

TURKISH PROPOSES POWERS' MEDIATION

ALLIES Demand Formal Statement and Look With Disfavor on Plan.

CRISIS MAY BE TOMORROW

Balkan States Say European Nations Could Not Act Disinterestedly Because of Status of Austria and Italy.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The Times publishes the following dispatch from Belgrade: "It is reported that the Ministry of War has received a telegram stating that Serbia has fallen to a Serbian attack."

LONDON, Dec. 30.—After a fortnight of sparring and feinting, Turkey finally has shown her hand in the peace conference. Mediation by the great powers is the Ottoman scheme for emerging from the war. The Turkish delegates proposed this solution in guarded terms today. The meeting was brief and more strained than any that preceded it, and the Turkish tactics were characteristic. The delegation had received fresh instructions from the Porte. Rehad Pasha announced, but part of the telegram was undecipherable and must be repeated to Constantinople for translation. Rehad Pasha said he was able to say that most of the questions under discussion should be referred to the powers. The boundary between Bulgaria and Turkey was an exception which was a subject, he said, for direct settlement between the two governments.

ALLIES Demand Formality. The Turkish delegates attempted to discuss the questions at issue informally, but the allies insisted that they should put their proposals in writing which the Turks said they were not prepared to do.

The allies propose to bring affairs to a crisis Wednesday. They express the determination not to waste more time in waiting for telegraphic consultations, real or pretended, between Constantinople and the Turkish delegates in London.

Mediation has advantages from the Turkish viewpoint. The tendency of such an arrangement always is in the direction of a compromise. In the second place mediation would save the Turkish Government from the criticism of the people by making it appear that Turkey concedes the sacrifices, which she inevitably must make, to the pressure of all Europe instead of at the dictation of the Balkan states.

ALLIES Dislike Mediation. The first consideration from the standpoint of the allies is opposed to their interests. Such a mediation offers will be of further disadvantage to them, in that certain powers—Austria and Italy—could not be considered as disinterested arbiters.

The Turkish design in presenting counter proposals which left an enormous gulf between them and the allies' proposals was to create a situation in which mediation would appear justifiable—even necessary. Their argument is that never has a mediator given verdict entirely favorable to one side, without compensation to the other.

And the capital argument remains that, whatever Turkey would be forced to concede, her Muslim population, particularly the semi-barbarous tribes of Arabia and Anatolia, would swallow the bitter pill with fewer grimaces if convinced it was administered by a coalition of Europe.

Arbitration Flatly Repudiated. In the camp of the allies the proposal for mediation has been received with varying degrees of disfavor. They are agreed that mediation would be possible of acceptance only if the authority entrusted to the mediator were of such limits that it would be impossible to deprive the victors of rightful conquests; that it must be mediation taking into account the present status of the belligerents, not the ideal of status, and, above all, that it must be mediation—not arbitration.

Arbitration, it is pointed out, was possible before the conflict, not afterwards, unless in questions of detail such as the delimitation of frontiers not well defined by ethnographical landmarks.

Serbia and Montenegro are most dissatisfied of all, in the belief that it will be impossible to obtain impartial mediation by the great powers, which, being a nation which shows a threatening attitude against what these states assert is a legitimate aspiration.

Austria Held to Be Interested. Austria, according to them, virtually can be considered an interested party, as she has proclaimed the inviolability of Albania, forcing the Servians and Montenegrins to abandon the Adriatic coast, and has consented to the necessity of extending the frontiers of Albania for the sole purpose of depriving Serbia and Montenegro of territories they have conquered.

Conceding that Austria does not wish to renounce her traditional policy of expansion in the Balkans with the object of reaching the Aegean Sea, the allies ask, can she be considered an impartial judge in a case in which her vital interests may be furthered or endangered?

The allies also fear Italian aspirations. Italy has protested against the occupation by Greece of the island of Rhodes at the entrance of the Gulf of Arion. This attitude the administration at Athens has considered offensive, asserting that Saseo was included in the Ionian Islands taken from Greece by Great Britain in 1830 and ceded to Greece in 1864. Can Italy also be trusted to give an impartial judgment? asks Greece.

Bulgaria's attitude has not been determined. Dr. Daneff, chief of the Bulgarian plenipotentiaries, appeared hopeful tonight, but said nothing possible could be outlined until Turkey presented her terms in definite form.

Rumors that Turkey has concluded a loan of many millions are untrue. Tentative proposals in this direction have met with the reply that Turkey must first conclude peace if she wishes money.

IRISH SUPPORT IS LAUDED

General May Says Fine Contingent of Men and Officers Offered Army.

