

Turkey Has "Joke" Sultan

It is sufficient for most persons to know that the Sultan of Turkey is the Sublime Porte, but not so with F. Cunliffe Owen, who explains to the readers of the New York Sun that the latest and present, and maybe the last, Sultan is probably Burhan Eddine Effendi, who has been proclaimed under the name of Mohammed VI. For military purposes it is not important to know anything about the Sultan, since he, like the German Ministers, is the creature of the Kaiser, but it is interesting to note that the new Sultan, whom we shall call Eddie for short, has been manoeuvred to the throne in a manner that reflects credit upon Potsdam. The new Sultan is one of the sons of Abdul Hamid, which is no particular distinction in itself, considering the size of the old Sultan's family, but although he is supposed to have been the favorite of his father, he stood far down in the list of probable successors at the time Abdul was deposed. The fact that he has been named over others with a better claim to the position is an indication of the methods employed by the present rulers of Turkey, inspired, no doubt, by their masters in Germany.

The rules governing the succession to the Ottoman throne are simple. First, the reigning Sultan commits suicide or is otherwise done away with. Then his eldest brother puts on a wrought-iron vest and takes his place. If he has no elder brother, his son is called upon to go over the top, loyally backed by a crowd of expert soup-tasters. This procedure is sometimes varied, for the final authority with regard to the succession to the throne is reposed in two officials, namely, the Sheikh-ul-Islam, head of the Mohammedan Church, and the Fetva Emini. The former dignitary can be deposed by the Sultan; the latter appears to have permanent tenure of office and to be independent. As regards the Fetva, very little is known by the writer. In fact, if Mr. Owen had not mentioned him his very existence would have been unsuspected. It was far otherwise in Berlin, for when the former Fetva died and another was to be appointed or elected, German influence made itself felt and the present Fetva is said to owe his position to the Kaiser.

According to precedent the present Sultan of Turkey ought to have been Yousseuff-Izzeddine, nephew of the late Sultan, who had favored the Young Turk movement and applauded the dethronement of Abdul, by whom he had been kept in captivity. The fact that the heir-apparent is pro-Ally, and realized that the course upon which Enver Bey was embarking his country was a disastrous one, led to his disqualification, and he was announced that he had committed suicide. His elimination left the way clear for Yousseff-Izzeddine, the late Sultan's youngest brother. The fact that this prince is half-witted would seem to be a sufficient recommendation for the Germans, who control Turkey, but he was passed over. Next on the list was Abdul Melid, poet and painter, whose work in known in Europe and there admired. He has no taste for politics, and it is supposed that the murder of his brother Yousseff preyed on his mind until he became demented.

Half a dozen other princes were disqualified on account of their opposition to Turkey's course in the war, and so, working down the list, the name of Burhan Eddine appeared. This candidate had been educated by European tutors, and is a fine figure of a Sultan. He was the favorite son of his father, who wished to have the succession altered in his favor, but was timid about approaching the Fetva Emini. He was able to convey to his brother sovereigns that Eddie was the child of his heart, and the best calculated of all his sons to continue the traditions of Abdul the Damned. In Germany the youth was royally received, and is supposed to have conceived a tremendous admiration for the Kaiser. At that time he had no expectations whatever of becoming Sultan, and as a matter of fact he became later on the crony of Enver Bey and Talaat Pasha. It is said that he supported them in their revolt against his dotting father, and did not lift his hand for the old Sultan when his enemies descended upon him.

He also did much to bring about the marriage of Enver to the Imperial Princess Nadje, which was so earnestly desired by Enver, but opposed by the girl on the romantic grounds that Enver's father had been a waiter for her father. Now he has his reward, though the length of time in which he will be Sultan is properly the subject of bets. The fact that the Sheikh-ul-Islam, who is supposed to be one of the Godfathers of the Sultans of Turkey, is now an open enemy, will have some effect upon weakening the tenure of the throne or whatever it is that a Sultan sits on. No son of the present Sultan is likely to administer the high justice, the middle and the low.

New Version of Golden Rule.

Captain Walter Palmer, of the Remount, insists first, last, and all the time, upon kindness to the animals under his charge. The following timely verse is posted on the bulletin board at the Waggon Company and Pack Train:

Would you have a gentle Mule
Then apply the Golden Rule;
If he's full of pep and vim
He'll do to you as you do to him;
Cuss him less and curry more,
He'll repay a hundred score;
Fet him more and pound him less,
He'll return each fond caress;
But kick him — and His Muleship waits
To land you through the Pearly Gates.

