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Near East is Ablaze.

NATIONALISTIC MOVEMENT GAINING STRENGTH.

Meagre despatches are continuously finding their way out of the Levant, by various indirect routes, reporting armed outbreaks in nearly all parts of that trouble region—Egypt, Syria, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, the Caucasus, Asia Minor and the Balkans. There is silence on the western front, but gunfire a-plenty in the Near East.

Each of these local outbreaks may portend little or much; taken all together they are of a significance arresting the attention of thoughtful persons everywhere. Evidently armed conflict is at present on the increase in the Levant. Paris decisions are not being complacently accepted by the masses of the East. Given a modern gun and taught to use it in the war, the Oriental is making it a powerful argument for what he deems his own rights.

This mood of rebellion against Europe is no small thing. To-day Asia appears to be aflame with militant nationalism. The war cracked the crusts that held it down. In defence of "self determination" it will fight.

This is the big factor in the present Near Eastern situation. Decisions by the Supreme Council at Paris are futile if the nationalities concerned will not accept them.

The case is gravely complicated by the fact that none of the European powers claiming protectorates or possessions of these aroused and now bellicose Orientals can afford either the money or the men necessary to keep them in a reasonable degree of subjugation and order. French and British soldiers are displaying an alarming fastidiousness as to when and where and whom they will fight.

ARMED ACTIVITY.

There are at present four major centres of armed activity in the Near East, with half a dozen other scenes of recurring outbreaks. Each of the later would have been deemed serious in pre-war times and fully written up in the press. Now a busy censorship does its best to keep the disturbing tidings from the people back home.

These four fighting areas do not include revolutionized Russia, nor yet the bellicose Balkans or the cantankerous Caucasus. Persia and Arabia also are excluded, although there is gun-fire a-plenty in both places. Morocco and the other North African colonies are also burning considerable gunpowder, but they, too, are outside of the scope of the present article. What may be termed the big fighting is going on in the following four places:

1. Australia, which is the Western and Central part of Asia Minor and is sometimes called Turkey proper.
2. Mesopotamia, which has Bagdad for its capital city and includes the Garden of Eden.
3. Syria, better known in America as the Holy Land, stretching from Egypt up to the Taurus Mountains, and from the Mediterranean to the Arabian Desert—although subdivided by Anglo-French treaties.
4. Egypt itself, the most homogeneous of all the regions affected.

The Nationalist movement in Turkey has grown into a fighting force. Forays and skirmishes are frequent. All of the Allies are in disfavor with the Nationalists, who want America to have a mandate for the regions in dispute.

TURKISH CAUSE BRIGHTER.

In the meanwhile any sort of an overwhelming outbreak may take place in Anatolia. The Allies appear to have agreed to preserve at least

the outward form of Turkey, which is incompatible with the retention of Western Asia Minor by the Greeks. Upon this Mr. Venizelos, who is a power in Paris, insists as a sine qua non.

Partisanship grows more bitter with every passing month, and the case of the Turks is strengthened by all delay, especially as the Turks are finding many defenders among the Europeans and Americans who have gone to Turkey since the armistice. There is no use blinking this fact. It may be due to the more attractive personalities of the Turks who meet foreigners, or their ability to set forth their people's claims, and it may have no relation to Turkey's past crimes as a nation. Other races in Asia Minor are not so fortunate in the impression they make upon Westerners. The practical effort is that the Turkish cause looks brighter with every passing week of inaction. This is news that will give no pleasure to Britishers.

Down in that part of the Bible lands with which the Book of Genesis largely deals, where the Garden of Eden was, and where Noah dwelt and Abraham was born, known to-day as Mesopotamia, there is fighting of a more momentous character than the public suspects.

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Mainly About People.

"Uncle" Elmore Dennis, who has driven a car at Jackson, Mich., for the past six years, is the oldest automobile driver in the United States, if not in the world. He is now in his 93rd year.

It is the intention of the former Kaiser to present Amerongen with a small hospital. He is busy inspecting the improvements being worked on his proposed residence at Dorne. He intends to surround himself there with three rows of barbed wire. It has been uncovered that many of the letters of the Kaiser to "Nicky," the Russian Czar, were written under the influence of Prince von Bulow, who used his power to control the Kaiser's volubility.

The wonderful endurance of men in successful battles to thwart death is evidenced in Sir Ernest Shackleton, who has survived horror, starvation rations, terrible cold and imprisonment of ice, all to find out what existed at the North Pole. Notwithstanding these inhuman hardships the quest has a lure that is irresistible and the Shackleton explorers cannot be kept from the polar search, for when one dies another takes his place.

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Did you ever tumble around in the dark to look for a match and find the matches has disappeared entirely. —Baltimore Evening Sun.

The chairs each have twenty-seven legs? And the bureau, on which you left the matches has disappeared entirely. —Baltimore Evening Sun.

Marion Bridge, C.E., May 30, '17 I have handled MINARD'S LINTMENT during the past year. It is always the first Lintment asked for here, and unquestionably the best seller of all the different kinds of Lintment I handle.

NEIL FERGUSON.

Frank A. Munsey is becoming a sort of American Lord Northcliffe in the growing powers he is exercising as an old line Republican. He has made big money in the stock market. He intends to make the Paris edition of the New York Herald a representative American journal. He has made the composing room of the New York Sun the finest in the world. The Telegram, the Herald's pink baby, will be continued until after the presidential election.

MUTT AND JEFF

MUTT PULLED A KEYSTONE ON THE OPERATOR.

By Bud Fisher.

