The End of the Danube Commission in Sight

It had survived all the wars in the Balkans—Now International Commission seems doomed to disappear—Changes after the Crimean War—Was for temporary object, but it survived.

Paris, March 13.—In the century that has passed since the Napoleonic wars, several attempts have been made to withdraw danger points from partisan national control and place them under the safeguard of international co-operation. This was to be at once extra-national and supra-national. The oldest example of this is the European Commission of the Danube. It has its seat at Galatz in Rumania, and is composed of diplomatic representatives of European nations concerned. These, within their particular scope, exercise legislative, executive, administrative, and judicial powers. It is thus an international body exercising delegated powers of a sovereign state—and it exercises these powers in the territory of a completely independent state.

Rumania is willing for it has twice officialy celebrated the institution, once in 1894, and once—for the fiftieth anniversary of the final organization—in 1906. It is one of the curiosities of diplomatic history, unique of its kind. It has survived all the wars in the Balkans. No matter how the present war turns, it seems difficult that it should continue working. It is worth looking at before it vanishes for good.

Freedom of navigation in the Danube was proclaimed by the Treaty of Vienna in 1815—and a half century was taken up with intrigues to determine which great power should preside over the international work necessary for removing material obstacles. There were bars at the mouth of the great river. Turkey on one bank was too weak to do anything; and Russia on the other was strong enough to prevent anything being done. All Austria's efforts to secure an open route, of which she should have the upper hand, failed, owing to the steady opposition of England and France.

After the Crimean War.

Then the Crimean War came, in which Russia was vanquished. Negotiations were begun at Vienna once more, with France, England, and Turkey as victors. The Danube was discussed from every side; and it was decided to cut out the difficulty in the way of free navigation by the roots, if that can be said of the international opening of a river's mouth. Russia's Danube bank was taken from her and annexed to Moldavia, which was then under Turkey. This was called rectifying the frontier.

Next, this European Commission for the free navigation of the Danube was instituted by the sixteenth article of the Treaty of Paris in 1856. It was made up of representatives of Austria and Turkey—the Powers in possession of the river's course, of England and France, and of Sardinia, which had been one of the Allies in the Crimean War and was soon to develop into the kingdom of Italy. This Commission was for a temporary object—to clear the river for navigation—and it was to give way to some permanent international combination. In diplomacy, as has often been said, nothing endures like the temporary—and the European Commission has outlasted all wars along the Danube's banks. It was last renewed by general agreement in 1913 for the services it has continued to render. Now it waits to see what this war will leave of it.

It began by a set of navigation regulations in 1857. In 1865 its powers were prolonged for fear of creating international difficulties if any change were attempted. The Treaty of London in 1871, the Treaty of Berlin after the great Russo-Turkish war in 1878, and the London Conference of 1883, all kept on prolonging its international extra-national, supra-national sovereign powers. Since 1904, it has been agreed that they shall renew themselves automatcially every three years—until some one speaks to the contrary.

Original Powers Restricted.

The present term will end in 1916—next year—when it is very likely that the Powers which settle up this war may have something to say about the Danube and its navigation and the states which now possess its banks. Before 1878, Roumania had succeeded to Turkey in Moldavia, and, in that year's treaty, Russia forced Roumania to cede back to her the bank which had been taken from her in 1857. Meanwhile, also, Servia and Bulgaria have come into existence along the blue Danube—it is really jade green—and Turkey no longer touches the disputed river.

The original powers of the commission have been restricted. Roumania would have nothing to do with the commission in 1883; and Russia would not recognize its authority over the bank which it had recovered at the mouth. So its powers finally have been limited above Galatz to Brahiloy and below to where Russia and Roumania face each other across the river. There are still other international complications to be settled, for in 1883 Turkey was still allowed to represent the interests of Greece, Servia and Bulgaria, each of these having only a consulting voice. That will certainly never do when this war is over.

In sum, the commission lately had had a very short stretch of navigation to regulate; but the questions raised are knotty and delicate, like all questions where differing national interests are at stake. The commission meets solemnly twice a year and this formal meeting is preceded by informal conferences. Any important decision becomes final only when ratified at the meeting following that which voted it.