MINISTER FACES DIFFICULT TASK

Sir Auckland Geddes Speaks of
National Service.

HAS MANY HARD PROBLEMS

British Organizer Who Is Well Known on This Side of the Ocean Has Undertaken to Put Things on a Basis That Will Restore Confidence Among the People of Great Britain.

THE recent National Service debate in the British Parliament gave fresh evidence of the peculiar difficulties that face Sir Auckland Geddes as Minister of National Service. The matter is of interest to Canadians both because the Minister held a professorship on this side of the ocean, and because it demonstrates how far they have gone in the Old Country in finding men for the army and are still engaged in doing it. The statement was made that the British have put six millions into khaki, and it is just the task of finding the fit and rejecting the unfit amongst the elders up to 51 which has brought the Department under considerable fire of criticism. Under the old scheme for men up to 41, as it was carried through until last October, the classification of recruits by medical boards was in categories A, B, and C, each with three sub-divisions, the definitions being made according to the services that might be required by the War



SIR AUCKLAND GEDDES.

Office. That system of medical boards for several reasons proved unsatisfactory, not the least objection being that the doctors were in considerable proportion military men and did not appear to appreciate the civilian disabilities. It was to restore public confidence that Sir Auckland Geddes, then created Minister of National Service, took over from the War Office the organization of the medical boards which were then made up to a very large extent of civilian doctors. In view of the call to the older men, a fresh system of grading was introduced, the principle adopted being to classify physical fitness according to age. Thus in the reckoning are two factors—condition of health and age. Under this grading the medical boards do not reckon to take any cognizance of the duties that may be assigned to recruits in the army, but there is an understanding that the men should be slowly trained and the implication that the men shall not be used for the trenches except on emergency. It was also arranged with the War Office that for the present at any rate men should be battalioned according to age. These observations apply to such of the men as are to be used in secondary line. A considerable percentage are to be employed in various other duties as their abilities may suggest. It will be seen that whichever system were adopted it must be open to criticism. Sir Auckland Geddes said that the new medical boards being largely civilian could not possibly decide what military duties should be undertaken by recruits. On the other hand, it is urged that mere proof of physical fitness according to age leaves a serious risk that men may be engaged in the army in duties for which they are quite unequal. The real complaint was not so much against the National Service Department as such, but that under the plan they did not get their assurances guaranteed by the War Office, which claimed discretion in these matters whilst maintaining that it exercised care. Several chairmen of appeal tribunals, who are members of the House of Commons, reflected the feeling of apprehension as to the working of the new scheme, and in the end the Prime Minister took up a suggestion by one chairman that there should be a conference between seven M.P.'s who hold such positions and Sir Auckland Geddes, with the object of clearing up misunderstandings and smoothing the operation of the Act. There is no doubt, as Mr. Lloyd George said, that very great sacrifices have to be made, but it appears necessary to take the older men to replace the younger required for the fighting line if Great Britain's strength is to be kept up and they are to release the Americans now battalioned with them, so that they may make up their own battalions in the near future. The disclosure of the hardships involved for middle-aged business men will prove an additional incentive to the Dominion to give the utmost in their power.

THE WORK OF AGES.

Some of the Great Monuments of Art.

Great edifices, like great mountains, are the work of ages. Often the art undergoes a transformation while they are yet pending—pending opera interrupts—they go on again quietly, in accordance with the change in the art. The altered art takes up the fabric, incrusts itself upon it, assimilates it to itself, develops it after its own fashion, and finishes it if it can. The thing is accomplished without disturbance, without effort, without reaction, according to a law natural and tranquil. It is a graft that shoots out, a sap that circulates, a vegetation that goes forward. Certainly there is matter for very large volumes and often for the universal history of human nature, in those successive engraftings of several species of art at different elevations upon the same fabric. The man, the artist, the individual, are lost, and disappear upon those great masses, leaving no name of an author behind. Human nature is there to be traced only in its aggregate. Time is the architect, the nation is the builder.

