

THE OBSERVER

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ENGLISH VIEWS.

Angus Hamilton, the English war correspondent, who was in the field with the Turkish army during the first part of the Balkan war, depicts the "unspeakable Turk" as an entire different person than he is generally considered to be in this country.

Mr. Hamilton, in the course of a long discussion of world events, said recently, that most of the cruelties inflicted upon the Macedonians and the other nations of Southeastern Europe were due to dissensions "The Turks," said he, "are most Europe were due to dissensions among the Christians of those countries.

tolerant in matters of religion. Many of them have married Christian women, and half of their children are followers of the cross. They have allowed the nations under their rule in Europe the widest latitude in religious affairs. It was only when the Christian sects warred among themselves that the Turk stepped in to take a part in the dissensions. The hatred among the Christians in those countries was so intense that most barbarous cruelties were inflicted on the adherents of the Christian church if they even dared to set foot in the

houses of worship of another sect. Mr. Hamilton was strong in his denunciation of the supposedly Christian men who were enrolled in the Turkish armies, but who, by the thousands, deserted to the armies of the allies.

According to the English war correspondent, the Turks were utterly unprepared for war, while the Bulgarians had prepared for many years for the conflict with the crescent. Despite the handicap of numbers and the inefficiency of the soldiers' equipment, he declares they fought with wonderful bravery. Often, he said, they went hungry into battle, and against insurmountable odds.

Firm in the belief that the Asiatic never will be fitted for self-government, Mr. Hamilton blames much of the seeming decadence of Turkey to the young Turks. This same unfitness for a republican form of government, he believes will do great harm to the persians and to the Chinese.

President Wilson's great self control is evidenced by his refusal to accept free theatre tickets.

A Spanish general has inhaled gas, which is a quicker method than inhaling cigarette smoke.

The government ought to be able to get some concrete evidence against the alleged cement trust.

The cabinet members may be given the right to speak in the senate. Why not give the vice president a chance, too?

Try it, Luther B. See if thee cannot make a church going vegetable out of the green onion by grafting to a clove.

A United Brethren pastor at Kestler, Minn., has been indicted for arson. Ministers of the gospel should confine themselves to preaching about fire and brimstone.

REGULATING FASHION BY LAW

The Ohio legislature has tackled a life-sized job and has put itself on record as being the most courageous and reckless legislature extant in this country. A bill which has been presented and will probably be passed provides for a commission of three to be appointed by the governor to prescribe the fashions to be worn by the women of Ohio. The legislature denounces peek-a-boo shirt waists, peek-a-boo stockings and proposes in future to regulate the out-texture and degree of transparency of all clothing worn by Ohio women.

Particularly is the tight skirt to be attacked. It has been denounced as a peril to the morality of the country. The new commission will "fix limits of the décollete effects in gowns, so that not more than two inches of the neck below the chin shall show." All skirts much reach to the instep.

If Ohio women are like other women, and doubtless they are, the legislature is going to have its troubles. Down in Los Angeles the city council prohibited the hatpin, but the hatpin has survived and women have never worn them before began wearing them as soon as the law was passed. In Massachusetts an anti-hat pin law has been passed with about similar effect. The law of fashion will predominate over the law of the state of Ohio beyond the preadventure of a doubt. The skirts in Ohio will be tighter, if possible. The waists will be peek-a-booer, the stockings will be more transparent and gowns will be more décollete than ever before if history in such cases repeats itself.

The regulation of femmanietna The regulation of feminine attire is no sort of job for a mere legislature.

Traffic Census Wanted.

Recognition of the fact that more information is needed in determining the proper type of construction for any given section of road, the National Good Roads board of the American Automobile Association is convinced that proper steps should be taken in every state in the union to gather such data as will show the number, character and approximate weights of vehicles passing over the principal roads.

The failure of many roads to stand up under the traffic is due, not as many persons suppose to inferior materials and workmanship, but to the lack of preliminary information as to the traffic the road was expected to stand. Consequently roads have been built which would have lasted for years under other travel conditions; now they are ruins, due to the absence of data which the engineering profession in any other branch of their work would have considered essential. On this subject the "Engineering Record" of March 15 says: "Without knowing the wear a road has there is absolutely no way of telling whether it is good or bad; only a careful traffic census can determine this. Roads too costly have been constructed in some places; in other places roads unsuited to the traffic have been built. In view of this well known fact it is evident that a traffic census is an essential to economy in nearly all road building. Imagine a bridge designer making plans for a structure without anything more than a rough guess whether it was to be used by steam railways or trolley cars, and we have an idea of the absurdity of proceeding with road building without traffic data."

Illinois in 1907 caused to be enumerated the travel over the roads at a few important points, and in March 1912 writes: "I am sure we never collected any data on which I feel that I can place greater reliability than our traffic census data. It has been, in things considered, the most satisfactory investigation that we have attempted."

Massachusetts tried taking a traffic census in 1909, and went into the subject on a larger scale in 1912. In August and October, 1912, counts were made at 160 stations at different points in the state, each covering a full week of time, and 12 to 18 hours a day according to location. The results enable the highway commission to make plans for not only carrying the present travel, but also to provide for the increase that is bound to come.

It is considered, in view of the



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Changes in traffic and traffic conditions being rapidly and constantly made, that traffic census should be provided at least four times a year, of at least a week at each period and should cover the principal roads entering every city in the state. To be of real value, the census should continue for a series of years, in order to establish a proper knowledge of the ratio of increase. After a few years, and the establishment of practical standards from which estimates could be made, so great frequency of count would not be necessary.

Provisions for traffic census in most states will require the enactment of special laws, and special appropriations. Compared with the saving which would be effected in road construction the expense would be trivial. The figures, when made and properly collected would be the basis on which all highway planning would rest.

WHAT ABOUT STREETS?

La Grande, March 28.—To the Editor: I would like to inquire who is to blame for the condition of our paved streets. If one visits Baker he sees the pavement swept every night; they're washed when needed and kept clean. They do all the work at night and in the morning the streets of the city look fine. This does away with the dust the sweeper makes, and the disadvantage of getting pedestrians soaked with the big hose they use here. I think that every street the people have paved should be kept swept every day. If the people who live on a street are willing and do spend thousands of dollars on paving the streets the city should keep them clean; they have plenty of equipment to keep the streets clean. If they will use it, and I claim they should be cleaned at night, to avoid the people being annoyed with the dust and water.

A TAXPAYER.

Free Trip for Ham Him.

Ham Him, a venerable Chinese of La Grande, will be taken to San Francisco tonight by Deputy United States Marshal W. R. Griffith for deportation under the Chinese Exclusion Act. He says a Portland paper, Ham Him, who has been in this country for a number of years, has laid up quite a sum of money and is all smiles at the opportunity the government is giving him of a free trip to his native land.

Seed Wheat for Sale.

We have a car of red staff club seed wheat from Umatilla county, at the Imbler flouring mill, and one car of Little Club from Umatilla county on sale at Island City.

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