

PEACEMAKERS MEET.

REPRESENTATIVES OF TURKEY AND BALKAN STATES HOLD FIRST CONFERENCE.

Two Sets of Terms are Very Far Apart—Great Difference Between What Allies Demand and What Turks are Willing to Concede—United States May Play Hand at Diplomacy.

London, Dec. 16.—Plenipotentiaries considering arrangement of peace between Turkey and the Balkan States met today in St. James' palace. They adjourned early in the afternoon without having entered into discussion of the peace question. The day's feature was the address of welcome delivered by Sr. Edward Grey, the British secretary for foreign affairs, who was elected honorary president of the conference. The responses of the heads of the various delegations indicated a desire to accomplish the purpose of the conference.

All the delegates applauded Sir Edward Grey's speech, which, like his statement in the house of commons Wednesday, aimed at impartiality. The Balkan delegates seemingly are more satisfied with its substance than the Turks. In the passage, "In this way you will lay foundations on which, I trust, will be built by true wisdom and statesmanship the prosperity, moral, economic and national, of your respective countries," they see a plain allusion to their States, as they are fighting for the principle of nationality and they are trying to upbuild the moral and economic properties of their countries; while for Turkey it is a question of general demotion. Thus they think the British foreign secretary, notwithstanding his efforts at impartiality, could not help—perhaps unconsciously—giving a hint on which side his sympathies are.

In his reply Dr. Dageff of the Bulgarian delegation emphasized Sir Ed-

ward's utterances when he said that the conference could work "to insure the Balkan states, so troubled in the past, . . . an era of tranquility and progress."

Speaking of the first meeting of the conference, Count Devoinovich, one of the ablest of the Montenegrin delegates, said:

"Today we simply looked into each other's eyes."

A climax will be reached tomorrow, when both sides exchange their respective propositions for the conclusion of peace. The terms of the allies are:

The immediate surrender of the Turkish fortresses of Scutari, Adrianople and Janina, to the garrisons of which full military honors will be granted; the evacuation of eastern Europe by Turkey as far as East Tehtatalja to a line to be delimited on the spot; the cession to Greece of all the Aegean islands; the annexation of Crete to Greece and the payment by Turkey of a war indemnity and of the expenses incurred by the allies on account of the Turkish prisoners.

The allies in return are prepared to grant complete amnesty to the Mussulman population in the territories they annex for any acts of hostility during the war; the return of all prisoners; the recognition of the spiritual sovereignty of the Sultan over Ottoman becoming subjects of the Balkan States, and the free administration by the Mussulmans of their pious foundations in the Balkans.

To these conditions has now been added the taking over by the Balkan states of that part of the Ottoman public debt corresponding to the territories which they annex, unless the powers controlling the Ottoman debt allow them to deduct that part from the war indemnity imposed upon Turkey, which would thus remain the only debtor.

The terms formulated by Turkey have been kept secret, but it may be asserted on good authority that they include the renunciation by both sides of any money transaction under the form of indemnity or otherwise except

the taking over by the Balkan states of a portion of the Ottoman public debt proportionate to the new territories they acquire.

They provide also that the sultan shall have a representative in the territories passing to the allies, where Ottoman courts shall be instituted for Mussulman subjects.

Adrianople, the first Turkish capital in Europe, and surrounding territory shall remain subject to Turkey.

The Turco-Bulgarian frontier south of Adrianople shall be marked by the Maritza river, while the territory west of Maritza as far as the Struma river would go to Bulgaria, which thus would have the port of Kavala, to which she has long aspired.

Furthermore, Turkey will demand that Saloniki, over the possession of which, it is pointed out, serious Graeco-Bulgarian antagonism has arisen, shall remain Turkey's and, together with Monastir and Scutari and their respective districts, shall form Ottoman territory surrounding Albania.

Servia is to have Uskup, Pristina, Mitrovitza and part of the Sanjak of Novipazar, the remaining part going to Montenegro.

To Bulgaria is conceded the island of Thraos, but Turkey claims possession of the other islands in the Aegean including Samothrace, Imbros, Lemnos and Mitylene, together with those now occupied by Italy, because the latter belongs to Asiatic Turkey.

But the administration at Constantinople pledges itself to obtain from England, Russia, France and Italy, the four protective powers in Crete, their consent that the island be annexed to Greece.

These terms would give the allies four-fifths of the territory which a few weeks ago was European Turkey, but following what seems a great concession, a comparison of the terms of the allies with those of Turkey is sufficient to show the immense gulf separating them. Even admitting concessions on both sides, an ultimate understanding appears extremely difficult. Because of this, the idea of mediation has been put

forward. All the delegates, however declare that they know nothing about mediation and that it is extraneous to their mission here which is limited to the negotiation of peace, without even the power of concluding it.

For the conclusion of peace either they or others must receive the authorization of their respective governments. The delegates did not refuse to discuss the question unofficially and remarked that it would be impossible for Russia or Austria to mediate, as both these powers are too much interested in the settlement, nor could Germany, because she is bound to Austria; nor could Italy because of the recent war between that country and Turkey.

There only remain England and France which might be acceptable to both parties, but their selection might give umbrage to Germany and Austria.

It was pointed out that the only great power absolutely disinterested and impartial is the United States which in 1905 led to the conclusion of peace between Russia and Japan, this might lead to actual mediation.

This would not be the first time that action by the United States has made itself felt in matters concerning Turkey. Unofficial intervention by the United States had a beneficent effect in the Turco-Italian war, when last June the American ambassador at Rome, after an understanding with the Italian premier, notified the American ambassador at Constantinople of the peace conditions proposed by Italy, which were exactly those embodied in the treaty of Lausanne.

