

# TURKS ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY SLAUGHTER

## Armenians Accused of Plot and Massacre Held Necessary.

### ALL APPROVED BY BERLIN

#### Diabolical Crime Committed Solely Because Turks Feel Economic and Intellectual Inferiority to Christians So Outraged.

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BY DR. HARRY STEINBERG.

In a series of semi-official articles in the newspapers of the Committee of Young Turks it was made quite clear that all Armenians were dangerous conspirators who, in order to shake off the Ottoman yoke, had collected firearms and bombs and had arranged with the help of English and Russian money, for a terrible slaughter of Turks on the day that the English fleet overcame the armies of the Dardanelles.

I must here emphasize the fact that all the arguments of the Turkish government brought against the Armenians did not escape my notice. They were indeed evident enough in official and semi-official publications and in the writings of German "experts on Turkey." I investigated everything, even right at the beginning of my stay in Turkey, and always from a thoroughly pro-Turkish point of view. That did not prevent me, however, from coming to my present point of view.

Herr Zimmermann, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has only got to refer to the date of his letter to the editorial staff of my paper, in which he speaks of my confidential report to the paper on this subject which went through his hands and aroused his interest, and he will find what opinions I held as early as the Summer of 1916 on the subject of the Armenian persecutions—and this without my having any particular sympathy for the Armenians, for it was not till much later that I got to know them and their high intellectual qualities through personal intercourse.

Here I can only give my final judgment on all these pros and cons, and say to the best of my knowledge and opinion, that at the date of his letter in this drama of massacre and death—the brutal "evacuation of the war zone" in Armenia Proper—the meanest, the lowest, the most criminal, most criminal act of race-fanaticism that the history of mankind has to show was the extension of the system of deportation, with its willful neglect and starvation of the victims, to further hundreds of thousands of Armenians in the Capital and interior. And these were people who, through their place of residence, their surrounding their social status, their preoccupation in work and wage-earning, were quite incapable of taking any active part in politics.

Berlin Sanctions Diabolism.

Others of them, again, belonged to families of high social standing and culture, bound to the land by a thousand ties, coming of a well-to-do, old-established stock, and from traditional training and ordinary prudence holding themselves scrupulously apart from all revolutionary doings. All were surrounded by a far superior number of inhabitants belonging to a Government that had written "forcible nationalization" on their standard, the whole household goods of respectable families were thrown into the street and sold for a mere nothing, because their owners often had only an hour till they were routed out by the waiting gendarmes and hustled off into the interior. The fittings of the houses, naturally, unavailable in the hurry, usually fell to the lot of marauding "mohadjirs" (Mohammedan immigrants), who, often enough armed to the teeth by the "committee," began the disturbances which were then exposed as "Armenian conspiracies."

That was the time when mothers, apparently in absolute despair, sold their own children, because they had been robbed of their last penny and could not let their children perish in that terrible march into the distant interior.

Government Gets Warning.

Of the ebb and flow of these persecutions, all that can be said is that the daily number of deportations increased when the Turks were annoyed over some Russian victory, and that the banishments miraculously abated when the military catastrophes of Erzerum, Trebizond, and Erzurum gave the government food for thought and led them to wonder if perhaps Nemesis was going to overtake them after all.

For the most part it was the sad fate of those deported to be sent off on an endless journey by foot, to the far-off Arabian frontiers, where they were treated with the most terrible brutality. There, in the midst of a population wholly foreign and but little sympathetic to their race, left to their fate on a barren mountain-side, without money, without shelter, without medical assistance, without the means of earning a livelihood, they perished in want and misery.

Families Are Sundered.

The women and children were always separated from the men. That was characteristic of all the deportations. It was an attempt to break up the very core of their national being and annihilate them by the tearing asunder of all family ties.

That was how a very large part of the Armenian people disappeared. They were the "persons transported elsewhere," as the elegant title of the "Provisional Han" ran, which gave full stewardship over their well-stocked farms to the "committee" with its goal for "internal colonization" with purely Turkish elements. In this way the great goal was reached—the forcible nationalization of a land of mixed races.

While Anatolia was gradually emptied of all the forces that had hitherto made for progress, while the deserted towns and villages and flourishing fields of

those who had been banished fell into the hands of the lowest "mohadjirs"—hordes of the most dissipated Mohammedan emigrants—that stream of unhappy beings trickled on, ever more slowly to its distant goal, leaving the dead bodies of women and children, old men and boys, as milestones to mark the way. The few that did reach the "settlement" alive—that is, the fever-ridden, hunger-stricken concentration camps—continually molested by raiding Bedouins and Kurds, gradually sickened and died a slower and even more terrible death.