DUBLIN, Dec. 28.—(Special.)—Major-General E. M. May a few days ago read a paper on "Ireland and National Defence," at the Royal United Service Institution.

After dealing with the strategic importance of Ireland, the lecturer said that to the army and navy, which was scattered all over the world, Ireland had lavishly given leaders, men and horses. She had lent her soil to train them, and had made a real and substantial contribution towards the defence of the Empire.

During comparatively recent years an effort had been made in certain quarters in Ireland to disparage the army and interfere with enlistment. As far as he could find that movement had been a failure. Recruiting in Ireland was at present good and as yet there were no signs of political influences making themselves felt.

In the case of officers, however, it was different. The landed gentry of Ireland, the most abundant source of supply to their cavalry, was diminished and diminishing. They got a fine contingent of young fellows from Irish families still, but the men often wanted to go to the Indian army or branches where allowances from home on a small scale would enable them to live.

Ireland had fewer local military organizations than either England or Scotland. Thus the army was less a part of the national life in Ireland than elsewhere, and there was less appreciation of military needs and necessities among those who were not in the neighborhood of camps or barracks.

LONDON FEARS WOMEN

WESTMINSTER ABBEY GUARDED AGAINST SUFFRAGETTES.

DESTRUCTION OF MAIL DOES GREAT HARM TO INNOCENT PEOPLE AND TO CAUSE OF EQUAL VOTING RIGHTS.

ABBEY-SIDE. LONDON, Dec. 31.—(Special.)—The official responsible for the safety of Westminster Abbey, there is little doubt that some sort of warning has been received from the suffragettes that the abbey were in danger of attack from suffragettes.

For some weeks back no visitors have been permitted to view the various chapels and the tombs of the Kings except under the guidance of a guide. For three days Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, a charge of threepence and a ticket being required for each visitor. The new rule doubt that some sort of warning has been received from the suffragettes that the abbey were in danger of attack from suffragettes.

While there has been no augmentation of the staff of the abbey, it is not denied that upon the direct instructions of the dean, extra precautions have been observed to prevent any persons "secreting" themselves at closing time. Each evening a meticulous search has been made for intruders, the search being conducted in person by the dean's head verger, Mr. Weller.

The recent attacks by militant suffragettes upon the pillar boxes and postoffices containing mails, and the destruction of letters, either by corrosive fluid or firecrackers, have created the feeling that nothing is now safe or sacred from their depredations. If any one thing has harmed the "votes-for-women" campaign it is this indiscriminate burning of letters. In some cases it is of shipping firms that have had to hold up their vessels because bills of lading have been destroyed. But industry has its own means of effective methods of duplicating and verifying everything, of recovery from every vicissitude. It is from the sentimental point of view that the protagonists of the women's vote are most injured by their cause. The old mother's letter to her son, the young wife's missing message to her husband, the child's postcard to tell his parents of safe arrival in London, the burning of all these, unknown to their senders, has created in the hearts of thousands who waited anxiously for a letter a bitterness and hatred which will do the suffragettes and stop their progress in quarters where they least expect opposition.

One London newspaper friendly to votes for women goes so far as to say that the "letter-destroying" campaign contains possibilities of inflicting personal injuries upon individuals, and individuals have not always the magnanimity of self-restraint in the mass. If the new crime continues in the mass, it is certain that some individual will take the matter of redress into his own hands, and in face of the fact that authority has abandoned its power, it is most probable that a jury would refuse to condemn his retaliation.

PAINTERS FALL TO DEATH. Scaffold Gives Way and Men Drop Six Stories at Los Angeles.

AUBURN, Cal., Dec. 29.—The inaccuracy of a watch Saturday night saved the lives of eight men in one of the tunnels of the Mountain Quarries Company near this city.

It is the custom for the watchman at the mouth of the tunnel to flash a signal at 11:30 at night for the men in the tunnel to quit work and come out. Saturday night the watchman's watch was 30 minutes fast and he gave the signal at 11:20 instead of 11:30.

The men, some of whom knew that the signal had been given too early, rushed out quickly, fearing there was some accident. They excitedly asked the watchman why he had signalled them so early. Before he had time to show them the watch, the floodgates broke and the tunnel was flooded.

CHILDREN HAVE CONCERT. Portland Symphony to Give Programme This Morning, Free.

The second rehearsal this season for school children of higher grades.

ANNUAL FOR MAILING. In purchasing the New Year's Oregonian, wrapped for mailing, the public is cautioned that the annual is not to be sent by mail.

Foreign postage, 10 cents.

In high and private schools will be given at 10:30 o'clock this morning at the Heilig Theater by the Portland Symphony Orchestra, George Jeffrey, conductor. About 2500 invitations to school children have been issued, and the recital will be a most interesting one.

