

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1920

SHEIK AND PARTY COME SEEKING TURKISH HEIRESS

Beautiful Sari Disappeared
From Stamboul Just After
Armistice—Father Died of
Grief.

New York, March 11—Ben Mahomet, a sheik of Arabia and brother of the Amir of Hedjase, has come to New York in search for Sari, a young Turkish heiress, who disappeared about the time of the armistice. The girl, he says,



was his brother's fiancee, and the daughter of Hadahismo, one of the richest men in Turkey, who died from grief

over her disappearance, leaving her about \$100,000,000. Somewhere in America, Ben Mahomet said tonight at the Hotel Majestic, where he arrived today, he expects to find the girl. She was last seen talking to an American soldier or sailor, soon after an American warship had docked at Constantinople. Money will be no object in the quest, Ben Mahomet declared. Surrounded by his retinue of servants and six of his fellow countrymen who have accompanied him on his mission, the sheik received a Gazette reporter tonight at the Hotel Majestic and told him the story of the girl's disappearance and the world-wide search for her that followed. He spoke at first in fluent French, but later broke into English, which, he said, he learned while he was a student in Cambridge, England, but which, he added, apologetically, he had forgotten these many years. Sari is 17 years old. She was known throughout Turkey for her beauty and her charity, aside from the fact that her father was, as Ben Mahomet explained, "like Rockefeller in America." Hadahismo's name the sheik spoke of almost reverently, describing him as "the biggest man in Turkey." She lived with



her father in a big palace in Stamboul. Since her mother died, the sheik said, the girl had become accustomed to go about the city unveiled. She visited all the quarters of the city in her charitable work and there was no one who believed that she would not be safe anywhere, so great was the people's love for her. They knew, too, that she was betrothed to the Amir of Hedjase, who, though a young man of 25, has a name to conjure with in Stamboul.

Lost After Armistice. It was soon after the armistice—Ben Mahomet could not fix the date according to our calendar—when Sari disappeared. She had been about Stamboul that day, where many persons later said they saw her, but suddenly she dropped out of sight. When she did not return home, her father became frantic and put every means at his disposal to work on the search. The city was combed, but no trace was found of her. There were conflicting stories about the place where Sari was last seen. Stamboul at the time was filled with soldiers and sailors of many strange lands. An American warship, the sheik said, had arrived there, and Sari's nurse had spoken about seeing her talking to an American. He did not know whether it was a soldier or a sailor. When it was felt certain that Sari had left Stamboul, either voluntarily or with an abductor, the Amir asked his brother to go in search of her. He took with him six friends, all prominent in Stamboul, and sailed for France. They went all over France and into Italy, and when they found no trace of the girl they went to Gibraltar and Tangiers, from there sailing for America. Landing at Halifax they hurried on to New York, where a suite had been reserved for them at the Majestic. Ben Mahomet said that he would not take up officially the matter of the girl's disappearance, for the present at least. He had been in connection with the Burns and O'Farrell detective agencies, and a private search will be started. He said that he would offer a large reward. Should the detectives fail in their search, Ben Mahomet said, he will go to the government at Washington and ask them to help him. It was said that he might try to trace the American soldier or sailor with whom the girl talked, through the war and navy department, learning what ships or detachments of the army were in Stamboul about the time Sari was missed. "We will offer a big reward," he said. "Sari has a big fortune, and unless she is found it will all go to the state. We shall probably stay in New York until the search is started."

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MURDER IN A BRAWL

Two Prisoners and Six Witnesses Brought to Court.

Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., March 12.—Coming down with two prisoners and six witnesses in murder case, was the message received by Magistrate J. T. Mackay from Provincial Constable C. Jordan, who has been up the line of the Algoma Central Railway investigating the death of a Finlander at Gaudette's camp at Mile 154.

According to reports that have come it occurred through a drunken brawl that took place there when a quantity of moonshine whiskey was consumed, with the result that one man was found the next morning to be badly chopped up with an axe.

As the camp is some distance from the railway, communication with that point is very difficult at present.

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