

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FORCING THE DARDENELLES

Action of Allied Fleet in bombarding forts cited to indicate change coming over Europe with reference to Russia achieving her longed-for objective.

London, March 29.—The recent action of the allied fleets in the Aegean in bombarding the famous forts of Cape Helles and Kum Kale at the mouth of the Dardanelles, with the obvious intention of forcing the passage, is in many ways one of the most significant events in the present struggle. The question of the Dardanelles has now for well over a hundred years been the stock question in the diplomacy of eastern Europe. A hundred questions have turned on it and its diplomatic correlation, the possession of the great city on the shores of the Bosphorus. If the history of diplomacy were ever written, it would be a matter of no small interest to discover how many high political conversations up and down Europe, during the past half century, have concluded with the remark "But then, of course, there is Constantinople."

As to the Dardanelles, until recently, the opinion of the powers has on few questions been so unanimous. With an uneasy glance at Russia, Europe has long declared the path to the open sea closed to the Black sea fleet, and any attempt on the part of Russia to secure from the Porte any relief in this regard has always been sufficient to bring all Europe to its feet. It is with the quiet evidence of intention of seeing that Turkey did nothing of the kind. Within the last few years, however, a notable change has been coming over a very large section of international opinion in this regard.

Three Years Ago.

Until some three years ago, Russia's most dogmatic opponent in any attempt to secure an easier position for herself was Great Britain. With the conclusion of the Anglo-Russian convention, however, in 1907, it was almost inevitable that on many points of difference both countries should change their views. This proved to be the case and notably so in the great matter of the Dardanelles. It first took definite shape in the closing weeks of 1911. At that time, in consequence of the threatened Italian blockade of the mouth of the straits, Russia once again raised the question, and through her ambassador at Constantinople, urged that the Russian Black Sea squadron should be granted free passage of the Dardanelles in time of peace, basing her request on article 11 of the treaty of London.

Those who looked for the usual storm of indignation from every corner of the Ottoman empire to entertain for a moment the Russian advance, looked in vain. On the contrary, at that time there came the news of a large body of Turkish, and especially Young Turkish opinion which aimed at a Russo-Turkish understanding, expressing itself strongly in favor of the proposal. Hilmi Pasha expressed his pleasure at the decided improvement in Russo-Turkish relations. As usual the wildest rumors obtained credence. Those who knew the true situation dismissed them. There was, however, a world of significance in the manner of their acceptance, when they were accepted. None of them were wild enough to arouse the customary storm of opposition which, but a short time before, had been all too easily aroused at the first hint of a Russian move in this direction so greatly desired.

Balkan Wars.

The course of events in this connection in the past had always followed a monotonous regularity. First of all there would come the "incident" affording to Russia an obvious opportunity to reopen the question; then would follow the equally obvious action of Russia taking advantage of this opportunity; then the storm of indignation from the embassies; the great flood of excuses, as Lord Curzon would have styled it from the inexhaustible reservoir on the banks of the Nile; and finally, the withdrawal of Russia. In this case Russia withdrew, it is true, but not as the result of a protest from the other powers, but simply as a matter of policy and in complete friendliness with all concerned.

Six months later the Dardanelles question was raised once again by the bombardment by the Italian fleet of the forts at the mouth of the strait. Once again the great question was debated throughout Europe, and once again it was, as so often before, banked down. During the Balkan wars, when the Bulgarian army had reached the Chatalja lines, and the question of the possession of Constantinople became a matter of great debate, the Dardanelles question was once again raised. In spite of the fact, however, that almost every month during these troublous times afforded opportunities to Russia to raise the whole issue once again, it was not raised officially by Petrograd, and it was not until the meeting of the Tsar and King Carol at Constantia last June that the question became the subject of serious debate. Even then it was much more than usually the case merely a press campaign. Officially it was recognized that such a great question as the Dardanelles could not be decided by any agreement between two powers, but was a matter for the concerted action of all the powers concerned.

At the present moment the whole question, as already stated, has been brought within the sphere of practical debate by the action of the Allies, and here and there statements are beginning to show quite openly their readiness to regard Russia's claims, not only for free passage of her ships of war through the Dardanelles but in

other even more important directions with, at any rate, equanimity.

In the British House of Commons, a labor member recently asked Sir Edward Grey whether a statement of M. Sazonoff in the Duma to the effect that Russia intended permanently to occupy Constantinople was made with the approval and knowledge of his Majesty's government. To this Sir Edward Grey replied that he could not find any such statement as that attributed to him in any reports of M. Sazonoff's speech. The statement which I have seen, he said, is that the events on the Russo-Turkish frontier will bring Russia nearer the realization of the political and economical problems bound up with the question of Russia's access to the open sea. That, Sir Edward Grey added significantly, is an operation with which we are in entire sympathy, the precise form in which it can be realized will no doubt be settled by the terms of peace. There is a great significance in such a statement from a British foreign minister, but perhaps there is more significance in the cheers with which it was received.

An Open Port.