Sometimes even this was not speedy enough for the government, and a case occurred in Autumn, 1916—absolutely verified by statements made by German employes on the Baghdad Railway—where some thousands of Armenians, brought as workers to this stretch of railway, simply vanished one day without leaving a trace. Apparently they were simply shipped off into the desert without more ado and there massacred.

Complete Extermination Aim.

I have spoken to Armenians who have said to me, "In former times the old Sultan Abdul-Hamid used to have us massacred by thousands. We were delivered over by well-organized pogroms to the Kurds at stated times, and certainly we suffered cruelly enough. Then the Young Turks, as Adam 1909 shows, started on a bloodbath of thousands. But after what we have just gone through we long with all our hearts for the days of the old massacres. Now it is no longer a case of a certain number of massacred; now our whole people is being slowly but surely exterminated by the national hatred of an apparently civilized, apparently modern, and therefore infinitely more dangerous government."

"Now they get hold of our women and children and send them long journeys in concentration camps, apparently in barren districts where they die. The pitiful remains of our population in the villages and towns of the interior, where the local authorities have carried out the commands of the central government most zealously, are forcibly converted to Islam, and our young girls are confined in Turkish harems and places of low repute."

"The race is to vanish to the very last man, and why? Because the Turks have recognized their intellectual bankruptcy, their economic incompetence, and their social inferiority to the progressive Armenian element, to which Abdul-Hamid, in spite of occasional massacres, knew well enough how to adapt himself, and which he even utilized in all its power in high offices of state. Because now that they themselves are being decimated by a war and unsuccessful war of terrible bloodshed that was lost before it was begun, they hope in this way to retain the sympathy of their people and preserve the superiority of their element in the state."

(To Be Continued.)

Chehalis Club Considers Budget.

CHEHALIS, Wash., Feb. 5.—(Special.)—A meeting of Citizens' Club trustees was held Monday night to arrange preliminaries for adopting the new budget and bureau system, under which the club expects to work in the future. Trustees C. O. Gingsrich, A. E. Judd and A. F. Scherer resigned voluntarily in order to make the new plan workable. The terms of F. M. Power, H. C. Coffman and W. F. West expire this year, and trustee Tip Cabel's term expires, as he was appointed to fill a vacancy.

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# BOLO TANGLED IN WEB OF EVIDENCE

## Air of Confidence Weakens in Course of Courtmartial Examination.

### LETTER OF CAILLAUX READ

#### Cutting Comment Written by Former Premier Relative to Title of Egyptian Nobility—Court-Martial Examination Ends.

PARIS, Feb. 5.—Bolo Pasha, who is on trial before the high court on a charge of treason, lost something of his customary nerve at the close of today's session, when the government's first witness, an expert accountant, M. Doyen, after solemnly turning to the prisoner with the declaration: "All of Bolo's statements are lies; he never received the commissions he alleges as the basis of his fortune," handed to the court receipts, cheques and other documents, showing that Bolo had received half a million dollars each from the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, agent of the Deutsche Bank before the war and the Royal Bank of Canada.

Bolo's face lost the half smirk, half sneer which it had worn all day at the sensational close of M. Doyen's testimony and for the first time since the opening of his trial he waived the opportunity to interrogate.

M. Doyen occupied the stand for nearly two hours detailing slowly and methodically his examination of Bolo's papers. His testimony was often technical and many who had jammed their way into the building had left when the witness reached the climax.

Bolo's Fortune Dissipated.

M. Doyen, who had investigated the fortune of Bolo Pasha and his wife, testified that at the outbreak of the war the couple had dissipated the entire estate left by Madame Bolo's former husband and had but the income from a trust fund which amounted to 47,000 francs yearly.

During the early portion of the trial Bolo maintained the attitude which he had assumed yesterday, his joviality bringing repeated laughs that had to be checked as he sparred with the prosecutor and chief judge during his own examination.

He was haughty as ever, striking attitudes in the dock, gesticulating gracefully, talking with lightning-like rapidity, seemingly never at a loss for an answer to the questions raised upon him by prosecutor and court alike.

