

THE EX-SULTAN OF TURKEY CALLED THE GREAT ASSASSIN

Abdul Hamid was one of the Most Despised Monarchs the World Has Ever Known--Ruled His People With an Iron Hand For Thirty-Three Years--Was a Master of the Art of Diplomacy--Inaugurated a Great Spy System.

Amsterdam, Feb. 12. — The death on Sunday of Abdul Hamid, former sultan of Turkey, from inflammation of the lungs, is announced in a despatch received here from Constantinople by way of Vienna. A state funeral will be held.

Abdul Hamid II. has been variously referred to as the most despised monarch the world has ever known and as a kindly old man, of admirable personal habits, compelled to rule a turbulent empire with an iron hand. During his thirty-three years of reign he gained the title of "Abdul the Damned," "The Red Sultan," "The

Pale Sultan," and "The Bloody Sultan." Gladstone referred to him as "The Great Assassin."

Born in 1842, Abdul Hamid was raised to the throne in 1876 at the age of 34 to succeed his elder brother, Amurath V., who was weak mentally and considered incompetent to manage Turkish affairs. His first act on ascending the throne was to abolish the constitution which had just been obtained by the Young Turkish party. War with Russia developed and Turkey found itself at the very inception facing certain defeat. Abdul Hamid, however, led a most stubborn resistance. After two years of war, he opened negotiations looking towards peace. The Turk has always been a clever diplomat, but Abdul Hamid was master of them all in the art of diplomacy. So ably did he conduct diplomatic negotiations that he obtained conditions from Russia which were nothing short of marvelous, and this made him temporarily very popular.

Had Vast Spy System.

As a young man Sultan Abdul travelled through Europe with his uncle, Sultan Abdul Aziz, and learned much of European ways. He always took great interest in European military affairs. In addition to the elaborate spy system he built up in Turkey, he maintained spy bureaus in all the large cities of Europe. In Constantinople alone he is said to have employed more than 10,000 spies, all of whom were spying on one another and upon Turkish officials. Many tales were carried to the sultan by spies, and according to report, Abdul did not trouble

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"I look upon Catarrhazone as the most valuable medical discovery of recent years," writes R. V. Potter of Prince Albert. "As a long sufferer from nasal and throat catarrh I was obliged to take considerable medicine, and although it helped me, my digestion was always disturbed and the catarrh didn't go away. With Catarrhazone it was different. It cleaned my nose and throat of all phlegm and discharges, enabled me to breathe freely, relieved a stuffy feeling in my nose and frontal headaches. Today I am entirely free from catarrh, and I use my Catarrhazone Inhaler a little every day in order to prevent the disease from returning."

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bel himself in an effort to confirm these stories, but calmly ordered the death or imprisonment of the suspected person.

Abdul Hamid, in fashion truly oriental, made it his custom to order the appearance of a suspected enemy at the Yoldiz Kiosk where the sultan lived with his harem. The suspected one would be received most graciously by his majesty, dined with delicacies and coffee and showered with gifts. The usual sequence to this was the discovery of the guest's body a short time later in some one of the dog-infested corners of Constantinople, either having been stabbed to death or garroted.

For years it seemed that the European powers were on the verge of splitting Turkey into many parts and dividing the empire among themselves. Abdul Hamid, however, was too clever to allow any such plan to proceed very far. He worked one power against another, and in that fashion always managed to have some powerful ally.

Abdul Hamid has been blamed for the Armenian massacres of 1895-96, and for many outbreaks of violence in Macedonia. Whether this was justified or not can never be known. Those who have met the sultan have found it difficult to reconcile his gift of gentle humor, his courtliness and generosity with the frightful blood-lust so generally credited to him.

Abdul Hamid has been pictured as a frightful old vulture who gloried in murder and slaughter. It has been said that in the Yildiz Kiosk his method of inducing sleep and relieving affairs of state from his mind was to have one of his harem favorites read aloud stories of crime, murder and butchery, until he dozed off into sleep.

