

Eager to Battle With the Terrible Turk



Heirs to the Thrones of the Balkan States, all of whom are Now at the Front. Left to right—Prince Alexander of Serbia, Prince Boris of Bulgaria, Prince Constantine of Greece, Prince Ferdinand of Roumania, and Prince Danilo of Montenegro.



Montenegro Junior Princes: Prince Mirko (left) and Prince Peter. The Latter Fired Montenegro's First Shot Against Turkey on his 23rd Birthday.

A WAR, which, in one respect, recalls the days when mediaeval kings and princes led their men to battle is that now raging in the Balkans. In the small, independent states which have joined in common cause against Turkey princes and common people are equally eager for the fray. A Montenegrin prince fired his country's first shot in the war, and royalty leads the allied armies.

The danger to the allied states is calling their sons from other lands, many Greeks, for instance, leaving the humble job of shining shoes in Canada for the heroic task of battling with the oppressor.

The Balkan war cloud has long been threatening. By the Treaty of Berlin, in 1878, the European powers not only assented to Montenegro, Serbia and Bulgaria throwing off the Turkish yoke, but gave a guaranty to those states that Turkey would institute a system of reformed government for the Christian peoples still under her dominion, and that she would cease persecuting the Greeks, Macedonians and Slavs remaining beneath her sway. Turkey did not institute any of the internal reforms urged upon her by the Berlin Conference, and the European powers didn't insist upon those reforms.

The condition of Turkey's Christian subjects steadily grew worse, and their revolts were ruthlessly suppressed. Europe kept on postponing the forcing of reforms lest the Turkish empire be brought to ruin and the disposal of it cause war among the great powers. So, sick of waiting for Turkey to be brought to time by the great nations, the little states have joined forces and attacked her.

The allied states have thrown themselves aggressively and determinedly into the fray, but Turkey hopes to regain in the eyes of the Mohammedan world the prestige lost in the war with Italy.



As Happy-looking as if Starting on a Pleasure Trip, Bulgarian Reservists and Volunteers are here Shown Entraining at Sofia for the Front. Photographs by Topical.