Ambassador Rockhill, representing a country without territory or other aspirations in the Ottoman empire, was the main instrument in convincing the porte of the uselessness of resistance and the advisability of coming to terms with Italy. The negotiations through Ambassadors O'Brien and Rockhill reached so far that October 8 President Taft cabled to the embassy at Rome, instructing the ambassador to proffer the good offices of the United States officially for the settlement of the war.

The next day Ambassador O'Brien being absent, Mr. Wheeler, secretary of the legation, presented the offer of the president to Premier Giolitti, who, although appreciating the friendly act, regretted he would be unable to accept it, as peace then was practically concluded.

The conference of the ambassadors which will begin tomorrow is called among the diplomats "the clearing house," as they expect to agree on many questions which have arisen through the Balkan war. These questions then will be practically solved when they came up for discussion at the future conference when the new map of eastern Europe will be definitely settled. This conference is likely to take place in Paris or at The Hague.

Russia and Austria are the most directly interested and their action will be of vital importance, especially as the Austrian ambassador to Great Britain, Count von Mensdorf, is said to be carrying with him on his return journey from Vienna the alternative of peace or war. The Austro-German element declares that if the latter course is elected Austria is ready to draw the sword immediately.

It is reported through Berlin tonight that the Servian ministers in council decided to yield the part of Durazzo on the Adriatic and that the Servian premier, M. Patitch, is coming to London in connection with this determination.

The first engagement between the Greek and Turkish fleets occurred today, but so far as is known without serious damage to either side.

THREE PERSONS HURT IN AUTO COLLISION.

Mrs. R. C. Howard Suffers Broken Rib and Mr. Howard and Olin Curry Are Bruised.

Gaffney, Dec. 17.—In an automobile accident occurred here Sunday afternoon about 5 o'clock Mrs. R. C. Howard sustained a broken rib. Mr. Howard received a number of painful bruises and Olin Curry suffered numerous bruises and lacerations.

Mr. Curry was driving his touring car down Victoria avenue and Mr. Howard was coming into the avenue out of Thompson street in his runabout when the accident occurred. The machines struck with considerable force, the drivers of both cars being thrown out. Both automobiles were almost demolished, so great was the force of their impact.

Neither of the drivers was speeding and neither could see the approach of the other.

Mrs. Howard was taken to her home and medical assistance was summoned. Late yesterday afternoon she was reported as getting along as well as could be expected.

Quite a number of couples were at the informal dance in the Armory Hall Tuesday night and the affair was much enjoyed. The next dance will be given on the night of December 30th.

WILL ASK COURT TO AID.

Instructions Sought for Dissolution of Harriman Roads.

New York, Dec. 18.—Robert S. Lovett, chairman of the executive committee of the Union and Southern Pacific railroads, announced this afternoon that he had arranged with Attorney General Wickesham to appeal at once to the United States Supreme Court for instructions in working out the dissolution plan of the railroads. Mr. Wickesham, the announcement continued, has refused to approve any plan involving the distribution of Southern Pacific stock owned by the Union Pacific.

In support of his contention that Southern Pacific stock be distributed among Union Pacific shareholders, Judge Lovett cites the Northern Securities cases and the cases of the Standard Oil and American Tobacco companies. These, he asserts, are fundamentally comparative with the Union Pacific-Southern Pacific dissolution.

The unusual course adopted by the Harriman officials is taken in the interests of all parties, Judge Lovett says, in the hope that the decree of the Supreme Court may be facilitated.

Hero of Santiago Visits His Sisters

Marion, Dec. 16.—Commander Victor Blue, U. S. N., spent several days of last week with his sisters here. Commander Blue is one of the most prominent Southern officers in the service. Since his daring feat of going around Santiago on a scouting trip during the war with Spain, Commander Blue has been especially well known in naval circles.

The ministers of the Santee Baptist Association met in this city Monday, it being their custom to meet once a month on the Monday after the third Sunday in the month. A large number of ministers were present and the meeting was a very pleasant one.

NO LYNCHING IN BARNWELL.

Negro Charged With Attempting to Assault White Woman at Kline is Lodged in Jail.

Barnwell, Dec. 17.—Gregsie Moye, a negro, was lodged in the Barnwell county jail this morning, charged with attempting to assault a white woman near Kline, in this county, yesterday afternoon. After an all-night hunt, Moye was caught at Cave's station this morning by a Mr. Walker, who turned him over to the authorities. There was no attempt at lynching, as was at first feared.

The alleged attempt occurred about 3.30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, the victim being a white woman about 55 years old. According to the best information that can be gotten here today, she was walking through some bushes near the edge of a road, when Moye, who was armed with a shotgun, accosted her, telling her to come to him or he would kill her. The woman refused to obey his command. The negro, it is said, made no further attempt to carry out his purpose.

The telegram that was received here last night merely stated that a negro had assaulted a white woman near Kline and asked that blood-hounds be sent at once. It was addressed to Capt. T. B. Morris, former supervisor, now sheriff, of this county. Capt. Morris was in Williston when the message was received but he was telephoned and rushed the dogs to the scene of the alleged attempted assault in his automobile. The chase resulted in the capture of the alleged assailant.

The House of Representatives has unseated Representative Charles C. Bowman of the 11th Pennsylvania district, declaring that he was guilty of corrupt practice in securing his election. At the same time the House refused to seat Geo. R. McLean, the Democratic contestant on the ground that he was guilty of the same offense in the election.

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