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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, April 28th, 1877.

MILITARY AND NAVAL ARMAMENTS OF RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

The question of Russia's warlike power for offensive purposes is, at the present time, one of paramount interest to Europe and the world; it is also one to which various answers have been given, some of which are of a character to still further endanger public tranquility. It may then be not ill-timed to consider a few facts and figures, worked up in no spirit of bias, and authenticated from the most reliable sources. First, let it be stated, simple as it may appear, that it is no easy matter to arrive at a correct solution of Russia's numerical war strength. Military authorities hold opinions somewhat wide, according as they rely chiefly on official, though not necessarily correct, figures, or personal knowledge and experience in the country. Before entering further on the subject, a few words are necessary on the population and army organization, as having a direct bearing on the fighting strength.

The total population of Russia in Europe and Asia is estimated at 82,000,000; the number of men of suitable age or military service at 6,000,000, from which may be deducted the usual one-third for physical incapacity, which leaves 4,000,000 as the available number for the various branches of the army and navy.

The re-organization of the army, which was inaugurated in 1874, is as yet incomplete. Were that system complete, it is calculated to furnish a total force in time of war of 2,000,000 men, making up the Field Army, 1st Reserves, 2nd Reserves and Irregulars. In addition to this, it is proposed to form a Landwehr, estimated at 1,500,000, which would give a grand total of 3,500,000, or nearly the entirety of the population eligible for military service.

Without entering into details and discussing the many pros and cons by which the effective strength of each branch of the service is arrived at, it may be stated that the best available statistics, compiled with personal knowledge, lead to the adoption of the following figures, as representing the actual forces at the disposal of the Russian government, namely:

Field Army.....	872,000
Reserve.....	216,000
Local Forces.....	150,000

making a total of.....1,238,000 men.

Allowing, then, for the army organization being in a state of transition, and for other causes, the figures above quoted may be considered as the fighting strength which can be raised and sustained for war purposes. For offensive operations these figures must be reduced to much smaller dimensions.

The various races comprising the Russian Empire are by no means so devoted to imperial interest that they can be trusted without strong garrisons to watch over them. Of these races it is sufficient to mention the names of the Toles, the Caucasians, the Turcomans. The long Siberian frontier also requires, at all times, to hold in check the lawless tribes of the Black Sea, exposed to the attacks of the Turkish fleet, would still further reduce the available troops in the field. When all these have been provided for, together with garrisons for the Baltic and Central provinces, and a probable army of observation on the Austrian frontier, about 400,000 or 450,000 only would remain to act offensively in the European and Asiatic territories of Turkey.

Turkey on the other hand, with her variously estimated population, and in spite of her inferior organization, can probably put forces in the field equal to her Muscovite enemy. When once the standard of a religious war—for this it is considered by Mohammedans—is raised, men and money shall flock in from all Mussulman countries. Interior disturbances among the outlying Provinces of Turkey may be expected, but if unaided by other nations, they are but isolated insurrectionary movements, incapable of mutual aid and co-operation, and easily held in check by comparatively small forces. One hundred and fifty thousand men judiciously distributed, are ample to hold in check any attempts at insurrection in the Turkish dominions. The armies of Turkey, not long after the commencement of war, with her co-religionists flocking to her standard, may easily be expected to number 600,000 men; she can, therefore, face her Russian foe on a footing of numerical equality, whilst in quality Mohammedan fanaticism renders them individually superior. Should the period of warfare long be drawn out, the large numerical superiority of the Empire of the Czar would give advantages not possessed by Turkey to keep up the strength of the combatants.

Financially, both countries are in difficulties; both, however, possess resources of vast extent, and war once engaged in, individual sacrifices would on both sides largely supplement the public coffers. This much respecting the army; now let the navy occupy a small space.

The Russian navy comprises about 175 steam vessels, carrying some 1530 guns of all sizes. Of these vessels 29 compose the ironclad fleet, carrying 143 guns. Thirteen of these ironclads are, however, only for coast defence, and carry two or four eight or nine inch guns. Of the sea-going ironclads two are circulars, or "Popoffs," one carrying two eleven inch, the other two twelve inch or 40 ton guns; six turret ships carry four or six guns of nine, eleven or twelve inches; eight other ships carry each one eight inch guns, but are for the most part armed with eighty pounders.

The Turkish navy consists of 165 vessels, of which 72 are steamers and 20 ironclads, and she is, or should be, more than a match for the Russian Black Sea fleet.

In view, for the most part, of the absence of railways on or near the probable battle-fields of both countries, it must not be expected that important results can be speedily obtained by either combatant. With both Russia and Turkey, rapidity of movement is impossible for either men or munitions, and the tactical disposition and movements of the respective armies will be largely influenced by the exigencies of the commissariat and military supply departments.

Where the victory may finally rest is a problem yet to be solved, but looking at

the prospective merits of the combatants as such, it may be predicted that the fortunes of war will vary. That the carnage will be great is certain, for each combatant is imbued with a deadly enmity to his foe, and will neither receive nor ask for mercy. Again the armies of either or both countries may be traummelled to an unforeseen extent by outbreaks of revolt and insurrection in other parts of their respective empires, and such causes may go far to turn the scale and render success impossible.

How long Europe will watch passively the deadly duel none can foresee, but mighty interests are at stake. Should Turkey be victorious, Russia would be humbled in the face of Europe; and should internal reforms keep pace with victory, Turkey would obtain a new lease of power in Europe and enjoy a footing of stability such as long since has ceased to be her lot. Should Russia, on the other hand, be victorious, her victorious arms must be stayed. Russia on the Bosphorus and holding the Dardanelles would be a threat to England and to Europe, and only the greatest forbearance of Russia in the hour of victory could avert from Europe complications long dreaded and prepared for, though in ignorance of the hydra-headed form they may assume.