Scope of the Commission.

Besides general regulations, the Commission establishes the taxes to be levied on vessels and directs the considerable dredging work and channel and bank protection, with the side canals. It names and revokes agents, and has a pilot service and lighthouses. If not a palace, it has at least a pavilion of its own, with other property—for it is an international person—and by the treaty act of 1885 it has its neutrality guaranteed! Its balance-sheet has a turnover of $400,000; and its loan made in 1886 was guaranteed by all the Powers except Russia. England even bound herself to make up the deficit if the annual taxes should not be sufficient to furnish a sinking fund. The Commission's administrative agents judge all complaints in first instance; and the entire Commission serves as a final court of appeals. To enforce the sentences, the Powers keep police-ships at the Commission service in the Black Sea.

Great trouble arose for a time in this singular Commission on account of the part of the Danube which flows from the Iron Gates down to Brahilov. This is divided among Servia, Rumania and Bulgaria—yet only Hungarian boats from still higher up actually used the river. Our Commission was charged by the Berlin Treaty with regulating this traffic, and its sovereign power failed. A mixed Commission was proposed, but Rumania would not agree, and nothing was done. So the Commission has gone on working along its own little stretch of the river. This is now threatened with being drawn into the war. What will become of the Commission and its sovereign powers?

Of other international combinations of these later years, Albania has already disappeared, guarantees and all. Tangier, in practice, has eliminated half of the Powers as a necessity of belligerents. Next it may be the turn of Constantinople; and even if a shadow of Turkey should survive in Europe, the Ottoman debt, with all its ramifications, will need international revision. And the mixed tribunals of Egypt are already packing to go.—S. D. in New York Evening Post.

NOT DECIDED ON MOVE U.S. GOV'T WILL MAKE

In the case of American citizen who lost life on British steamer torpedoed by Germans.

Washington, April 1.—United States Ambassador Page, at London, had not reported today the death of Leon C. Thresher, an American lost in the sinking by a German submarine of the British steamer Falaba, but President Wilson and State Department officials were studying the case to determine whether the United States should bring the incident formally to the attention of the German government.

At the time the American note was sent to Germany on the submarine blockade, stating that the United States would hold the German government to a "strict accountability" in the event of the destruction of neutral ships "or the loss of American lives," the language of the communication, officials said, permitted a broad construction covering the loss of American citizens travelling aboard belligerent vessels.

ELECTED OFFICERS

Newcastle, April 1—Caledonia Division No. 126 Sons of Temperance, Douglastown, elected the following officers Tuesday night:

W. P., H. T. Atkinson; W. A., Willis McKenzie; chap., Rev. Alex. Firth; R. S., Graham McKnight; A. R. S., David Qukles; F. S., Harry Anderson; treas., H. T. Atkinson; cor.-sec., Miss Annie Alexander; A. C., Miss Belle Bransfield; I. S., Miss Eliza Simpson; O. S., Kendall Wood; S. Y. P. W., Clair McKenzie; P. W. P., Wm. Branselfid.

Caledonia Band of Hope elected following: Pres., Mrs. H. T. Atkinson; V. P., Mary Hutchinson; sec., Clarissa Firth; A. S., Stewart Geikie; treas., Johnston Geikie; F. S., Burton Anderson; guide, Clyde Gulliver; conductor, Mamie Mullen; sentinel, Wm. Sickles; organist, Mamie Mullin.

HAD ROUGH TIME.

Steamer Sandsend (Br), 55 days from Naples via Bermuda, reports a continuous battle against hurricanes. All the available woodwork and furniture had to be burned for fuel before the ship made Bermuda.

CHINA MAKES FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO JAPAN

Offers to Waive Entirely Question of Chinese Jurisdiction Over Jap Immigrants to South Manchuria, except in Cases involving Land Ownership — Contents of American Government's Note on Tokio's Demands Made Public.

