

and they will have power to associate with themselves any experts whom they may desire to consult. This sub-commission, when it has finished its labours, will report to the main commission, by which its report will be considered."

This resolution was carried.

LORD CURZON invited the delegations to nominate their representatives on the sub-commission, which should meet in the afternoon.

He called on M. Veniselos to speak, and said he presumed that the other delegations would be willing to await the report of the sub-commission.

M. VENISELOS wished to reply briefly to Ismet Pasha's remarks. It could not be said that war was declared between Greece and Turkey in 1919 at the time of the disembarkation at Smyrna. During the world war a Turkish division had operated in the Balkans. The Greek fleet for its part had co-operated in the naval operations since 1917, and had contributed effectively to the blockade of the Asiatic coast and of the Straits. Ismet Pasha had reproached Greece for not having made any effort to conclude peace. M. Veniselos wished to recall the fact that in October 1921, according to information in his possession, M. Gounaris had, at the invitation of Lord Curzon, accepted the abandonment of Asia Minor, and even a rectification of the Thracian frontier at Tchataldja, in order to give Constantinople more elbow-room. At that time, however, the Angora Government was not disposed to make peace without obtaining Adrianople as far as the Maritza, which the Greek Government could not then accept. As regards Western Thrace, Ismet Pasha considered the question as not yet settled, because article 48 of the Treaty of Neuilly left the fate of this region in suspense. M. Veniselos said that this argument was unsound; in point of fact, by article 48 of the Treaty of Neuilly Bulgaria had renounced in favour of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers her rights and claims over Western Thrace and had undertaken to recognise the measures which those Powers might take in regard to that province. Later on the Powers had embodied their decisions on this subject in a treaty signed with Greece; the question was therefore finally settled, and the Angora Government had nothing to do with the matter. Ismet Pasha apparently thought M. Veniselos had argued that Western Thrace contained a Greek majority. M. Veniselos did not quite say that; he had merely stated that, if the Greek and Bulgarian parts of Western Thrace were put together, there was in this region a large preponderance of Turkish elements. If, on the other hand, Western Thrace were taken without the part which belonged to Bulgaria, barely half the population was Turkish. Moreover, these figures were of no importance in view of recent events; ethnological changes had taken place which entirely transformed the character of the country.

Ismet Pasha had referred to M. Veniselos's statement respecting the murders committed by the Greek Government, with unhappy results for the Greek people, and he had added that the Turkish population had also suffered cruelly in consequence. M. Veniselos wished to assure his hearers that neither in Western Thrace nor in Macedonia had any excesses been committed against the Mussulmans. The Greek Parliament included forty-one Mussulman Deputies who took an effective part in the work of Parliament, and had on several occasions decided the fate of the Government which was carrying on the war in Asia Minor. He considered it unjust to allege that atrocities had been perpetrated and that the Turkish element had been subjected to harsh treatment by the Greek authorities. He would even go further; in Asia Minor, in the territory ceded to Greece by the Treaty of Sèvres, Mussulmans had not only had the same rights as Greeks, but in doubtful cases the benefit of the doubt was given to the Mussulmans.

True, the Greek army had later on committed excesses during its retreat, but he would doubtless have another occasion to speak on this point if Ismet Pasha took the initiative in raising it.

As regards the part of Western Thrace ceded by Turkey to Bulgaria in 1915, M. Veniselos recognised that in 1914 the Greeks, far from being in the majority, were a negligible element; possibly there was not a single Greek there. The fact was that after the Balkan wars this territory was assigned to Bulgaria, who expelled the Greek population wholesale. This population, which was driven away in 1913, hastened to return to its native country after the Treaty of Neuilly.

Ismet Pasha had accused M. Veniselos of supplying the Peace Conference of 1919 with Greek statistics. Ismet Pasha was not present at that conference, and must have been wrongly informed, for M. Veniselos's strength had always been that

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