The eyes of the world last watched the armies of Russia battling with the Turks on the banks of the Danube with varied results; opposing a stubborn resistance at Sebastopol to the united armies of two great European powers; repelling a Turkish invasion on the Black Sea shores of the Caucasus, and besieging the Mussulmen in the fortress of Kars. Since those days vast and important changes have taken place in the armies of both belligerents. Flint-lock muskets, which then were, with small exception, the weapon of the Muscovite and Ottoman soldier, have long since given way to the percussion, and that again to the deadly breech-loader. The training and discipline of the soldier has improved side by side with his weapon, while field artillery and siege guns have progressed alike.

By sea, the introduction of ironclads, rams and torpedoes has revolutionized naval warfare, which under these new conditions is as yet practically untried. The duel between guns and armor-plating has been experimentally determined in favor of the former, but the result under the varied conditions of stern reality remains to be ascertained.

Winter has now raised her mantle and removed the natural difficulties to an advance of the Russian army, and the crossing of the Pruth is as the raising of curtain on that awful tragedy often before acted, but with ever shifting scenes. On the Danube and at Kars again will blood flow freely, but nowhere will public interest be more concentrated than on the naval tactics in the Euxine.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE, KINGSTON.

We this week present to our readers a view of Queen's University and College, Kingston, Ont., which stands in the foremost rank among the educational institutions of the American continent. In the years immediately preceding 1841, when the Royal Charter for the College was obtained, many (some of whom have since been removed by death) took an active part in its foundation. Among others we may mention the first Principal, Rev. THOMAS LINDELL, D.D., and Professors Rev. PETER C. CAMPBELL (afterwards principal of Aberdeen University, Scotland), Rev. JAMES WILLIAMSON, L.L.D., Rev. JOHN B. MOWATT, M.A., whose names have become honored throughout the land. In the institution, which by many labors, in the face of formidable obstacles, they assisted in bringing into existence, they have erected a monument which, we hope, is destined to suggest to succeeding generations a becoming appreciation of their beneficent services. Such of the surviving founders as still reside in Canada and still adhere to Presbyterianism

are now, after thirty-two years of ecclesiastical separation, again united, we trust happily, in one section of the visible Church, and there is no doubt that Queen's College, under the united patronage of all Presbyterians, will prove a useful auxiliary in advancing the best educational interests of the Dominion.

The College is beautifully situated and commands an extensive view of the surrounding country and Lake Ontario. The internal arrangements of the building are very complete and furnished in the most approved style, combining all the advantages requisite for class and lecture rooms. Portions of the building are set apart for the use of the resident professors and their families. The institution having been founded by the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, the great majority of students are of that religious persuasion, although we believe all Protestant denominations have access to its privileges.

The following is a list of the faculty: Very Rev. WILLIAM SNODGRASS, D.D., Principal; Rev. JAMES WILLIAMSON, M.A., L.L.D., Vice-Principal; Rev. JOHN B. MOWATT, M.A., Professor of Oriental Languages, Biblical Criticism and Church History; Rev. JOHN H. McKERRAS, M.A., Professor of Classical Literature; NATHAN F. DUPUIS, M. A., F. B. S., Edinburgh, Professor of Chemistry and Natural History; Rev. GEO. D. FERGUSON, B.A., Professor of History and English Literature, and Lecturer on Modern Languages; JOHN WATSON, M.A., Professor of Logic, Metaphysics and Ethics; Secretary and Registrar, Prof. MOWATT; Examiner for Matriculation in Medicine, SAMUEL WOOD, Esq., M.A. The Principal is Primarius Professor of Divinity, and the Vice-Principal, Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. The number of gentlemen who have graduated at the Queen's College since its foundation is five hundred and fifty. The annual number of students is eighty-five. The endowments are very liberal, and each year the scholarships are increased through the liberality of graduates and other friends.

There is a magnificent collection of books numbering 11,000, and valued at \$25,000, and also a very valuable collection of curiosities in the museum; but, unfortunately, these treasures have to be packed away in a great measure for want of room. A library and museum building is about all that the college needs now to render it one of the most complete educational establishments in the world. We hope some of our wealthy readers will take the note of this want and see that it is supplied. The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kingston, was affiliated to the University in 1867, and the following is the teaching staff:

JOHN R. DICKSON, M.D., M.R.C.S.E., and F.R.C.S., Edinburgh, President, Professor of Clinical Surgery; FIFE FOWLER, M.D., L.R.C.S., Edinburgh, Registrar, Professor of Materia Medica; K. N. FENWICK, M.D., M.A., Professor of the Practice and Principles of Medicine, Lecturer on Clinical Medicine; M. LAVELL, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children; M. SULLIVAN, M.D., Professor of Surgery and Surgical Anatomy; NATHAN F. DUPUIS, M.A., F.B.S., Edinburgh, Professor of Botany and Chemistry; T. R. DUPUIS, M.D., Professor of Descriptive Regional Anatomy; ALFRED S. OLIVER, M.D., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine and Sanitary Science.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

OPENING OF THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT.—Our illustrations show the scene in the magnificent Throne Hall of the Imperial Palace during the reading of the Sultan's speech at the opening of the new Turkish Parliament on the 19th ult. The Sultan stands in front of the throne. It is shaped rather like a sofa, and is constructed of the finest woods plated with thick gold, in which are set many glittering jewels; the seat has a cushion of black velvet, with rich arabesque embroidery. A small carpet of silk, fringed with gold, is spread in front of the throne. Abdul Hamid is simply attired in an ordinary Turkish overcoat, dark blue, with black trousers, mil-