The chief feature in the programme is Beethoven's "Seventh Symphony," composed just 100 years ago. Other selections are the overture from Wagner's "Tannhauser," an excerpt by Scharwenka for string, harp and organ; Massenet's "Scenes Pittoresques"; and other musical treats. The children will hear exactly the same programme as will be played at the regular symphony concert Sunday afternoon.

A Canon, Rev. physician has given up tobacco after having used it for 31 years.

GERMAN'S FOREIGN SECRETARY IS DEAD

No Successor to Von Kiderlin-Waechter So Far Is Being Mentioned.

DEATH COMES SUDDENLY. Official, Who Was Paying His Usual Christmas Visit to His Sister, Stricken With Heart Disease When Alone.

STUTTGART, Germany, Dec. 29.—Alfred von Kiderlin-Waechter, Secretary of State of the German Empire, died here today.

Von Kiderlin-Waechter was enjoying his usual Christmas visit to his sister, the Baroness von Gommern, near here. He had been unwell for several days. The end came with great suddenness from heart disease while he was alone.

Alfred von Kiderlin-Waechter was 60 years of age. He had held office as Imperial Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs only since June 28, 1910, when he succeeded Wilhelm von Schoen, who became German Ambassador to France.

Waechter Shrewd Man. The advent of Kiderlin-Waechter was not greeted with great enthusiasm in the German Imperial Parliament. He was a very poor orator and his speeches did not create a good impression. He was known, however, as one of the shrewdest men in German diplomacy, and was regarded as an expert on affairs of the Near East, owing to his having stationed for a long time in the Balkans. His removal from the German Cabinet at the present time is considered to be a great misfortune.

During his short term as Foreign Secretary he was very successful in steering the international politics of the German Empire through a period of unusual entanglements, more especially in regard to the settlement of the dispute between France and Germany as to the future of Morocco. The negotiations were brought to a successful termination last year when France and Germany signed an agreement, as the result of which their relations have become much more cordial.

Alfred von Kiderlin-Waechter was for many years a great favorite of Emperor William, who, however, practically banished him a decade to what was then the comparatively unimportant post of German minister at Bucharest, because on one occasion, Kiderlin-Waechter had presented too much upon the Emperor's favor.

Waechter Dies Bachelor. Alfred von Kiderlin-Waechter died a bachelor. He was born July 10, 1852, and while he was studying law volunteered and fought throughout the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. He entered the diplomatic service in 1873 and served in St. Petersburg, Paris, Copenhagen, Constantinople and Bucharest.

Owing to the suddenness of the Foreign Secretary's death there has been no talk as to his probable successor.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Secretary Knox sent the following cablegram to the Chancellor of the Empire, Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg: "Pray accept the sincere sympathy of the Government of the United States and the people of the United States in the distinguished Herr von Kiderlin-Waechter."

New Bills Open at the Vaudeville Houses.

EVERYTHING went with a "zip" at the Empress last night. There wasn't a dull moment in the whole performance, and patrons of the popular Washington-street theater are assured plenty of entertainment of the right sort during this week.

The show opens with an exhibition of daring feats by the Three Hedders, a trio of clever folks, a man, a woman and a child, who introduce a series of specialties not seen here before. Jack Raban, referred to on the programme as "That Kid," comes next and sings and dances about a plot about nothing, never stopping. It seems to draw a breath. His best work is done when in Scotch costume he sings "I Love a Lassie" and "She's Ma Daisy," with the true burr of the Scotch.

The five musical ladies play grand opera, patriotic airs or popular tunes with equal ability and upon various instruments. Among their selections are "In the Garden of My Heart," Wagner's march from "Tannhauser," and "The American Patrol."

Fox and Ward, the minstrel men with a world-wide record as a vaudeville team, are received with an ovation that attests the warm spot they possess in the hearts of their audience. They introduce a string of jokes most of them brand new, but even the old ones are told in such masterly fashion that they are a fun to hear.

The singing of the old-time minstrel favorite, "Old Uncle Ned," was especially good.

At Wallace and Murray Mack's voices blend harmoniously in the melodies that were popular a score or more of years ago, and the pathos they put into the old-time songs finds an answering chord in the hearts of their audience. That must be pleasing to the artists. In a clever melody of old and new songs, Wallace, the tenor of the gifted team, exemplifies the difference between rag time and such songs as "Annie Laurie."

"Circumstantial Evidence," the little play presented by Harry Burkhardt and company, is a combination of heart tragedy, comedy and music that is interpreted by a clever group of actor folk who do their parts in a most natural way. The scene opens on a poker game in the jury room, and as the plot is unfolded the quartet sing and there is a certain amount of discussion as to whom the jack pot should go to, but the center of the acting is the juror, Carlisle, portrayed by Burkhardt, who stands out against convicting the prisoner on circumstantial evidence. The finale is dramatic and is well handled.

