

# THE TROUBLE IN THE BALKANS



R. W. T. STEAD made the following statement to a Central News representative on the Balkan situation:

"My own view," he said, "has always been the same—that the key to the peaceful solution of every Eastern question has always lain in the cordial co-operation of England and Russia. If England and Russia will work together hand in glove they will be able to pull the thing through. If they don't, they won't. Hence, so far from regarding the arrangement between Sir Edward Grey and M. Isvolsky with distrust, I think it is the sheet anchor of the situation. I think it is certain that there will be an insurrection in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which of course will excite sympathy both in Serbia and Montenegro, and through them in Russia. But I do not believe it will bring about a general blaze, and for this reason the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is regarded by the Pan-Slav party in Russia as definitely sealing the doom of Austria-Hungary as it exists at present. M. Novikoff, who is Ambassador at Vienna, always defended the Berlin treaty on the ground that by handing over Bosnia and Herzegovina to Austria it rendered inevitable the transformation of that artificial German-Magyar empire-kingdom into a Slavonic federation. Austria-Hungary will probably quarrel as to whom the provinces should belong. The probability is, however, that Austria-Hungary will hold together until the Emperor dies. After that the deluge. With regard to the Bulgarian question, the Bulgarians have already got their independence. They would not get Macedonia even if they went to war. They have got their railway, and the only question about the railway is as to how much they will have to pay for it. The Bulgarians and the men in command at Constantinople are much too shrewd to risk the immeasurable possibilities of war merely on a quarrel about the railway. Patience is the great thing. Let the other Powers use their moral authority to induce the disputants to resort to the

peace-making machinery of The Hague before appealing to the sword."

## The Treaty of Berlin

The position of Bulgaria proper, of Eastern Rumelia, and of the Occupied Provinces is defined in the following articles of the Treaty of Berlin:

### BULGARIA

Article I. constitutes Bulgaria an "autonomous and tributary principality under the suzerainty of his Imperial Majesty the Sultan."

Article II. delimits the geographical frontiers of the principality.

Article III. enacts that "the Prince of Bulgaria shall be freely elected by the population and confirmed by the Sublime Porte with the consent of the Powers." No member of a reigning dynasty amongst the Great European Powers is to be elected Prince of Bulgaria.

Article IX. provides that the amount of the annual tribute payable to Turkey by Bulgaria shall be decided by an agreement between the Powers signatory of the Treaty, to be settled at the end of the first year of government under the new regime. The Powers are at the same time to determine what portion of the Turkish Public Debt should equitably be borne by Bulgaria.

Article X. transfers to Bulgaria the charges and liabilities undertaken by the Turkish Government in regard to the Rustchuk-Varna railway, as also its engagements with Austria-Hungary and the railway company for the development of the Turkish railways, in so far as these may be affected by the development of railways on Bulgarian territory.

### EASTERN RUMELIA

Article XIII. constitutes a province south of the Balkans "which shall take the name of Eastern Rumelia, and which shall remain subject to the direct political and military authority of his Imperial Majesty the Sultan, while retaining administrative autonomy."

Article XIV. delimits the geographical frontiers of the new province.

Article XV. secures to the Sultan the right of providing for the defence of the province. Domestic order is to be maintained by a native police force assisted by a native militia, of which the Sultan is to appoint the officers.

Article XVI. enables the Governor-General of the province to call in Ottoman troops if its internal order or its security is threatened.

Article XVII. provides that the Governor-General shall be appointed by the Porte, with the consent of the Powers, for a term of five years.

### THE OCCUPIED PROVINCES

Article XXV. provides that "the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be occupied and administered by Austria-Hungary." Turkish administration is to continue in the Sanjak of Novi Bazar, but Austria-Hungary reserves the right to garrison it and maintain military and commercial roads.

### THE AUSTRIAN SECRET AGREEMENT

The terms of this article were so unsatisfactory to the Turkish plenipotentiaries at the original negotiations upon the Treaty at Berlin in 1878 that they were only induced to give their consent by receiving an undertaking from the Austrian delegates, which was not to be divulged by the Turkish Government.

### THE CONFERENCE OF 1886

The position of Eastern Rumelia was altered by an agreement signed by the representatives of Great Britain, France, Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, and Turkey, at Constantinople, on April 5, 1886.

Article I. of that agreement provided that the office of Governor-General of the province, created by Article XVII. of the Treaty of Berlin, should be vested in the Prince of Bulgaria.

Article II. reserved certain Mussulman villages to the Turkish Government.

Article III. provided for the appointment of a Commission by the Sublime Porte and the Prince of Bulgaria to suggest any necessary modifications in the Organic Statute of the province and to safeguard the interests of the Turkish Treasury.

### THE BULGARIAN AND RUMELIAN TRIBUTE

It should be added that Bulgaria has never paid the tribute due to Turkey under Article IX. of the Treaty of Berlin, nor borne any share of the Ottoman Debt. Eastern Rumelia has paid some tribute and some share of interest on the Debt under Clause III. of the Agreement of 1886, but with extreme irregularity.



"HE PUT IN HIS THUMB"

—Punch.

Shade of Prinse Bismarck (to little Franz-Josef Horner). "HULLO, MY BOY! BREAKING THE PIE CRUST I HELPED TO BAKE? WELL, WELL; AFTER ALL, THEY'RE MADE TO BE BROKEN, AND I'VE DONE A BIT IN THAT WAY MYSELF."