In so far as any one reason can be designated as the driving force behind Russian external policy, that force may be described as her desire to achieve access to the open sea, or as it has been put to secure a port in warm waters. When the strangely compact character and the vast extent of the Russian Empire, stretching as it does practically across the old world, is considered, it is seen how anomalous is the position that such a vast community of races, bound together by one government, should be deprived of that which all countries aim at, namely, an open port on an open sea. For many generations Russian diplomacy has aimed at securing this great desideratum in many different directions. The whole policy bound up with her designs on India has been instructed by a desire to achieve this purpose. At Port Arthur she apparently had achieved it, but with the capture of the great port in the far east by the Japanese in 1905, the doors closed down once again and to the Russian diplomatist its attainment must have seemed to be further off than ever. Hardly was the ink dry on the treaty of Portsmouth, however, before Russia began to look in another direction. The world became a wilderness of the hurried Russification of Finland, the building of strategic railways across the grand duchy and up to the Norwegian frontiers and the rushing forward of the great naval base at Hango. All efforts, however, here as in other directions were only in default of the achievement of Russia's master ambition, that which was bequeathed to her 200 years ago by Peter the Great, the occupation of Constantinople.

The Present Time.

So, today, all Europe, as it looks on and sees this strange history making going on before its eyes, realises what a change is coming over the popular view in regard to this great question, and how possible it is that Russia may after all, achieve her so longed for objective. When the British foreign minister looking back on the history of that last hundred years, contemplating the steady and persistent opposition which Great Britain has always offered to Russia's designs on the shores of the Bosphorus, can something more than hint that this opposition might possibly be withdrawn, and when such an announcement is greeted in the British House of Commons with cheers of approval the full significance of the tremendous changes which are sweeping over policy throughout Europe, may be realized.—Christian Science Monitor.

LOST SAILS.

Barbadoes, March 17.—Schr Mina German, from Meteghan, arrived with slight damage to hull and spars, lost several sails during hurricane; part of deckload has been lost; had to jettison part of deckload.

PEOPLE OFTEN SAY

"How Are We To Know When The Kidneys Are Out Of Order?"

EASIEST THING IN THE WORLD!

The location of the kidneys, close to the small of the back, renders the detection of kidney trouble a simple matter. The note of warning comes from the back. The kidneys become overtaxed and fail to do their work at nature's call. Backache is the signal sent out by the kidneys the minute they become overtaxed. Those who heed the warning when it first comes, usually have but little trouble.

The danger lies in delay. Doan's Kidney Pills stimulate the action of the kidneys, and enable them to perform their duty perfectly.

Mrs. Greig Murphy, Lower Ship Harbor, N.S., writes: "I have used Doan's Kidney Pills in my family with great success, and don't think there is a better pill for the kidneys. I was very miserable with my back, and could hardly get about. I got a box, and tried them, and found that they were really good, so I took in all about six boxes, and soon found my back cured, and my kidneys as well as ever."

Doan's Kidney Pills are 50c per box, 3 boxes for \$1.25; for sale at all dealers or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

When ordering direct specify "Doan's"

NEURALGIA SETTLED IN HEC LUNGS

No Relief From the Pain Until She Took "Fruit-a-tives."

Campbellville, Ont., May 25th, 1913.

"I cannot speak too highly of 'Fruit-a-tives.' For over thirty years, I have suffered from chronic Neuralgia and Constipation, experiencing untold agony. The Neuralgia settled in my lungs and I took bottles of medicine without relief. The doctor told me I would not get better but 'Fruit-a-tives' proved that the doctor was wrong by giving me quick relief and finally and completely curing me."

"I would not have my present health if it were not for 'Fruit-a-tives' and I am glad of this opportunity of giving you this letter about such a splendid remedy as 'Fruit-a-tives.'"

MRS. NATHAN DUNN, 50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size, 25c. At all dealers or sent on receipt of price by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

Methodist Ministers Meet

The Methodist ministers held a special meeting yesterday morning in Centenary church at which some personal church matters were discussed. Rev. H. E. Thomas occupied the chair and the following ministers were present: Rev. W. G. Lane, W. H. Barracough, H. Johnston, R. S. Crisp, M. E. Conron and J. C. Berrie.

GREAT NEED SOON IN LONDON FOR INDIGO

London, March 25.—Some interesting comments on the indigo position are made in Messrs. Lewis and Peat's report. They state that there is evidently a belief among home consumers that a good supply of synthetic will shortly be forthcoming and that there will be no difficulty in securing sufficient for their requirements.

It is not realized that a long time must elapse before any appreciable quantity can be produced, and even when supplies are more plentiful they cannot go far towards meeting the general consumption.

It is useless to disguise the fact that the supplies of vegetable indigo will be quite inadequate for trade demands. While the present stock in London is 1,307 chests, only a small part of this is available, the greater part having been sold for actual consumption and export, and which must be shortly delivered.

All the supplies for the year are now either being shipped or have already arrived in London, and Messrs. Lewis and Peat foresee a shortage before the new crops can be available. While prices are naturally on a high level, they are not higher in proportion than aniline colors, which have also experienced an important rise. The Mining Lane firm concludes with the opinion that before long indigo will be badly wanted no matter what the future of synthetic may be.

DOUGLASS TOWN LODGES

INSTALLS OFFICERS FOR YEAR. Newcastle, March 27.—Newcastle Lodge No. 93, I. O. O. F., Douglastown, installed the following officers last

night: N. G., Fred Gray; V. G., H. H. Lamont; R. S., James Simpson; F. S., David W. Anderson; Tressa, H. A. Gray; Warden, Chas. Spurr; Cond., H. H. Wood; O. G., Howard Vye; R. Wm. Taylor; R. E. N. G., Jas. Dick; L. S. N. G., Wm. Cassie; R. S. V. G., John Sleeth; L. S. V. G., Wm. McCormack; R. S. F. D., D. J. Gulliver; L. S. S., Chas. M. Dickson; Chap., Joseph McKnight.

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