

WHY TURKEY WENT INTO THE WAR

If we wish to understand why Turkey, exhausted by the Tripoli and Balkan war, has put the chopper to her own head and plunged into the maelstrom of Armageddon, we shall find the answer in the composition of the Turkish State under the Committee of Union and Progress and in the situation resulting from the second Balkan war and the Treaty of Bucharest of last year.

The Turks wot not of commerce. There is no middle class. They are peasants and soldiers who form a military caste as in Germany. Perhaps this is why Bernhardt, on page 107 of the English translation says "Turkey is our natural ally; she assures Germany's position against Russia and Britain. Turkey is the only power which can threaten Britain's position in Egypt. We ought to spare no sacrifices to secure her as an ally for the eventuality of a war with Britain and Russia. Turkey's interests are ours." (i.e. Germany's).

As Turkey is ruled by the Army, and the Army has for two decades seen the world through Prussian military spectacles, it is not to be wondered that Turkey should display pro-German proclivities.

The present government of Turkey, i.e. the Committee of Union and Progress, is not Turkish in mind, inspiration or composition. It is an international Junta working by occult methods and composed mainly of hybrids, all wearing a Moslem masque. Their doctrines are the Jacobinism of the French Revolution and they seized power, in 1908, by gripping the extreme and kindred spirits in the Army, established a secret and irresponsible Courtmartial in Constantinople, have hanged, assassinated or exiled their political opponents and thus, during the last five years, have governed by a reign of terror a despotism. The pivot of this system was the secret Courtmartial composed of extremists and unscrupulous officers, who formed the link with the Germanized Army. The Sultan-Caliph, Grand Vizier, Sublime Porte, etc., were reduced to the state of terrorized puppets of the nefarious Junta.

When Bulgaria was crushed as the result of the second Balkan war, the Young Turks marched out and seized Adrianople in violation of the treaty of London. They succeeded in keeping it, thus flouting the Great Powers of Europe. Emboldened by this success they determined to oust the Greeks from Salonica and, failing Turkish occupation of that town, to arrange that Austria, as desired by Germany, should get possession of it thus preparing the way for Germany's descent to Trieste.

The Great Powers, appealed to by Turkey, had awarded the Greek islands of Scio and Mitylene to Greece in return for Greek concessions in Epirus to Albania. The "Young Turks" resolved to repeat the Adrianople adventure over again. They refused to abide by Europe's award they had themselves solicited, and ordered two dreadnoughts in Britain, their idea being that when Austria should attack Serbia, the fleet consent of Turkey should, with Bulgaria, advance by land on Salonica, while the Turkish fleet, with the two new dreadnoughts, should attack the islands of Mitylene and Scio and also the town of Salonica. To counter this plan, the Greeks bought the two ships Idaho and Mississippi from the United States.

As the assassination of Generalissimo Nazim Pasha at the Sublime Porte by the Young Turks had led to the second campaign in Thrace in February, 1913, and the assassination of King George, at Salonica, had led indirectly to the second Balkan war, so the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, of Austria, at Sarajevo, on June 28th last, was the signal for Austria's advance, through Serbia, on Salonica in co-operation with the Young Turks.

But the latter's plans were upset by Britain's entry into the war consequent on Germany's violation of the neutrality of Belgium. Bulgaria hesitated to connive at a war in which Russia and Britain were engaged, while Britain very naturally took over the two Turkish dreadnoughts which were hurriedly leaving for Constantinople. Again, Britain's entry into the war enabled the French fleet to bottle up the Austrian ships in the North Adriatic.

When the war began Young Turkey and her Germanized army, under General Liman von Sanders Pasha proceeded to mobilize, while proclaiming neutrality. She thus rendered a service to Germany by forcing Russia to keep 300,000 men in the Caucasus and a large army to guard the littoral of the Black Sea. She violated her neutrality by allowing the German ships "Goeben" and "Breslau" to enter the Dardanelles and,

while her Grand Vizer, the puppet of the committee, and the Sultan talked of maintaining peace, she imported, by Roumania, hundreds of German officers and quantities of war material until she felt ready to join in the fray on the side of Austro-Germany. That the Turks, with their record of massacre and destruction, should side with the German Huns is only natural, but it must be remembered that the ruling Junta was in the original plot to bring Austria crashing down through Serbia into Salonica, and that, from an internal Turkish point of view, if Germany was beaten, the game of the pro-German officer clique and Committee of Union and Progress would be seriously compromised. Accordingly, being desperadoes of the Jacobin type, they decided to throw Turkey into the maelstrom in the hope that, by containing large Russian forces, she may turn the scales in favor of Austro-Germany.

She has flouted all the Great Powers, including the United States, by unilaterally abolishing the Treaties, called the Capitulations, the only safeguards that foreigners in Turkey possess against the flagrant injustices of her abominable judicial system. Ever barbarous by instinct she has detained several of the Consuls of the belligerent powers, poured contumely on their Ambassadors and subjects at their departure, and has gone the length of proclaiming a religious war, i.e. a Crescentade, against Britain, France and Russia. True to her traditions and in harmony with the doings of her German ally, she has partly destroyed the Anglican church at Jerusalem and driven out the missionaries both Protestant and Roman Catholic.

When Turkish troops, in July, 1913, swept over Thrace and retook Adrianople, evacuated by Bulgarian troops they massacred or otherwise eliminated the remaining Bulgarian population of some 75,000 souls. During recent months, the Committee Junta by getting up an artificial agitation against the Greeks, has led to fanatical outbreaks and organized pogroms which have resulted in the massacre of forced emigration of some hundreds of thousands of Greeks on the coast of Asia Minor.

