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What Smyrna Means to Britain.

GRAVEST SITUATION SINCE 1914: MAKE FRIENDS WITH TURKEY; IRAK AND INDIA.

By LORD ISLINGTON, G.C.M.G., D.S.O., P.C.
(Evening Standard.)

From the point of view of the British Empire, the situation which has arisen through the capture of Smyrna by the Turkish Army is the most serious by far since August, 1914.

It is impossible to overestimate the gravity. Almost the whole of our Eastern possessions are involved.

It is difficult to give anything in the nature of a positive opinion, but we may safely assume that the Turks are much less inclined to be reasonable in discussing their position among the nations than they were

at the end of the war, when we had them beaten.

What they will ask for I cannot say, but it will be very much more than they were prepared to accept before the signing of the Treaty of Sevres.

It is also reported that they wish the unconditional return of Adrianople and Constantinople; and they will certainly expect to retain Smyrna.

As Smyrna is an integral part of the Turkish Empire, and one of its chief ports, it would be against human nature for them to assent to the appropriation indefinitely of that territory.

We may resign ourselves to the permanent evacuation by Greece of Asia Minor. We made a profound mistake in ever permitting the Greeks to go there.

What the final Turkish aspirations are on the Sea of Marmora remains to be seen.

Whether they will be satisfied in

full will depend on the degree of unity there is among the Allied Powers.

THE WHIP HAND.

The first thing to be done is to invite Turkey to a conference of the Powers. And there must be no dissent among the British, French, and Italian plenipotentiaries who go there. Otherwise Turkey has the whip hand.

Unfortunately the same post-war policy that alienated Turkey has led to an estrangement with France. Owing to our long delay in negotiating peace, and owing to the fact that we have played at supporting another nation in her aggressive intentions, France has taken her own course in the East, and, as with Turkey, the difficulties of arriving at a permanent settlement are ten times greater than they were at the beginning.

Nevertheless, we must get into line with France and with Italy. The Turks have always been ready in the past to work with us on friendly lines—I do not attempt to justify their entry into the war, the history of which we all know—and as you cannot separate the Turkish Empire from the Moslem world it becomes more and more apparent every day that we must endeavour to revert to the old policy.

But it is very probable that, in view of the present military situation, Turkey may be in an unreasonable frame of mind.

She may ask for things which it will be impossible for us to concede. She may ask for a return to the status quo in respect of her European territory, including the Dardanelles.

This would be absurd. The Dardanelles ought to be an open waterway for the traffic of the world, and it is as much to the interest of France and Italy as it is to Britain that this should be so. That is one important reason for a united front.

IF WE DO NOT MAKE FRIENDS.

As for the territorial question, there is a portion of Thrace which is mainly Turkish in population—to which the Turks therefore have a right. And as Adrianople is a natural part of the Turkish Empire, I, for one, should not deplore its return to Turkey.

Without a unity of aim with the other Allied Powers, what is the position? As matters stand at present, if the Allies stand at present, if the Allies do not make friends with the Turks, and that pretty quickly, they

will obviously attack us in our most vulnerable spot, Mesopotamia.

That will mean either the raising of a very big army, and the consequent reorganization of the whole of our national finances, or a lamentable and ignominious capitulation.

At the end of the war, when we held a supreme position, when, owing to our conquest of the Turkish armies and our prestige in the East, we had a powerful voice in the concert of nations, we ought to have determined on a satisfactory peace with Turkey.

We could have enforced upon her then proper safeguards for the non-Turkish minorities within the Turkish Empire, which, of course, is one of the cardinal factors in the whole situation. We shall find the attainment of that object extraordinary difficult now.

Think what it would mean for us to enforce our authority on a hostile Turkey by armed might. The regular army is quite inadequate. We should have to recruit another new army.

In the face of our unemployment here, our heavy taxation, and the paralysis of industry which that taxation has caused, no party would stand for a minute at the polls if our policy were to hold by force of arms these places in the East. In any case, I do not believe it is militarily or politically possible and consistent with a sound financial position at home to hold that vast territory of Mesopotamia, even without a war with Turkey.

AND PALESTINE!

