

# CALIPHATE MAY BE MOVED TO CAIRO BY BRITISH ORDERS

By HENRY WOOD.  
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)  
Constantinople, Dec. 23.—(By Mail to New York via Rome.)—An entirely new element of supreme importance has just been injected into Turkey's war against the Allies by the sudden conviction in the Turkish mind of England's intention to wrest from Constantinople the Caliphate of the Mohammedan religion and transfer it under British protection to Cairo.

Whether or not such an intention actually exists in England's program no one but the Turks presume to say. But that at least is the interpretation which has been placed here the new sovereign from that of Khedive to Sultan.

While the most is being made by the Young Turks of this alleged intention on the part of England for the purpose of stirring up war hatred against the latter, the serious aspect of the whole thing is the admission by the more sober minded Turks that whether England is really planning on such a move or not, there can be no question but the loss of the present war by Turkey will inevitably entail with it the loss of the Caliphate. That Cairo would then become the logical

seat is also regarded as equally certain.

With the loss of all its African possessions and with the loss of all its territory in Europe save the little strip that still fringes the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, Turkey is admitted to have reached a point where her claims to the Caliphate or where she could uphold it with any degree of force or splendor now hang by a mere thread.

The loss of the present war will mean, it is practically conceded, the loss of Constantinople and with the loss of that city of the Sultans and of the Caliphate no secret is made of the fact that the latter would be obliged to seek elsewhere a new home. A small Asiatic nation, such as alone would remain to Turkey, even though it contained the sacred cities of Mecca and Medina could never house the Caliphate.

As a consequence, just as Germany, after entering into war with its original intentions fixed against France and Russia found latter the necessity of venting the vials of its wrath against England, so Turkey, beginning the present war against its century old enemy Russia and retaining really the most friendly of feelings towards England, now finds itself concentrating all its hatred and all its war spirit and energy against the latter.

Although the Young Turks are now making the most of this alleged intention on the part of England to wrest from Constantinople the glories of the Caliphate, unfortunately for them, all of the elements of the situation are admittedly not in their favor. To begin with the entire Mohammedan world has not always taken too kindly to the claims of the Caliphate of Constantinople as being the rightful successor of the supreme authority of that religion.

Especially has this been so of the Arabian Mohammedans who cannot forget that for centuries the succession of the Caliphate was not only in their hands but that it was actually located in Egypt, where in the event of any future change, it would almost

inevitably have to go. It is not considered likely therefore that the Young Turks while finding in England's alleged intention fresh occasion for stirring up their own wrath will be any too successful in stirring up the unanimity of the entire Mohammedan world for the carrying out of their religious war against her.

In addition, it is not even certain that even the entire Turkish element of the Mohammedan religion would be unfavorable to the change. As has been stated in the foregoing the transfer of the Caliphate to Cairo would be merely the resumption of a glorious tradition which for centuries existed there. Egypt, too, it is admitted, is in reality the present center of the Mohammedan faith, the center of the propaganda and the one country whose material basis and prosperity is such as to insure for the Caliphate the dignity and security that is fast slipping from it at Constantinople.

The one great University of Islam is located in Egypt and it is from there and there alone in the thousands of "Ulema" who pass out every year to carry the religion to all parts of the world, that the propaganda of the faith has its origin. In addition, Egypt is declared to be the one Mohammedan country that has reached a degree of intellectual development that will permit the development of the religion along the lines necessary to meet the changed conditions which have taken place in the world from the time when its one means of propaganda and support was the armed hordes which swept them the nations of the earth.

Great as these advantages, it is openly admitted at Constantinople, would be for the Caliphate, no secret is also made of just how much such a change would mean to England. The latter has somewhere in the vicinity of 80,000,000 Mohammedan subjects. Were the Caliphate under her protection her prestige with this Mohammedan population would unquestionably be assured. Her two friends and allies, Russia and France, have also within their dominions another 120,000,000 Mohammedan subjects. Were England in a position through here friendly relations with the Caliphate to be able to assure to them the peace and tranquility of their Mohammedan dominions, her position in the political world would be more firmly established than ever.

And with the shrewdness of the Turkish mind, the realization of just how much this would mean to Eng-

land makes it all the more certain of just how much England would be willing to give in return, and for that reason despite the lashing up of hatred by the Young Turks against England for her alleged intentions, quite another element at Constantinople is not at all indisposed to bargain rather than inevitably to lose all through war.

## ARSON SUSPECT UNDER ARREST

BAKER FIRE MAY HAVE BEEN INCENDIARY.

Man With \$30 Equipment Thought to Have Burned His Cafe.

Baker, Jan. 26.—John Natil, proprietor of the Little Dream Cafe, and Earl Lunsford, cook at the cafe, were arrested yesterday afternoon by Constable Bowman on a warrant issued by Justice of the Peace Hubbard on complaint of District Attorney Godwin charging them with maliciously burning the building in last night's Center street fire. Constable Bowman declared that the state had worked up a strong case and that evidence had been procured that Natil had endeavored to hire one Miller to set his restaurant on fire, whereupon, he alleges, Miller quit his job. The Little Dream Cafe was insured for \$300. Fire Chief Grabner said today that the property was not worth \$30, although Natil gave its value as \$300. The losses, with insurance, were as follows:

- A. R. Fairchild, notion store, \$1000; insurance \$500.
- Cook's Fish Market, \$1500; no insurance.
- Frank Hartman's barber shop, \$1,200; insurance \$400.
- Mrs. W. A. Stuckley's confectionary, \$500; insurance \$400.
- Chris Sperors bootblack parlors, \$400; insurance \$200.
- H. J. Valentine Hardware store, \$5000; insurance on stock \$2000.
- Nevius Hall, \$3500; insurance on building \$1200; on contents nothing.
- Cavin & Titus real estate office; loss \$50; no insurance.
- Little Dream Cafe, \$300; insurance \$300.
- Perkins' Shoe Repairing Shop, \$900; insurance \$600.
- John Waterman, building at Center and First, \$800; insurance \$600.
- Harry Twiss, Valentine building, \$1200; insurance not reported.

When the water was finally obtained by connections on Church street and Washington street, all real danger was over. The water formed an instant coating of ice on buildings around the fire zone and shut off all danger of further spread.

St. Stephen's Episcopal church was in danger, too, until the water was turned on. Nevius Hall burned like tinder. Rev. Owen F. Jones organized a force of men to fight to save the church and here it was that the fire department made its biggest fight and successfully. The firemen are warm in the praise for the plucky work of the rector.

The loss at the church property, Nevius Hall, is a severe one. There was no insurance on the contents and only limited on the building. In the building were all the choir vestments, the choir music, piano, Sunday school supplies, tables and other equipment. There are no immediate plans for rebuilding.

Willing workers aided in removing almost all the furniture from the church and these same rescued two barber chairs from Hartman's shop. The explosion of a kettle of grease and fat which was being refined in the oven of the Little Dream cafe stove caused the fire. Earl Lunsford a cook, was refining this grease and he says he left a hot fire but thought the drafts were closed. The smell of burning grease and fat awakened a man named Baker sleeping back of the Hartman shop and he rushed out to see the nearby flames.

Man volunteer firemen braved the cold and assisted materially while others failed to hear the bell. A second alarm was turned in at 2 o'clock and then others were summoned by telephone.

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