

Balkan Difficulties Not Yet Settled

Allies and Turks Meet in London and Fail to Agree, While the Six Great Powers of Europe Look On and Wait

As an evader of consequences and a wiggler out of difficulties the Turk easily carries off the banner among the nations of the world. Every time he gets into trouble he manages in some way or other to twist about and get more than he is entitled to out of his opponent. The el has nothing on the Turk when it comes to slippiness. Just now, while an armistice keeps the contending armies of the Balkans and the Turks apart, representatives of the nations involved are enjoying a conference in London, and the wily Turk is playing for time. The armistice was agreed to by the allies because Turkey gave an impression that she was ready and willing to accept the terms of the allies. But once the armistice was proclaimed, the old tactics of the Turks came into play, and Rehad Pasha, chief delegate of the Ottoman empire, has shown the characteristics of his race in the skillful manner in which he has put off the allies.

Much indignation and impatience has been evidenced by the representatives of the Balkan states at the very apparent dilatory tactics of the Turkish envoy. Time and again Pasha has made proposals under instructions from his government that were impossible of acceptance, and the allies finally named Monday, January 6th, as the last day of grace

for the very much discomfited Ottoman. In spite of the feeling on the part of the allies that a speedy termination of the conference would be brought about, even this announcement had anything but an accelerating effect on the Turkish government, and the allies stated that a renewal of hostilities would immediately result from a failure to agree on terms.

Then another element came into play. By a happy coincidence the conference of the six great powers of Europe is being held in London instead of some European city. England, France, Germany, Austria, Russia and Italy are represented in this conference, and they are ready to see that the best interests of Europe are served in the settlement of this great dispute. They called upon the allies to be slow in precipitating a renewal of hostilities, pointing out the fact that the Turks stand ready to present further peace proposals, which they interpret as a disposition to meet the issue as best they can. The powers have too much at stake to permit of a renewal of hostilities.

It is safe to say the demands of the Balkans are greater than they hope to realize. It is doubtless true also that the Turks' counter proposal includes a retention of territory that they have long since made up their minds to release. A startling coincidence in the demands made by both factions is the distinction drawn between "sovereignty" and "suzerain-

ty." Sovereignty means actual supremacy; suzerainty generally means something less than absolute power. The Balkans are perfectly willing to recognize the autonomy of Albania under Turkish suzerainty but will not consent to Turkish sovereignty. The Balkans would make the Sultan nominally ruler of Albania but without the political, administrative or military power that he would have as sovereign. And while the armistice lasts and the parties thereto are engaging in disputes Turkey is daily becoming better fitted to renew the struggle if necessary. She is in far better shape for fighting now than she was at the beginning of the armistice.

Now that the ultimatum of the allies has been rejected definitely by Turkey there is a little note of anxiety as to the next turn in affairs. The bone of contention in the final negotiations that ended so abruptly Monday, the 6th, was whether or not Adrianople should remain in Ottoman territory. Turkey renounced in favor of the allies her rights in the Island of Crete and promised further ratification of the Thracian frontier, but insisted upon the retention of Adrianople. The Turkish envoy gave as his reasons for refusing to accede to the demands of the allies for the surrender of Adrianople the feeling on the part of Ottomans that to surrender that city is to surrender all they possess for the security of Constantinople and the Dar-



danelles. The allies immediately announced that negotiations were broken by the refusal, and unless something intervenes to cause a resumption of the conference a renewal of the war is likely.

The other element, however, that is coming into the case is the near-

ness of the six great powers in conference in London. These powers have too much at stake to permit of a failure in the negotiations, and it is confidently hoped and expected that their good offices will be brought into play to secure a further sitting of the conference. It is the con-

sensus of opinion in diplomatic circles that Turkey is simply playing in order to force intervention by the powers. Such an event would give to Turkey the excuse that she was forced to yield by the pressure of outside influences which she could not hope to resist.

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Will Conviction of Alleged Dynamiters Stop Outrages

Recently in Indianapolis thirty-eight labor union officials have been declared guilty of complicity in the McNamara dynamiting activities that for years have terrorized different sections of the country, including the wrecking of the Los Angeles Times building, which deed in all its horrifying details proved the undoing of those who today stand convicted before a jury in the United States District Court of Indiana.