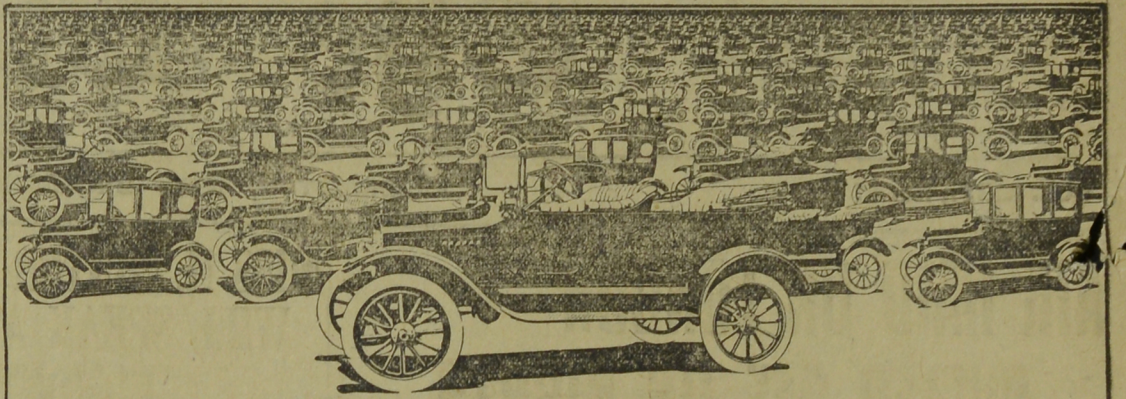
Downfall Came in 1909. After many years of a despotic reign Abdul Hamid was deposed in 1909 by the Young Turks and his brother, Mohammed V. took the throne. Adherents of Sultan Abdul fled Turkey in great numbers and scattered to all parts of the world. Zia Bey, who had been the Sultan's chief spy, and been credited with being responsible for the murder of 400,000 Armenians and Macedonians, disguised himself and escaped from the Young Turks. At the time of their downfall, it was declared that Abdul Hamid and Zia Bey exceeded in wickedness any of the bloody characters in the world's history. The estimate that Zia and Abdul were responsible for 400,000 murders was made by Mundji Bey, Washington representative of the new Turkish government following the overthrow of the old regime. It was said that Zia Bey, Nazim Pasha and Faim Pasha, all of whom were holders of positions of great importance in Constantinople,

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We wish to announce to our customers and patrons that we have disposed of our entire stock of boots and shoes and that our place of business will be closed next week for the purpose of taking. After the stock has been removed, the store will renovated and occupied by and occupied by the firm of Minto & MacKay, who will continue the business at present carried on by Mr. William Minto.

We also wish to announce to those who left coupons, at our store previous to Jan. 15th 1918, to be redeemed in silverware, that they can now receive their premiums if they call at our store.

In closing, we wish to thank our many customers for their past favors, both in patronage and good will, and trust the same good will and favor will be disposed towards us in our new enterprise.

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In spite of increased prices of materials and the upward tendency in rates for all services in the business world, the subscription price of the Mail has not been increased, and we are daily booking new subscribers, which means more readers and customers for our advertisers.

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Mrs. Frank Areseneau, Newcastle, N. B., writes: "I had awful attacks of heart trouble for the past five or six years, and as I had tried many kinds of medicine without getting any better, I decided to give Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills a trial, and to my surprise I found ease from the second dose. I continued taking them until I had used six boxes, and now I feel as well as can be. At present my sister is taking them for nervousness, and finds great comfort by their use."

Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills are 50c a box at all dealers, or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

ple, made it a custom to inspire "revolts" of Armenians that excuses for massacres might be had. Nazim Pasha, it was said had agents, supposed to be "Armenian," to attempt to blow up some edifice in Constantinople of make a riotous demonstration in the streets in favor of Armenian liberty, which gave the bloodthirsty trio the opportunity they desired.

Fortunes were made by Abdul Hamid and his favorite Turkish officials in all forms of "graft." Many of his favorites have been accused of murdering "traitors" so that the state might confiscate their wealth. Confiscation by the state in such instances meant the personal enrichment of Abdul Hamid and his adherents.

So extensive was his spy system that Turks dared not talk freely together in any part of Constantinople. To merely criticize the sultan in any way was extremely dangerous, and persons who did it usually were found dead within the next few days. "Political offenders," who declined to give their wealth to those in power were frequently made prisoners, subjected to unspeakable tortures and then thrown into the Bosphorus.

Exiled to Salonika.

When the Young Turks got the upper hand in 1909, the great Sheikh-ul-Islam, Commander of the Faithful and High Priest of Mohammed in all parts of the world, issued a decree deposing Sultan Abdul Hamid. The Sheikh-ul-Islam has more power over Mohammedans than the Sultan himself.

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