To consider in this place only the architecture of Christian Europe, that younger sister of the great masterpieces of the East—it presents to us an immense formation, divided into three superincumbent zones clearly defined: The Roman zone; the Gothic zone; and the zone of the Revival, which we would willingly entitle the Greco-Roman. The Roman stratum, the most ancient and the deepest, is occupied by the circular arch; which reappears rising from the Grecian column, in the modern and upper stratum of the Revival. The pointed arch is found between the two. The edifices which belong to one or other of these three strata exclusively, are perfectly distinct, uniform and complete. Such is the Abbey of Jumiege; such is the Cathedral of Rheims; such is the Church of Sainte-Croix at Orleans. But the three zones mingle and combine at their borders, like the colors of the prism. And hence the complex fabrics—the edifices of gradation and transition. One is Roman at its feet, Gothic in the middle, and Greco-Roman in the head. This is when it has taken six hundred years to build it. This variety is rare; the donjon tower of Etampes is a specimen of it. But the fabrics of two formations are more frequent. Such is the Notre Dame of Paris, an edifice of the pointed arch, which, in its earliest pillars, dips into that Roman zone in which the portal of St. Denis and the nave of St. Germain des Pres are entirely immersed. Such is the charming semi-Gothic chapter-house of Rocherville, which the Roman layer mounts half-way up. Such is the cathedral of Rouen, which would have been entirely Gothic, had not the extremity of its central spire pierced into the zone of the Revival.

—Victor Hugo.

Gathering War News.

The war has restored some of the old-time romance to the business of the world. When the Canadian settles down into his easy chair at night and lets his eye run casually down the column of his favorite paper over the date-lines of the far corners of the world he does not always realize what an effort it often costs to lay before him the news of these far places.

Take some of the Associated Press despatches from Jassy, the capital of Roumania, for example. Things were going pretty bad for little Roumania last March. The Bolsheviks had turned things topsy-turvy in Russia and King Ferdinand's country was left alone on the eastern front to face the hordes of Germany and Austria. Roumania was quarrelling with the Bolsheviks over the disposition of Russian troops which had been on the Roumanian front. There were serious possibilities for Roumania in the situation.

There was an Associated Press correspondent in Jassy, but the only way of getting news out was by the way of Odessa, where the Bolsheviks held sway. Communication with Odessa by wire was impossible and no trains were running as bridges were destroyed.

The Roumanian Government was sending Col. Joseph Boyle, formerly of the Canadian army, from Jassy to Odessa in an airplane with a peace treaty and when Col. Boyle flew 200 miles over the mountains he carried not only the treaty but despatches from the Associated Press correspondent for forwarding to America.

That is how some of the news started on its way from Jassy, through Russia, Finland and Sweden to London and finally to America.

Hypodermic needles.

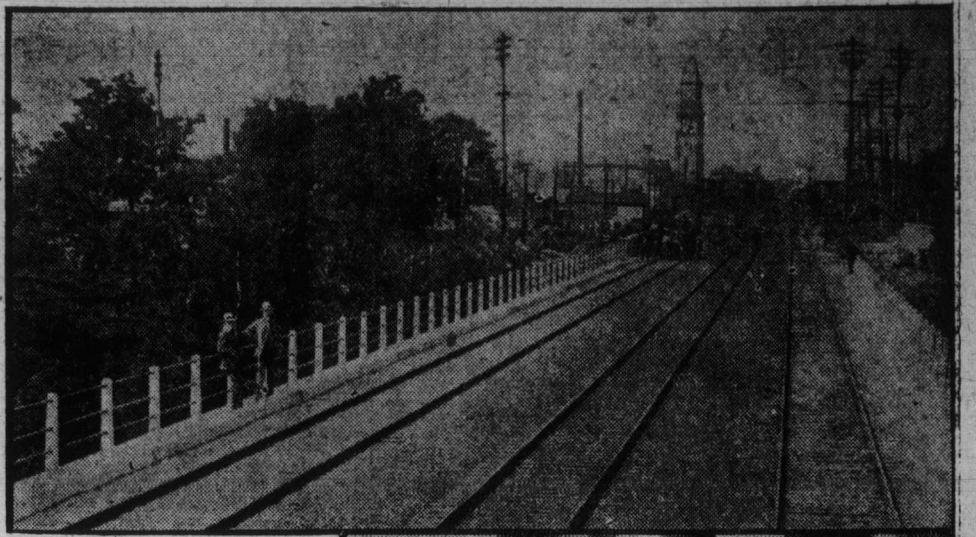
The war has upset many old standards and set up many new ones. One of the curious results of this upheaval is that gold has been reduced, in some cases, to the role of a cheap substitute for other metals, says the Popular Science Monthly. Hypodermic needles, for instance, were formerly made of platinum or platinum-iridium, two metals now practically unobtainable. The increased war demand for these needles led to many experiments with other metals and alloys in the hope of finding a good substitute. A manufacturing concern, making a specialty of tempering precious metals, has recently perfected a hypodermic needle of speciality of tempering precious metals, has recently tempered 14-carat gold, which offers many advantages. The metal has almost the hardness and rigidity of steel, is not attacked by caustic, boiling water or chemical solutions used for sterilizing, and the needles are much cheaper than those of platinum or platinum-iridium.

