

THE SITUATION IN MACEDONIA.

Country Has Become a Military Camp—Race Interests Involved.

USKUB, Macedonia, via London, May 2.—Sympathies go with interests; that is the key to the race problem in Macedonia. The fact that all the other races of the provinces are in sympathy with the Turks, or rather, are prejudiced against the Bulgarians might be taken by loose reasoners as a conclusive argument against their cause, but it would leave out of account the interests of rival peoples. I have tried to explain why the Bulgarians have no friends among Albanians, Greeks and Servians. If Macedonia should secure autonomy, the principal race would appeal to Bulgaria for annexation. Russian statesmen in 1878 were confident that Bulgaria would be practically a province of the great northern power. Lord Beaconsfield thought so also, for in the Treaty of Berlin, with the help of Prince Bismarck, he cut off Macedonia, which had a Mediterranean coast, and gave it back into the Sultan's hands. Now that Bulgaria has shown capacity of self government, the English people would no doubt like to see a strong buffer state south of Russia, to block her way to the sea. On the other hand, Russian diplomacy prefers to keep the Balkan states divided and helpless.

If Bulgaria, with Macedonia added to her domain, becomes a powerful state, she will no longer be a mechanical instrument in the hands of the Czar. Russia now controls her ministry, but the people are becoming bitter and resentful and are eager to work out the salvation of Macedonia and their own. There is a medley of race interests in Macedonia. The Turks, Bulgarians, Greeks, Servians and Albanians are the rival races. The Turks while the ruling race, do not form even one-sixth of the population of Macedonia, and they excel in ignorance. The Bulgarians are by far the most numerous race, and they excite the animosity and jealousy not only of the Turks, but also of the Servians, Greeks, and Albanians. The Austrians are conducting from Novi Bazar an active propaganda among the Albanians to win their friendship, and are operating to a considerable extent through the Roman Catholic church. The Servians are at work in the same way among the Bulgarians and other races. Macedonia is a realm of rival propaganda, easy conversions of faith and rapid transfers of nationality. The Servians know that their fate will be sealed if Macedonia be annexed to Bulgaria. The private secretary of the King of Serbia made this admission frankly when I talked with him in Belgrade. The Servians will be hemmed in and isolated forever, if Macedonia becomes a Bulgarian possession. They are not in sympathy with the Bulgarian movement. Where interest is, there will be sympathy. The Greeks do not love the Turks, for they are not yet free from the reproach of defeat at the hands of the Sultan's men. They hate the Turks less than they do the Bulgarians. They know that the Turks, although other nations may prevent Russia from driving the Sultan out of Europe for years or generations, can never make another aggressive movement, but must remain on the defensive. With Macedonia controlled by the Bulgarian, the Greeks cannot hope to have great power. Naturally they are hostile to the Bulgarians.

The military condition of Macedonia, is an epitome of the state of Europe and Turkey. Troops, troops, troops, everywhere! Turks, Albanians, Kurds! All kinds, infantry, cavalry and artillery! Soldiers and civilians, striving to outnumber one another, all bristling with arms, with the exception of the Bulgarians, who carry theirs concealed. If ever a region looked warlike, this theatre of European contention does. I learn from one of the newspapers which has slipped through the censorship into this wild district that martial law has been declared at Prelep. Martial law! If any law exists anywhere in Macedonia, martial law is an euphemism for it. I rode into the little town of Prelep, on horseback in the centre of a body-guard of twenty men. They dismounted and walked with me to my room in a Turkish inn. I went out for a walk with my drogoman after washing. The troops preceded and followed me. At dark we were informed that we could be out no longer. A sentinel guarded our door all night and another the stairs leading up from the stable below. The meaning of it was that Prelep was the centre of a district where Albanians, Turks and Bulgarians were in nearly equal numbers. An Albanian or a Turk in an evil mood might level his gun at us, or even a Bulgarian might do it, in the hope of drawing a foreign nation into Balkan affairs.

The railway lines are a sight. At the stations, troops, troops, troops! You pass through a file of them to the officer, who examines your tescartes, without which you cannot move a mile anywhere. You march out to your hotel, followed by soldiers, if as a newspaper correspondent you happen to incur suspicion as a spy. Patrols pass up and down the cross-ties from section to section. Soldiers stand sentry within ear-shot of one another. On much of the railway line blockhouses are constructed; in some sections similar structures are building, and on the remainder tents are pitched and temporary

brush huts are raised. The flagman carries his weapon and his military escort. Troop trains, and behind every freight or passenger train trailed several cars filled with recruits or seasoned reinforcements. In the towns soldiers are stationed every fifty yards; at night they are massed more closely. Patrols parade continually. Every day regiments march through streets, with bands playing and colors flying. The border is now impassable, save in a few places which, from natural environment, can never be closed. It is said that from 80,000 to 300,000 troops are in Macedonia. The figures, like all those which one obtains in the Orient, may be untrustworthy, but at least I have seen the conditions which I am describing. In addition to the regular troops, there are the Bashi Bazouks, a comprehensive term embracing all who take up arms against the Christian population; and they are an important reserve whenever a fight takes place.