Toward Egypt she is impotent to make any serious attack on the Suez Canal, while in Mesopotamia the seizure of Basra may lead to an anti-Turkish Arab movement.

When the Turk, falling from the Mongolian Steppes, came on the scene in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, he became possessor of the most prosperous, populous and developed lands in the world.

After five centuries of destructive misrule, those lands are the most backward and have a population of only 20 to the square mile. The Turk used to boast that where his horse's hoof trod, the grass never grew. He has been true to his motto, but with the disappearance of his blight, happiness and prosperity will return to regions which have lain fallow for fifteen generations under the Ottoman.—"Harper's Weekly."

Sec. Bryan Admonishes Intending Visitors to Europe

Washington, May 1.—The State Department is resorting to every legitimate expedient to discourage American tourists from going abroad during the war, because their presence in the war zones is likely at all times to cause complications of a diplomatic character. Secretary Bryan made public to-day the reply to a recent letter received from a party of Americans that contemplated a trip to Europe. Secretary Bryan wrote in part:

"All American citizens going abroad are advised to carry passports, and it is absolutely necessary for persons visiting belligerent countries to carry them. However, I am obliged to inform you that the Department does not deem it advisable to issue passports to persons who wish to visit belligerent countries for the mere purpose of sightseeing.

In concluding his letter the Secretary said:

"It is sincerely hoped that the persons to whom you refer will refrain from attempting to visit belligerent countries merely for curiosity or pleasure. The Department believes that the presence of American tourists in and about places where military operations are being carried on is most undesirable and can give such persons no assurance that they will be immune from arrests and difficulties if they persist in attempting to visit these places."

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WHERE RED TAPE RULES

Why Aerial Raiders Escape—Military Afraid

to Act Without Orders

Many people have asked why no offensive action has been taken against the German Zeppelins and aeroplanes which have recently renewed their abortive bomb-dropping raids on the east coast.

The same question is asked—and the inaction of the authorities partially explained—by Mr. Holcombe Ingelby, M.P. for King's Lynn, in a booklet, "The Zeppelin Raid in West Norfolk" (Edwin Arnold, 3d).

After dealing exhaustively with the evidence concerning the guidance of the Zeppelins on the night of January 19 by motor-cars, whose lamps were arranged to throw their rays upwards to the sky, Mr. Holcombe Ingelby, who has submitted all that evidence to the Home Secretary, comments on the inconvenience of having to deal with so many public bodies over a single matter.

"So far as Zeppelins are concerned," he writes, "I believe they are treated

as falling within the province of the Admiralty. So far as dealing with spies is concerned, this appears to be the function of the War Office. But directly the police come on the scene it would appear to be the duty of the Home Secretary to represent them, at any rate in Parliament.

"When it comes to be a question that relates to the action of the police in dealing with spies, the Home Secretary is ready enough to answer, but if he finds himself in a tight place, then he takes shelter behind the War Office. It is a case of Spenlow and Jorkins over again. Mr. Spenlow (the Home Secretary) is very sorry, but it is impossible for him to give a definite answer—there is that terrible fellow Jorkins in the background and he must be consulted. It is an excellent piece of comedy, but under present conditions somewhat misplaced. It does, however, bar the way to effective criticism, because, as the

Home Secretary shrewly knows, it is impossible to place any further burden on Lord Kitchener's already heavily weighed shoulders.

"The evil effects of this dual control were clearly in evidence on the night of the raid. We have a fine body of police, and we had fine bodies of troops stationed all along the coast, but not a finger was raised to protect us. As an officer said to me next day: 'If we had known that we were empowered to act, we should have had our patrols out. If we only had martial law we could act effectively. As it is, we are afraid of acting of our own accord. We don't know what we are permitted to do.' A nice state of things truly!

"There is this further point deserving serious consideration—that the country must still be honey-combed with spies. We want these undesirable gentry removed bag and baggage from our midst, and this will never be accomplished until we realize to the full the extent of their ramifications.

"No part of the policy of his Majesty's Government has been so universally condemned as the slackness

Public Affairs at N.W. Arm

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—A few remarks re Union and public matters here. I want to let you know that the Union spirit is present here and we congratulate Pres. Coaker for the great work he is doing for the benefit of the toilers of our Island Home, and we mean to help him all we can. There is an enemy to face but when we are fighting for right and justice we need not fear.

Re pit props. Most all our men have been employed down here this winter cutting pit props; but may God help the man that has to live on the wages earned cutting pit props—\$3.00 per cord, rind, ready

with which this very serious question has been handled. It is not sufficient to have captured the most notorious of the spies, however great the difficulties that stand in the way, nothing but a clean sweep of all possible enemies will satisfy the country."

for shipping. There was a cut here that was got through the Union, this proved more satisfactory. They gave \$3.00 per cord not rind.

We held our annual parade here on the 21st March and a grand time we had. We left the hall about 11 o'clock, marched up the West Side with drums beating band playing, the people cheering Coaker and the F.P.U. all along the march. We arrived at the church, where our pastor, Rev. Mr. Cotton, preached a most interesting sermon, his text was the "Carpenter's Son." On leaving there we marched down the East Side and back again. On our arrival we found the ladies had a grand tea prepared for us. Our pastor sat at the head of the table with our chairman. After tea a concert was held which was kept up until about 12 o'clock and which proved a very enjoyable affair.

Wishing the Union and Pres. Coaker every success.

—"FOX POINT," N.W. Arm., G.B., April 20, '15.

There are 70 babies born every minute throughout the world, according to the statisticians. The yearly figures are 38,000,000.

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Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM HARVEY.

20 Pleasant St., John's, Nfld., April, 1915.

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