A long drawn out trial of the McNamara brothers on the charge of having dynamited the Los Angeles Times came to an abrupt and sensational termination through the confessions of the principals. Ably defended by the foremost legal talent of the country, it was early apparent to Mr. Darrow that to save these men from the gallows was the best that might be hoped for, as the evidence against them was so overwhelming that conviction could not be forestalled. Consequently the confessions were advised.

However timely the confessions of the McNamara may have been in saving them from the noose, the fact remains that through the evidence adduced at this trial, aided by the turn-coat McNamara's stories of crime, hundreds of labor leaders throughout the United States have been implicated, justly or unjustly, in a most dastardly conspiracy to wreck business houses, railroad enterprises and other great industries.

Whether these men but recently

convicted are actually guilty of the crimes charged is a matter not up to us to determine. The penal institutions of our fair land enshroud in their cloaks of misery many a man who is innocent of the crime for which he has been sentenced. Many an innocent man's life is slowly ebbing away while he is serving a sentence in expiation of the deed committed by another. However, this is the exception and not the rule. Statistics will prove that ninety-nine per cent of the inmates of our over-filled prisons and houses of correction are guilty as charged.

But statistics will not show the percentage of cases where extenuating circumstances, that in a great measure are responsible for the commission of most crimes, are taken into account. Doubtless these men found guilty of complicity in the recent nationwide business wrecking conspiracy could plead extenuating conditions, and if allowed the privilege very likely could present to the public in a most sensational manner harrowing tales of downtrodden principles, labor contracts broken, the blacklist, less than living wages, wives and children forced to the sweat shop where labor-saving machinery every minute of the day endangers life and limb, where children are prodded by an overseer to keep them awake at the looms, where life's ideals, life's hopes and fancies, the air castles of youth, the rose bloom of health and happiness—all are crushed and forgotten in an effort to stave, if only for a day, the pangs of hunger, the chill of wintry

blasts and the charity of a public almshouse.

Extenuating circumstances without number might be cited as justification for a great many deeds that are contrary to the laws of both God and man, but can any one justify the wanton destruction of property or the sending of souls to an eternity for which they are probably unprepared? Certainly there can be no justification of an act that brings to an untimely end the husband, father, son or brother—he who is the breadwinner of a family or the mainstay of aged parents.

Charles W. Miller, United States district attorney, who prosecuted for the government, said: "This prosecution will be a benefit to organized labor. It will purge it of rough tactics. The whole United States owes a debt of gratitude to that jury." Possibly the district attorney is right—possibly he is not. In any event, it might not be amiss to suggest that it is not altogether within the ranks of organized labor that purging of rough tactics would prove of untold benefit to a long-suffering people. There is plenty of room for good missionary work in the ranks of the latter were purged of their roughness, if the man who toils were given good, healthful working conditions and wages in keeping with the high cost of living, and if the employer and employee would get together with the idea of arriving at an amicable adjustment of difficulties then it would be a good, safe wager that such crimes as these men

today stand convicted of would immediately cease.

Hanging does not prevent murder, for the gallows hold out no terror to the man in whose heart lurks the desire to kill.

Penal institutions do not correct criminals, and in very few instances does a man improve through confinement in prison; as a rule the fact that a man once wore stripes is sufficient to brand him as a criminal all the days of his life, no matter what may have been his crime.

So, while the district attorney may be right in his opinion that the conviction of these men will purge organized labor of rough tactics, still the fact remains that their conviction will not put a stop to dynamiting and attempts at business wrecking. What the country demands is a remedy that forever will end the strife and trouble existing between capital and labor, and until such a remedy is had outrages of one kind or another will continue.

As the convicted men emerged from the Indianapolis courtroom, the group of prisoners stood between two colossal marble statues representing Liberty and Justice. The scene was bathed in a golden winter sunlight. The immense crowds, mingling hatched with sympathy, looked up, but were silent, as the prisoners slowly wended their way to a dark and dismal jail.

Let us hope that in the trial and conviction of these men they were accorded every courtesy within the gift of Justice—of their liberty they will be deprived.

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