New Brunswick Legislature.

M. Whitehead claims that the bill introduced by himself to revive the charter of the St. John Valley and River du Loup Railway is with the bona fide intention of going on in the near future with the construction of the railway. In fact, the bill provides that continuous work on the line shall commence within three years, and the railway shall be completed within five years. The company say they can satisfy the house and government of their financial ability to carry out the work.

In the municipalities committee the proposed amendment to the act passed last session incorporating Bath village for fire and water purposes was discussed. The present act provides that before the installation of water-works is proceeded with a favorable vote of two-thirds of the property owners in the village must first be obtained. It is now proposed to amend the act to make it legal to proceed with the work upon approval of a majority of the property owners. The bill was supported by Michael Bohan and Patrick Corbett, and opposed by Charles E. Gallagher. Mr. Corbett explained that a vote was taken last fall, when through a mistake in adding up the vote recorded it was thought that the project had been carried, and about \$2,000 was expended in putting in the works. An injunction was obtained by Mr. Gallagher, stopping the works, when it was discovered that through the error the action and work already done were illegal. A majority of the people want the proposed works, but Mr. Gallagher is strongly opposed, and he owns about ten per cent. of the assessed property in the village, and his vote defeats the project. Mr. Gallagher has put in a water supply of his own and sells water to others. The committee will take the bill into consideration and so far as may be judged from the remarks of the committee, the amendment asked for will be allowed.

Temperance and Business.

Ever since the active movement in favor of temperance began, stress has been laid chiefly on the moral side of the question. This is as it should be. The moral side is the side which is most important and most conspicuous. But the temperance question has also an industrial or financial, a business aspect, which, although it has not been so generally considered, is too significant to be disregarded.

An English political economist who has been studying the causes of the wonderful progress of the United States gives most of the credit to the comparative abstinence of the Americans from intoxicating drinks.

In Collinwood, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, are large repair-shops belonging to the Lake Shore Railroad. Just before the last election the company announced that if the town voted no on the license question the corporation would spend a million dollars there for additional shops. If the saloons remained the company did not care to increase its plant, because it could not get and keep the high class of workmen it required. The town voted for no license by a large majority, and in one month thirty six saloons had been closed. The newspapers justly pronounced it "a great business victory."

The Southern Pacific Railroad has been in the habit of leasing bar privileges on its coastwise steamboats. It received one hundred and fifty dollars a day from each, yet it has lately abolished all the bars on the ground that they alienated more business and entailed more expense than they were worth.

A book collector recently examined three magnificent private libraries which had unexpectedly come into the auction room. Investigation revealed the fact that in each case the sale was due to the dissipation of the owner.

And now, to cap the climax, the liquor seller himself is urging temperance—for business reasons. The National Association of Retail Liquor Dealers passed this amazing resolution: "Recognizing the weakness of human nature, we are ready to lend our influence to the reform of the drunkard and the curtailment of the evil resulting from excessive indulgence."

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Bad blood is the mother of fifty diseases, and Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will cure them all, because they convert bad blood into good, rich, red blood, without which there can be neither health nor strength. Don't be persuaded to try something else—take nothing but the genuine Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Sold by all medicine dealers or sent post paid at 50c. a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Concerning Tariffs.

(Quebec Telegraph.)

That we in Canada purchased \$69,000,000 worth from Americans last year is the best possible proof that it was to our material advantage to do so. If it were possible for us to obtain these goods in a more advantageous way, we would do so without the stimulus of governmental obstruction or aid. That the Americans purchased little or nothing from us does not effect the balance of advantage in our purchases from them. They must purchase somewhere to obtain pay for their goods sold, and we must sell somewhere, or we would not be able to make the purchases. It is not on account of, but in spite of, a tariff of 49 per cent., that the United States has prospered. That tariff applied to a single state would make progress or prosperity within its borders impossible. Canada could not endure such a tariff, and is too wise to accept the freely tendered advice to make the attempt. Americans have the advantage of the largest free trade area in the world, and it is to that advantage as well as to the possession of great stores of natural wealth that they owe their prosperity. If we were to imitate their tariff policy it would check the tide of immigration now setting northward across the boundary.

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