It was only when M. Doyen began his testimony that Bolo slumped down in his seat and striving to look unconcerned, listened to the accusations hurled at him.

He presented a strong contrast at first to his co-prisoner, Porchere, his former secretary, who in a dignified

shaking voice, with hand upraised, had sworn he was innocent.

In the latter half of the session, however, Porchere seemed cooler than Bolo. It was especially true when M. Doyen read a specimen letter from a collection of photographic reproductions of checks and other papers which had been sent here by the Attorney-General of New York. This letter was addressed to the Amstutz bank, reading:

"You will receive sums for my account, the amount of which Pavenstedt (former head of his bank) knows." Other exhibits were checks showing the payment by the Guaranty Trust Company to the Amstutz Bank for \$500,000 paid "for the account and by order of the Deutsche Bank" and checks to the order of the Royal Bank of Canada and a receipt from that institution for \$500,000.

The examination of Bolo Pasha, begun yesterday on the first day of his trial by courtmartial on the charge of treason, was concluded at today's session of the court.

Caillaux Delivers Rebuke.

The defendant at one point stated that he was created a Pasha, which title he received from Abbas Hilmi, then khedive of Egypt, in September, 1914, and in this connection a letter was read from former Premier Joseph Caillaux, who now is under arrest on a treason charge in which M. Caillaux said:

"I beg you, my dear Bolo, to quit this Pasha business. It only makes you ridiculous." Bolo declared he had never concealed his relations with the former khedive, which were known to President Poincare and to Theophile Delcasse, former Foreign Minister.

Regarding Adolph Pavenstedt, formerly connected with a New York banking house and now in a Georgia internment camp, with whom he had financial dealings in the United States, Bolo said Pavenstedt never mentioned Count von Bernstorff to him, and that Pavenstedt always manifested hatred towards Germans, pretending to be of Czech origin.

Many Errors Alleged.

Bolo declared that Pavenstedt's evidence contained many errors in dates. He questioned the authenticity of the documents which Pavenstedt produced. (This apparently refers to the evidence Pavenstedt gave at the New York State investigation of last Fall in which Pavenstedt named Count von Bernstorff as the source of large sums which Bolo is declared to have received in this country for influencing French public opinion.)

Bolo asserted it would be ridiculous to consider him the political personality mentioned in a telegram from Count von Bernstorff to Herr von Jagow, the then German Foreign Minister, as seeking a loan.

He also declared that it would have been utterly useless for him to use the name of "Saint Regis" (Pavenstedt's testimony explained the use of this name in a von Bernstorff message by stating that it was a password given him by Count von Bernstorff at Bolo's request in case Bolo should wish to get in contact with German officials at Berne.)

"These telegrams are fabrications," Bolo declared, and Bolo should wish to get in contact with German officials at Berne.)

The defendant's air of confidence was noticeably affected when the president

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Third Floor—Lipman, Wolfe & Co.

# Lipman Wolfe & Co.

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OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 5.—Tomorrow the Senate public lands committee will take up the bill passed by the House yesterday authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to exchange scattered private holdings of land within the O. & C. grant for Government sections, in order that both private and Government holdings may be consolidated and the checker-board broken up.

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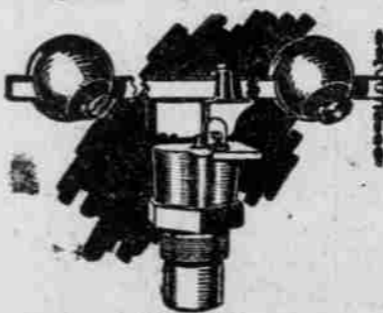
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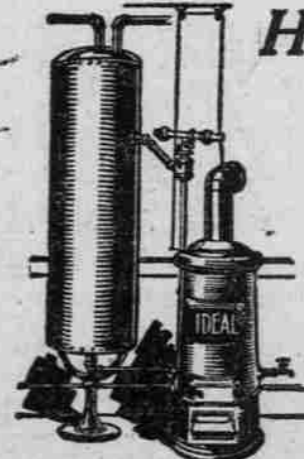
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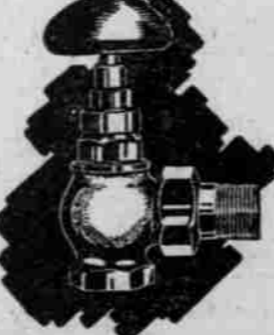
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