

BREVITIES

Turkey Proceeded to Attend to the Armenians

By WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

Now why the need of money for the Armenians? You know their story? Abdul Hamid was the Sultan of Turkey. He was the *sweet-scented individual* who in 1896 deliberately directed the killing of 100,000 Armenians. Who are the Armenians? They are one of the oldest Christian peoples in the world. They lived in a province that lies north of Mesopotamia, east of Asia Minor, west of Persia and south of the Black Sea. It is a province of mountains and valleys—not only rich but fertile. 1,800,000 Armenians lived in that country, cultivating the valleys and made them "blossom as the rose". The Turks hated them because they were Christians; hated them because they were industrious, and enjoyed the prosperity that comes from industry.

Later when Turkey entered the great European war as the ally of Germany, she invited German officers into her army. Her army was shortly officered by German officers, who directed that army to go into Armenia and deport 1,800,000 Armenians, which they did. 600,000 escaped. The other 1,200,000 were driven by that army to the desert of Mesopotamia and Syria, and in the drive the army deliberately killed men, women and children, by rifle ball, by bayonet, by knife, by driving them over precipices, by driving them into deep running rivers—600,000 men, women and children! Half of them were deported to Asia and half to Mesopotamia. Out of those deported nearly 400,000 died of starvation.

Then Germany turned the Caucasus over to Turkey; Turkey proceeded to attend to the Armenians—in that kindly, fatherly way! That is the story!

A friend of mine who was on the border of Persia told me that he had gone to a German officer and said "For God's sake, can't you stop the butchery of these men, women and children?" and the German officer clicked his heels together and said "Stand back, the time for mercy has passed".

This is the story of that unfortunate people. The Syrians, Greeks and Jews in Western Asia have suffered the same kind of barbaric treatment. The Armenian and Syrian Relief has been organized for some years to care for these unfortunate, sorely distressed people. It has received and most efficiently expended more than \$12,000,000. Each cent that you give will go for actual relief. Feeble, helpless, starving millions cry for food. I urge you to give generously of your bounty.

Rhode Island Red roosters for sale. Mrs. A. A. Keen.

J. S. Harris has sold his Overland car to Henry Waddingham.

Arthur Rose and family were visiting in Walla Walla during the week.

Mrs. J. O. Wood of North Yakima, Wash., is visiting her mother, Mrs. Susan Tucker.

M. and Mrs. Lester I. O'Hara are now in Portland, having gone to that city from Seattle.

Frank Skinner and family have moved into the former Carter residence on north Water street.

G. W. Proebstel Jr. and family are moving soon to a farm on the reservation owned by Ben Dupuis.

The Weston Leader is on a cash basis, and positively wants no business otherwise. Clark Wood, publisher.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. White of La Grande were week-end guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Woods.

Mrs. Ollie Fisk of Palmer, Idaho, is visiting at the home of her son and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Fisk, near Weston.

Miss Patricia Engleton was a week-end guest of the Misses Jessie and Esther Davis at their home on the Wild Horse.

Herman Henderson is here from Oregon City to visit his mother, whose long illness is reported to have reached a very critical stage.

The Ladies' Aid of the U. B. church announces a cooked food sale for Saturday, March 22, at the store of the Weston Mercantile Co.

S. A. Barnes, S. J. Culey, G. W. Winn and J. H. Price attended the big State Chamber of Commerce meeting at Pendleton Monday evening.

Mrs. C. M. Price, Rev. S. E. Powell and Geo. W. Winn are in Walla Walla this week attending the district conference of the M. E. Church, South.

Theed Dickenson of Dayton, Wash., was the guest this week of the J. F. Sniders while returning home from a visit to his son, a Newport, Oregon, banker.

Several books taken out of the local library during the "flu" epidemic have not as yet been returned. The librarian requests that they be brought back at once.

Corporal Ted Enberg, cousin of R. G. Blomgren, was here this week while on his way home to Payette, Idaho, from California. Until his recent discharge, he served with the coast artillery.

Beginning Monday the Weston-Pendleton auto stage will resume its old schedule, leaving the Davis confectionery store, Weston, twice a day—7:45 a. m. and 12:45 p. m. O. H. McPherrin, driver.

John Milton Swaggart has filed suit in the circuit court against George W. Swaggart et al. in an action to clear title to land in possession of plaintiff under the will of Nelson Swaggart, deceased.

At the United Brethren church Sunday 25 members were received and one hundred people took communion. The seating capacity was taxed to accommodate the congregation. At Sunday school 124 were present.

The people of Wild Horse district met at the schoolhouse for a social evening March 7. A short impromptu program was rendered and road conditions existing between town and the Wild Horse were briefly discussed. Coffee, cake, sandwiches and salad were served by the matrons of the district to the 58 people who were present.

Mrs. Ralph Blanchard, a resident of the hills above Foster, Oregon, must be the champion lady hunter and trapper of the Willamette valley, according to the Albany Herald. She brought in for bounty the hides of two great gray wolves, a coyote and four bobcats which she had shot and trapped. Mrs. Blanchard is a young married woman who loves the open.

Dr. C. H. Smith, formerly first lieutenant, is now Captain Smith, having received his new commission February 22. He was recommended for promotion last October. Captain Smith saw much active and dangerous service in dressing stations on the western front, but is now billeted in a small French town awaiting his turn to sail for home. It is not too much to say that every man, woman or child in the Weston country is his friend and rejoices in his promotion.

A very enjoyable social gathering was had by the Epworth League at the Methodist church Friday evening, March 7. A large number of young people took the vows and were admitted into the society. Mrs. E. M. Smith sang and a piano solo was rendered by Miss Ruby Price. Lots were drawn for partners and diverting games were played, after which the young people adjourned to the basement, where dainty refreshments were served. There were 65 in attendance. The league will give a St. Patrick's party at the Methodist church Monday evening, March 17.

Charles Bulfinch, former corporal of marines, came in Sunday from Iona Island, 40 miles up the Hudson river from New York City, where he served with a command of marines in guarding a munitions depot. He was 22 months in the marine corps, but as it was not his good fortune to get across and he grew tired of ordinary camp routine on this side of the pond, he says he is not sorry to be back in civilian life. He brought a somewhat robust appetite to his first home dinner, and positively salutes nobody—not even the local colonel.

J. M. Banister has ordered the seed wheat for reseeding 180 acres of his holdings, on the Richmond place near town. Several other farmers with damaged fields are waiting for warmer weather and sunshine, to determine whether or not it will be necessary to reseed.

Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Adams have taken the Fred Dupuis cottage on east Main street hill.

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