,' replied the Belgian, 'Constantinople is also in the hands of the Germans.' Turkish sympathies are almost vindictively in favor of the latter. Turkish papers print none but news made in Germany, and the large German contingent in the army and the navy is daily swelled by new arrivals.

"Before reaching Constantinople I had imagined that the comedy of the Goeben and the Breslau had ended by the sale of the two ships to Turkey. I do not believe now that the Turks

popular attitude towards the war and how the Turkish man in the street takes for granted the status of foreigners in his country. The capitulations, so called from the term applied in medieval Latin to articles or headings, are treaties made by the Sultans with Christian countries and renewed from time to time, whereby citizens of those countries resident in Turkey were exempted from Turkish law. Their houses were inviolable, they paid no direct taxes, and in judicial matters they were subject to their own courts.

"This state of affairs inherited directly from the Byzantine Empire and indirectly from all the civilized nations of antiquity, was not a privilege extorted from the Turks. It was a natural corollary of their theoretic system of government, which regarded civil and religious law as one and which considered the infidel as lying outside its pale. But with the lapse of time, the gradual secularization of law in Turkey, and the very marked change in the balance of power between East and West, the advantage of the capitulations has come to rest chiefly with their Christian signatories. What the Turks particularly resent has been the exemption of foreigners from direct taxation, the right exercised by the European Powers to regulate Turkish customs rates and the maintenance by the six Powers of their own post offices in Turkey.

"One cannot blame the Turks for wishing to rule their own house and to put into their own pockets revenues which rightfully belong there. At the same time they seem to forget that the capitulations were not treaties imposed upon them by force, but instruments to which two parties were signatory; that there are solid historical reasons for their existence, and that to abrogate all treaties with all foreign countries except Persia is to put themselves into a singularly unhappy position. Least of all do they seem to realize that to suppress the capitulations entails a revolution more far-reaching than any they have yet dreamed of. For it necessarily means the complete and final secularization of law. It is a question whether the Young Turks are strong enough to in-

How England Lost Prestige. "At first sight the Turkish attitude seems inexplicable to one who has been out of Constantinople for some time, and who has known the old prestige of England in the Levant. The change began very soon after the Revolution, when the new British Ambassador, Sir Gerard Lowther, who had been welcomed with extraordinary demonstrations of friendliness, refused to receive the leaders of the Committee of Union and Progress before he had presented his credentials to the Sultan. The Young Turks became furious and embittered against him during the events which preceded the mutiny of 1909, and the attitude of the Times towards them completed the revision of feeling. And the Germans were not slow to turn the situation to their own advantage.

"Then the part played by Sir Ed. Paasik in the recent sequestration of the leaders of the Committee of Union and Progress, which Turkey counted so much, exasperated public opinion against England, while she and her allies, who rule so many Moslem subjects, are accounted the Arch enemies of Islam. It is universally believed that the triumph of the Entente would mean the partition of Turkey, whereas the Turks seem to imagine that the Germans have no territorial ambitions in Asia Minor. They have a sentiment, too, towards the Emperor William, who is the only European sovereign of the first rank to have visited Constantinople. Then the military and Hebrew elements of the Committee have strong personal leanings towards Germany. And those elements control not only the press but the country.

Turkey Now Ready for War. "They are not ready for war. They have not had time to repair the losses of their last war, and their financial prospects are not brilliant. They lack uniforms, they lack boots, they lack tents, they lack blankets—and they lack rifles. Against Greece alone they might risk a war, but hardly against the world. It is extremely annoying to Enver Pasha, who is spilling for a fight, and who thought at first that every one else was too busy to interfere with him. In the meantime he has helped his friends the Germans not a little by mobilizing and by closing—or allowing them to close—the Dardanelles. He thereby cuts communications, however temporarily, between Marseilles and Odessa, and he forces the Russians to keep in the Caucasus an army which might be more profitably employed in the west.

"The calling out of the army probably has reference, as much as anything, to the suppression of the capitulations. That topic of interest is the only one which can hold its own in local gossip against the exploits of Admiral Suchon and the Goeben. Several hundred, being chiefly to the guilds of the porters and lightermen, were ordered to march with flags to St. Sophia on the 19th of September and to shout, 'As that was what one of them told a friend of his and mine. The lighter man added that he thought it was to frighten the guild of the bakers, who had raised the price of bread. A more amusing story is told of the demonstrator who gave out that the procession was to celebrate the fall of Cattipoulasone. Asked what Cattipoulasone might be, he replied that it was a town in France and that the Germans had taken it. More authentic and very nearly as good were the answers received by a diplomat of acquaintance. The first Turk of whom he inquired told him that the demonstration was in honor of the moratorium, while the second treated him to the surprising news that the Italians had taken Paris.

"These anecdotes are interesting in more ways than one, as showing the

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astrophe that has befallen the Austrian army in Galicia.

The English and German troops are frequently within such a short distance of each other that the Germans have learned to sing some of the English songs. The English soldiers return the compliment by loudly calling out "sausages."

Lockjaw or tetanus is one of the soldier's most dreaded and fatal enemies in the French campaign. All three armies, English, French and German, have suffered severely in this respect. The disease is caused in a singular way. The armies are fighting in a district which has been highly cultivated and highly manured for generations. The result is that the soil is full of tetanus bacilli, and the soldier who digs the more bacilli there are.

The first impulse of a man who is wounded is to place his hand on the wound. Having lived in the trenches for weeks the hands of most of the soldiers are covered with dirt picked up in the trenches, and therefore containing bacilli. The result is that when a man is wounded he frequently infects his wound by placing his hand upon it. Instructions have now been issued in all three armies directing the soldiers to refrain from putting their hands near their wounds.

War Notes  
(News of the World, London, Oct. 18.)  
A great friendship has sprung up between General Joffre and Field-Marshal Sir John French. The Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces has the greatest admiration for our brilliant General, and the two are now as David and Jonathan. "He is my best friend," exclaimed General Joffre to a brother-officer the other day.

Lady Mackenzie is perhaps one of the greatest sufferers by the war. Her eldest son is lying wounded in Paris; her second son, who married the daughter of Lord Knollys, is in the Herbert Hospital, Woolwick, badly torn by shrapnel, and she is without news of her youngest son, who is fighting at the front.

In comparison with the same which the Russians pay their secret agents, German spies are very ill-treated. Red, the colonel of the Austrian General Staff, who committed suicide when his treachery was discovered, received more than £10,000 yearly.

Every year during the last ten years one or two officers have been charged with espionage. The pay of the Austrian officers in the service of Russia, which would account for any cap-

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disposition view of it concerns Portugal, enough that if Germany in the present conflict, the end of Portuguese lions, at any rate as far concerned. The same force, for intervention toward in Lisbon as in harvest, only Italy and to gain something, to be sure of holding

known as to Portugal to resist German incursions in East and Portugal's great advance in this direction overpound would, of course as the freedom of the cannot add to the fight of her colonies. Mention stands at the moment the question of interest seriously considered a definite decision.

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