Some interesting motion pictures and good music are additional attractions that will continue to draw a crowd for the week.

Lyric.

JUST before the final curtain in "The Mimic City" at the Lyric this week Jack Wise asks of Lou Davies, blackface comedian, "Say, what are you looking for, anyway?" and Davies, who has been seeking vainly all over the stage, steps right up front and says, "Why, I'm looking for the plot of this play."

But "The Mimic City" doesn't need a plot. Like the human appendix, it is wholly superfluous.

Charles Alvin has collected a lot of tawdry, catchy songs, parodied a few

of the latest ones, written comedy lines and pertinent patter—trusting a plentiful sprinkling of humorous situations and tacked a title, "The Mimic City," on to it because that fits it quite as well as any other. All the Lyric players have drawn prize roles, although everybody wishes little Frances White would come on offense. She is so altogether charming that the Lyric patrons would be glad to have her sitting around as local color when she isn't busy.

Ed S. Allen, who has a great big loyal following, has another of his dandy characterizations, as the dandy, Jack Wise in the medicine man, Dainty Frances White is Rosinsky's daughter, and plays a sweet ingenue role. She falls in love with Handsome, a series of songs and instrumental music by a specially engaged troupe of Filipino musicians.

Jack Wise and the Lyric have an original song in a Texas Tommy dance with an Elberian accent. Emerald Green is developing rapidly into a first class society singer, and is a most inspiring as a wealthy widow seeking a 15th annex. A Miss McKenzle, pretty and well groomed, affords interest as a flirtatious fluff ruffian. The Rosebud chorus lives up to its title. "The Mimic City" will run all week, with matinees daily.

Opheum.

QUITE in the nature of a miniature musical comedy, with soft pedal on the comedy, but fortissimo on the rich voices, colorful costumes and melody, is the headline act at the Opheum, "The Eternal Waltz." Leo Fall wrote it and Joseph Hart is presenting it as a liberal education in the melange for the detection of Opheum patrons.

Mabel Berra, an English songstress of charming presence and an ability to sing top notes clear past high G, has the prima donna role. Cyril Chadwick makes comedy out of a rather mediocre allotment of material, but his ability and leaving it all to him. As a type of English caricature Mr. Chadwick is the soul of the "vocalist" and is a laugh wherever the author let the bars down. Julius Epally, as Poo Yehel, the composer, is a remarkably talented character.

George O'Dell, as a cavalry officer, sings in a well-trained baritone. The plot of the "Eternal Waltz" isn't mellow, but the music is lively, particularly the waltz refrain, which is full of melody, but not of the sort that is a laugh wherever the author let the bars down. Julius Epally, as Poo Yehel, the composer, is a remarkably talented character.

There are five other acts on the bill, which makes the show a really big one. Best for all purposes is Lillian Gonne, in "The Little Girl," along with Lew Brice, an eccentric comedian. They sing, in solos and duets. Sassy has one with a whistle that sets the audience whistling with her. Sassy is about knee high to the proverbial grasshopper and Lew is ten times taller.

Joe Morris and Charlie Allen, dandy fine vocalists, who stop to interpolate their songs with witticisms, have a good act. Their finale is a parody on medley of grand opera. A regular one and one that has everybody laughing at the traveling circus when it visits us that, what occasionally, is Wilson's mule. His name is Okey, and several times stepped out of the audience to try to ride him. They didn't succeed, of course. That's what makes the act really a scream.

Elders and his company of one are comedy manipulators of heavy weights. A ventriloquist act is offered by Hugh McCormack and Grace Wallace.

Pantages.

PANTAGES THEATRE presents six Cuban athletes, the Castillons, as the feature act. They received a warmer reception last night than has any athletic act for a long time. The applause was merited. One of the party is a beautiful Cuban maid.

The big feature of the bill is a musical opera presented by a company of four, entitled "Nancy Lee the Second." It consists of a lot of good singing, dancing and plot about nothing, in particular. But they get a lot of entertainment in 20 minutes.

Louis Worth is a comedian of merit who made his hit in his role of a cabby boy, who is a bit of a seaman and a bit of a comedian. Miss Kitty Montgomery and Miss Winnie Worth are the women of the company and add to the picture. The company of the deck scenes. They are also good singers. Maurice Haynes is the captain of the crew and is another good musician.

The four Avolites are an exceedingly entertaining band of xylophone players. One of the players is also a cultured singer and he has a song of "My Hero" to the house to her shrine.

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