Peking, April 1.—The negotiations between China and Japan, looking to the acceptance by the republic of the demands presented by Tokio shortly after the Japanese occupation of Kiso Chow, were again saved from disaster today by the fact that the Chinese statesmen made further concessions to Japan. The Chinese offered to waive entirely the question of Chinese jurisdiction over Japanese immigrants to South Manchuria, except in cases involving land ownership. M. Hioki, the Japanese minister, undertook to submit this proposal to Tokio.

The question of the jurisdiction of the Hanyehping Mining Company was not re-opened today.

Articles two, three, four and five of group five were presented without any offer of modification by Japan. (These articles provide for the ownership of land by Japan in the interior of China, for the employment of Japanese policemen on certain designated Chinese police forces, that China purchase munitions of war from Japan, and that China grant Japan certain railroad concessions in the eastern portion of the central part of the republic.)

The Japanese advanced the argument that they wished to unify the system of arms now used throughout China, which today is made up of a medley of innumerable patterns. They said also that China would benefit by an increased number of schools and hospitals (as provided for in article two), and that they were only asking privileges which other nations now enjoy.

United States' View of Tokio's Demands.

Tokio, March 27.—The American government note, recently forwarded to Tokio, concerning the negotiations now in progress between the Japanese and Chinese governments, dwelt lengthily and in particular, according to reliable information, on three points in the demands made by Japan on China.

Of these three points the first concerned the selection of foreign advisers by China; the second was in regard to the purchase of munitions of war by the Chinese government, and the third dealt with the question of foreign loans.

The Washington government, it is understood, submitted that if Japan insisted on the right to be consulted by China in he selection of foreign advisers it might be a violation of the sovereignty of China.

It is further contended that if Japan insisted on the purchase by China of munitions of war in Japan and insisted that she be consulted with regard to certain loans in the province of Fukien, in South Manchria and in Eastern Mongolia, this course might be a violation of the principle of equal opportunity, stipulated in the agreement reached between Baron Takahira, when he was minister to the United States, and Elihu Root, at the time Secretary of State. That agreement provides for maintaining the independence and integrity of China, and the equality of commercial opportunity in that country.

Less kneading with Five Roses — less exertion.
Yours the smooth, uniform dough—the live springy dough that snaps and crackles happily.

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As a means of healing sores and wounds that defy ordinary treatment Dr. Chase's Ointment has long stood supreme. It is known far and wide as a positive cure for eczema and piles. Whatever uncertainty there may be about the results obtained by the use of medicines taken internally there can be no question of the healing of the skin when Dr. Chase's Ointment is applied.

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You can actually see with your own eyes just what takes place. The sore parts are cleansed, and gradually the new skin is formed and the sore becomes smaller and smaller, until it finally disappears. It is often wonderful the results which are accomplished in a single night by the use of this great healing ointment.

Mr. N. A. Heath, J.P., Fitch Bay, Que., writes:—"Nine years ago I was taken with an abcess, and cannot begin to describe what I have suffered as a result. I was examined by two doctors, both of whom said I would have to undergo an operation to be cured. Thanks to Dr. Chase's Ointment, it has rendered an operation unnecessary, and has completely cured me. I cannot say enough in praise of this wonderful ointment which cured me after nine years of agony."

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The Art of Dirt Chasing

Too soon the sordid side of life—the dust and grime and soot and strife—each one, in turn, reminded her, that little problems must occur. A part of thrift is in the knack of fighting dirt around you, back; of keeping constantly at work where dust and germs of illness lurk.

This housewife had her little cry, gave up—and scarcely knowing why. Then, from the sombre clouds of doubt, two rays of golden hope crept out. The Gold Dust Twins threw wide the door and entered, eager for a chore. They polished all the silverware, they scrubbed the bathroom and the stair. Each mirror soon was shining bright, the kettles shone with gleaming light, and all around, from pit to dome, they garnished up that little home.

Another National Campaign: "Swat the Dirt."

Ah! Ye who feel that, once begun, a housewife's work is NEVER done, have cheer! The Gold Dust Twins make play of any task that comes their way. A mop—a cloth—a busy brush, and honestly it makes us blush, to think we ever played the drone by working in the house alone.

The Gold Dust Twins

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