

### Allies Trysting-Place in the Balkans is Cafe in Saloniki.

#### Greek Soldiers' Passion for Newspapers.

If you came out here to look for an officer in the Saloniki force (writes a correspondent), and knew neither his whereabouts nor the name of his regiment, there would still remain one excellent chance of finding him—and that would be to go and sit in Floca's cafe. It is here, for Floca's is the forum and trysting-place of the Allied armies in the Balkans, their social focus, their common meeting place, and the resort of their leisure hours.

And for this fortunate proprietor who, like so many others here, is literally making a small fortune, has to thank two of the most cherished institutions—the Frenchman's heure de gentil and the Brit's afternoon tea.

From four o'clock till eight Floca's yard for yard is more densely populated than any spot in Saloniki. It is the opinion of the commissioned ranks of the Allied armies. Officers of the base who have been at their desks all day, officers from the camps who have come to town to buy a shave for their wind-pierced tents, embattled officers from the quays, staff officers from A.H.Q., naval officers ashore for their afternoon walk, gung officers who were bombarding a Bulgarian camp before lunch, French and British, Serbian and Greek, such a varied collection of officers of every rank and corps that Floca's might be the animated fashion book of a military tailor of international clientele.

What They Talk About.

There H.N.R. assistant-paymasters begin to recognize a General by the "frosset gadgets" on his shoulder-strap; here midshipmen smoke cigars and devour cream cakes with such expressions of solemnity that the responsibility of the whole Balkan expedition might seem to be resting on their unadorned shoulders; a young ensign officer considers his professional greets to an A.S.C. officer, and relates in turn an involved story of troubles connected with cases of high-hear and "M. and V. ration's" incidents and warbills; men who last night were at schoolboys meet again at Floca's; naval men who sleep

### Letters Show German State of Mind

#### Officer Writes of the Terrors of Verdun, and Woman of Food Troubles at Home

PARIS, May 19.—The following letters found upon officers and soldiers of the German Army taken prisoners around Verdun are given out at French Headquarters as indicating the state of mind of the officers since the failure of the first assault, and of the feeling of the soldiers' families at home.

A letter written by Lieutenant Hordors, of the Eighty-first German Infantry, to his parents says: "Our losses in officers are so considerable that I am obliged to take command of the Eight Company. We are now in the first line, and I am crouched in a little mud-hole that must protect me from the fragments of the enemy's shells that come unintermittently. We have seen a great deal in the course of this war, but I had not yet been in a situation so indescribably frightful. We are day and night under a frightful artillery fire. The French are making a monstrously stubborn resistance. On the 11th, when we made an assault upon the French trenches after a considerable artillery preparation of twelve hours, we found the French machine guns were still absolutely intact, so that our first wave of assaults was immediately mowed down on leaving the trench. At the same time, the French opened up a barraging fire that made it impossible to think of any further attack. We were unable and are still unable to bury our dead. There they lie, the most lamentable sight, the poor devils, in their muddy holes, for all the routes are swept without ceasing by the French artillery. We have dead and wounded every day. Whether we are taking our wounded back to safety, or whether we are going back for our rations two miles in the rear, it has made it necessary for so fully equipped and expensively-maintained a fighting force as this of ours, to remain inactive throughout the winter. Idle it certainly has not been, for it has converted an undefended town into one of the strong places of Europe.

Prof. Paul Milkouff, leader of the constitutional party in the Russian Duma, now in England with a deputation of his countrymen, discussing the Eastern campaign with a press correspondent, said: "Until Turkey took up arms against us we had no intention of going into Constantinople, but we do have that intention now, and we are certain of its success." The arrival of British outposts on the Tigris river below Kut-el-Amara of Russian cavalry is one of the many proofs Russia has given in the past few weeks of her determination to overthrow Turkey. With the Russian and British armies in Mesopotamia acting together and striking both from the north and the south, the Turks, even if strongly reinforced by Austria and Germany, will find it extremely difficult to maintain their lines. Floods and not the enemy kept the British relieving force from Kut-el-Amara. That force was large enough and well enough equipped to complete the task in hand, but it was impossible to make headway with the whole country submerged. Already there is news of a Turkish retreat from some of the advanced positions, news which raises high hopes of still better news in the immediate future. Russia, besides establishing touch with the British in Mesopotamia, is pushing forward the advance further north, and may at any day report that the Bagdad line of communication has been cut. Reports that the Turks, the Germans and the Austrians are sending many troops into Asia Minor may well be true, for on the conflict in that region hangs not only the fate of the Turkish empire, but the fate of Germany's plans for a great eastern empire. Frank H. Simmonds, tersely stated the situation when he said: "While the battle in Europe is being waged on fields familiar to us all, there is being fought in the obscurest regions where Europe and Asia touch the battle which means as much to Germany as did the struggle in America to France and England. At Constantinople, as at Quebec, a great empire and a magnificent colonial dream are at stake. The German place in the sun is being won or lost."