New York in 1656.

In 1656 New York city, then New Amsterdam, and ruled by the Dutch, had 1,000 inhabitants, 120 houses and seventeen streets.

Sugar is extracted from sixteen varieties of palms that grow in Ceylon.

Record In Concrete Bridge-Building



THE double tracking of the North Toronto Sub-division of the Canadian Pacific Railway between Leaside and North Toronto is now nearing completion, and involved the replacement of bridges (known as 0.9 and 1.8) which heretofore had been trestles constructed of steel. Owing to the high price of steel and the difficulty of procuring it since the war began it was found that reinforced concrete competed successfully against steel.

The bridges were therefore constructed of this material and are a triumph of railway construction work, No. 0.9 being 356 feet long and 50 feet high carrying two tracks, and No. 1.8 of similar dimensions, but a three track structure. The length of the individual spans and the details of their construction are unprecedented in the engineering world. Previous to this no reinforced concrete beam with a length of more than about 25 feet had been attempted; the spans of these two C. P. R. structures are each from 35 to 37 feet long. These spans have been made possible by the employment of unit construction by which each span was designed as two T beams which, after being manufactured near the work, were laid side by side on the previously built reinforced concrete towers. The towers themselves are really reinforced concrete buildings constructed in the usual manner by means of wooden forms built around a steel reinforcement which was previously assembled and securely wired together. When all was in readiness the concrete was poured by means of long spouts which led in several directions from the main mixing tower. The pouring of the concrete was maintained as continuously as possible until a whole tower was completed. This work was done during the winter at a time when no temperature was below freezing point; it was performed inside of what was virtually a building erected to maintain a suitable temperature around the newly deposited concrete until it was out of danger of being damaged by frost.

These two structures are provided with narrow sidewalks and handrails, which enable trainmen to move conveniently along side-standing trains. The hand rails add considerably to the aesthetic appearance of the structures, which are extremely

artistic in appearance and at the same time satisfactory from a general and utilitarian point of view, besides being absolutely permanent. Both are designed to carry the heaviest engines in existence with-

able margin of safety, and are epoch-making in the art of bridge engineering inasmuch as they have demonstrated that reinforced concrete can take the place of steel for a very large number of permanent bridges.

These two structures are so solid that when passing over them on a train one gets the impression that he is on a solid fill instead of a bridge.

The method employed in the erection of the reinforced concrete spans is a specially interesting feature of the structures. Each slab, as a unit,

weighed 55 tons, which—as the limit load that could be handled by the C. P. R. 100 ton standard wrecking cranes. The crane engaged handled no less than 110 slabs each 55 tons

6,000 tons, and all this was done without a single mishap to either men or material. Another remarkable feature is that both structures were built without interruption from June, 1917, to July, 1918, which was a shorter period than would have been required to manufacture and erect similar structures in steel. Passenger and freight traffic on the C. P. R. main lines was continued without interruption during the progress of these interesting works.

Dog's Death Led to Suicide.

Mrs. Margaret Dugdale, wife of Norman Dugdale, J. P., of Dutton Manor, near Blackburn, was found dead with a bullet wound in her forehead in a field near the grave of her favorite dog, which had been destroyed on account of old age. Depression caused by its loss was suggested at the inquest as the cause of her suicide, says Lloyd's News, London. When found she was grasping a humane cattle killer, at her feet was a mallet with which she had discharged the weapon, and a loaded revolver was in a basket near her. She had fixed a mirror to the fence, and a note pinned to her dress gave directions for the disposal of her body. Mr. Dugdale said he thought the dog's death, which his wife had taken greatly to heart, was the cause of the tragedy, and the jury's verdict was that Mrs. Dugdale shot herself while of unsound mind.

Tibet Takes Up War Game.

Tibet is engaged in a looting expedition. Just as she has been for centuries. She has invaded Szechuan, a border state of China. The only significance this has during the present world war, according to the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, is that some thousand years before Solomon was born, Tibet boasted of a high state of civilization, as did her neighbor Szechuan. But ages of warfare have made Tibet the domain of half savage marauders. Tibet boasts the sacred city of Lhasa, the seat of official Buddhism, where squalor, art, religion and high pretensions are mixed in inextricable confusion.

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