Mesopotamia is not the only zone in which Turkey is in a position to damage us. There is Palestine, where, as in the Turkish Empire, our policy has been to try to force an alien form of government upon the people. The fall of Smyrna will bring that policy to an issue.

Ninety per cent. of the population is Arab, and the Arabs are Mohammedans. Is it realized at home how closely the peoples of the Moslem world are in touch with each other? Whatever may be said of the efficacy of a Zionist "home" in any part of the world, Palestine is not the place for it.

Then there is the question of the Arab community under the King of the Hedjaz (on the east coast of the Red Sea). The Turks may have something to say on that point. The King of the Hedjaz has never been recognized by the Caliph; and there is, in the Moslem world, that mystical

reverence—partly racial, partly religious—for the Caliph, which has always reposed in the Sultan.

That question will have to be dealt with; though there is no reason why we should try to depose the King of the Hedjaz, who rendered us very signal service during the war and assisted materially in defeating the Turks.

We are bound to maintain him if we possibly can.

"WITH ONE VOICE."

Again, will India remain unaffected by the triumph of the Turks?

Many of our troubles in India have been a kind of backwater of what has been taking place in other areas.

It is no good saying the disaffection there is a thing faked-up by agitators. Agitators do play their part, but the foundation of the trouble is not created by them.

I believe we can keep India in a state of contentment more easily by not occupying Mesopotamia. If at the same time we alter that policy outside India—which is causing the unrest within it.

I would not say this position in the East is hopeless. It is very serious, and has been made "an even worse" by a policy which has either been one of "drift" or, when active, has been utterly wrong.

We have got to go into this serious new position with two big facts in our mind:—

1. That we are a great Moslem Power and must work in harmony with those other Powers which count in the Moslem world; and
2. That the financial position at home is serious. The Allies must speak with one voice.

If they aim at a reasonable, broad-minded and generous settlement, it will be difficult for the Turks, even now, to resist them.

If the Allies talk in different voices, and in conflict with one another, there will be trouble.

To make delicious pineapple and raspberry hors d'oeuvres, use large canned pineapples, serving one slice to each guest. After cutting slices with a scalloped cake cutter, fill cavity with chilled sugared raspberries.

ECZEMA
You are an experimenter. You want to know what the best remedy is for Eczema and Skin Irritation. It relieves at once and gradually heals the skin. Sample box by Dr. Chase's Ointment free if you mention the name and send no money for postage. Dr. Chase's Ointment is sold by all druggists or by direct mail to the publisher, Dr. Chase, 100 N. 3rd St., St. Paul, Minn.

Blew Top of His Head Off.

FORMER MANAGER OF THE ROYAL BANK AT YARMOUTH TAKES HIS OWN LIFE AT NASONWORTH, N.S.

Fredericton, N.B., Sept. 26.—Frank Chute, formerly Manager of the Royal Bank of Canada at Yarmouth, N.S., but who had been suffering for some time from a severe nervous breakdown and had recently been released from a sanatorium, committed suicide late yesterday afternoon by blowing the top of his head off with a high-powered hunting rifle at Nasonworth, York county.

He had been staying at Mrs. John E. Morgan's home on a farm there following his return from an institution in Ontario in the hope that a restful change at a quiet place would have a beneficial effect upon his condition. When last seen alive, he was sitting in the house about 8 o'clock

yesterday afternoon playing cards, having been in the habit of spending much of his time at solitaire. Mrs. Morgan went to a neighbor's house and her son also left the place for the time.

Apparently Mr. Chute took a high-powered rifle, which was one of three guns in the house and went out to a clump of bushes alongside a fence nearby, put the end of the barrel of the rifle to his head and pulled the trigger, blowing the top of his head off.

He was 49 years of age and leaves a widow and three children. He left the Bank about a year ago.

A good plain cake is often the foundation of a delicious dessert. Here is an excellent recipe for such a cake: Mix in order, 1 pound fat, 5 cups sugar, 1 dozen eggs, 4 cups milk, 2½ pounds flour, 6 tablespoons baking powder, and 1 tablespoon vanilla. Bake in a sheet in a moderate oven for 1½ hours.

Eat MRS. STEWART'S Home Made Bread.—aprd,ame

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