Already it is half lost, for the Russians and the British hold in their grasp more than forty thousand square miles of Turkish territory and command of the connecting seas. A decisive battle before Mosul or elsewhere in Asia Minor may bring an end to a campaign which Germany will fight

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### Allies Fight to End All War, Says Sir Ed. Grey, Sec'y of State for Foreign Affairs

(Continued from page 2)

"We never were smitten with any such madness," answered Sir Edward Grey, "We want nothing of the sort, and von Bethmann-Hollweg knows that we want nothing of the sort. We should be glad to see the German people free as we ourselves want to be free, and as we want other nationalities of Europe and of the world to be free. It belongs to the rudiments of political science. It is abundantly taught by history that you cannot enslave a people and make a success of the job; that you cannot kill a people's soul by foreign despotism and brutality. We aspire to embark upon no such course of folly and futility toward another nation. We believe that the German people, when once the dreams of word empire cherished by Pan-Germanism are brought to naught, will insist upon the control of its Government. And in this lies the hope of the secure freedom and national independence in Europe, for a German Prussian militarism has plotted war to take place at a chosen date in the future."

Sir Edward's Peace Vision.

In the midst of war Sir Edward's great vision remains a vision of peace—not a peace vulnerable to political and militarist intrigue and ambition but a peace secured and unified and armed purpose of civilization. Long before the war Sir Edward hoped for a league of nations that would be united quick and instant to prevent and if need be, punish violations of international treaties of public right and of national independence and would say to the nations that came forward with grievances and claims: "Put them before an impartial tribunal; submit your claims to the test of law or the judgment of impartial men. If you can win at this bar you will get what you want; if you cannot you shall not have what you want; and if you start war we shall all judge you the common enemy of humanity and treat you accordingly. As footpads, burglars, and incendiaries are suppressed in a community, so those who commit these crimes and incalculably more than these crimes will be suppressed among the nations."

"Unless mankind learns from this war to avoid war," said Sir Edward in conclusion, "the struggle will have been in vain. Furthermore, it seems to me that over humanity will loom the menace of destruction. The Germans have thrown the door wide open to every form of attack upon human life. The use of poisonous fumes or something akin to them was recommended to our naval and military authorities many years ago and was rejected by them as too horrible for civilized people to use."

"The Germans have come with floating mines in the open seas threatening belligerents and neutrals alike. They have come with the indiscriminating and murderous Zeppelin, which does military damage only by accident. They have come with the submarine, which destroys neutral and belligerent ships and crews, in scorn alike of law and mercy. They have come upon blameless nations with invasion, incendiarism and confiscation. They have come with poisonous gases and liquid fire. All their scientific genius has been dedicated to wiping out human life. They have forced these things into general use in the war."

No Submission to an "Iron Peace."

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hard to prolong. Once Russia is able to withdraw troops from the East the overthrow of Austria will quickly be accomplished.

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### Russia and the Eastern Campaign

Prof. Paul Milkouff, leader of the constitutional party in the Russian Duma, now in England with a deputation of his countrymen, discussing the Eastern campaign with a press correspondent, said: "Until Turkey took up arms against us we had no intention of going into Constantinople, but we do have that intention now, and we are certain of its success." The arrival of British outposts on the Tigris river below Kut-el-Amara of Russian cavalry is one of the many proofs Russia has given in the past few weeks of her determination to overthrow Turkey. With the Russian and British armies in Mesopotamia acting together and striking both from the north and the south, the Turks, even if strongly reinforced by Austria and Germany, will find it extremely difficult to maintain their lines. Floods and not the enemy kept the British relieving force from Kut-el-Amara. That force was large enough and well enough equipped to complete the task in hand, but it was impossible to make headway with the whole country submerged. Already there is news of a Turkish retreat from some of the advanced positions, news which raises high hopes of still better news in the immediate future. Russia, besides establishing touch with the British in Mesopotamia, is pushing forward the advance further north, and may at any day report that the Bagdad line of communication has been cut. Reports that the Turks, the Germans and the Austrians are sending many troops into Asia Minor may well be true, for on the conflict in that region hangs not only the fate of the Turkish empire, but the fate of Germany's plans for a great eastern empire. Frank H. Simmonds, tersely stated the situation when he said: "While the battle in Europe is being waged on fields familiar to us all, there is being fought in the obscurest regions where Europe and Asia touch the battle which means as much to Germany as did the struggle in America to France and England. At Constantinople, as at Quebec, a great empire and a magnificent colonial dream are at stake. The German place in the sun is being won or lost."

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