

**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/11/4 Part 2

**Title:** Political and Economic Intelligence  
Summaries, General Headquarters,  
Egyptian Expeditionary Force

March - June 1918



AWM4-1/11/4PART2



# INDEX.



## POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE SUMMARIES

Nos. 1—9.

NOTE.—Roman Numerals refer to the number of the Summary.  
Arabic       "       "       "       page       "       "

### A.

Abd el Aziz Shawish	IX 3.
Abd el Halik (Bey)	VIII 3.
Abd el Malik Hamza	VIII 3.
Abd el Ghaffar el Atrash	IX 4.
Abdullah Ibn Hamza (Sherif)	VII 3.
Abdullah (Sherif) son of King Husein	V Attachment, VI Attachment.
Abdur Rahman Sami	VIII 4.
Abu Obeida	V 2.
Adana	II 5, IV 5, VII 3, VIII 6.
Adil Arslan	IX 6.
Adrianople	III Attachment, VII 1.
Adwan (tribe)	VII 4.
Afiun Karahissar	VIII 7.
Afghanistan	II 1, VII 2, VIII 4.
Aghbein, El (tribe)	VII 3 4.
Aghnam (sheep tax)	VIII 7.
Agriculture in Turkey	II 4 5, III 2, VII 8, VIII 6.
Agricultural Implements	IV 5.
Ahmed Riza (Bey)	VII 1, Attachment 1.
Aidin	VIII 6.
Aivalik	VIII 6.
Ajlun ( <i>see also</i> Crops)	III 2.
Akkar	IX 5.
"Ak Deniz"	III 3.
Aleppo ( <i>see also</i> Crops, Exchange, Prices, Sanitary Con- ditions):	
Economic Condition	I 4, II 4, III 3, V 3, VII 7, VIII 5, IX 5.
Armenians in	VII 3.
Attitude of population	II 3, V 1, VI 2, VIII 3.
Alexandretta	IX 5.
Ali Ekber Khan	IV 1.
Ali Haidar (Sherif)	II 3.
Allied Subjects in Turkey, Treatment of	I 4, VII 9, Attachment 4.
Amman	III 2, VII 4, VIII 3.
Anebta	VII 5, VIII 5.
Angora	II 5.
Antimony	VIII 6.
Antioch	IX 5.
Apples	II 4.
Arabs—Attitude of tribes E. of Jordan (Deraa to Maan)	II 2 3, IV 3 4, V 1, VII 3 4, VIII 4.
Turkish efforts to win over	I 2, III 2, VII 3, IX 4.
Attitude of, in Syria towards Turks	I 2, II 2 3, IV 3, V 1, VII 4.
In Turkish Army	I 2, II 2, V 1.
Arab Movement	II Attachment, V Attachment, VI Attach- ment.
Attitude of Turkish Government	II 3, IV 4, V 2, VI 3, VII 4, IX 3.
Attitude of Syrian population towards	I 2, II 2, IV 3 4, V 2, VI 2.
Ardahan	IX 1, Attachment.
Armenians ( <i>see also</i> Aleppo, Caucasus, Damascus, E. of Jordan), Future of	VIII 3, IX 2.
Deportation of by Turks	I 1 4, II 2, VII 3, Attachment 3 5, VIII 3.
Condition of, in Turkey	I 1 4, II 1, III 2, IV 3, V 2, VI 2, VII 3.
Refugees	VII 3.
In the Causasus	IX Attachment.
Speech of Talaat Pasha justifying massacres of	VII Attachment 4 5.
Arsenic	VIII 6.
Austria-Hungary	III 1, IV 1, VII 1, VIII 2.
Azzun	V 2, VIII 5.



**B.**

Bab, El	IX 5.
Baku	VIII 2, IX 1, Attachment.
Balka (tribe)	II 2, III 2, VII 4.
Banks in Turkey	VIII 6.
Barley, Price of	VI 3, VII 5, VIII 5 7, IX 4.
Batrun	IX 5.
Batum	VIII 2, IX 1, Attachment
Beans, Price of	I 5, II 4, III 3, VII 6 8, VIII 6.
Bedr Khan	VIII 4.
Beef ( <i>see also</i> Meat), Price of	VII 6 8.
Bees-wax	VIII 6.
Beilan	IX 5.
Beisan	V 2, VIII 5, IX 5.
Benzine	VI 3.
Berjet (Sheikh)	VII 4.
Beirout ( <i>see also</i> Crops, Exchange, Prices, Sanitary Conditions):	
Economic condition of	I 4, III 2, V 3, VII 7, IX 5 6.
Deportees from	IX 2.
Attitude of population	I 2, II 3, IV 3, VI 2.
Berlin	VIII 2.
Bethlehem, German sacrilege at	I 3.
Bidieh	IV 4, V 2, VIII 5, IX 4.
Bir Adas	VII 3.
Bolshevists	IX 1, Attachment.
Boots	I 3, II 4, IV 5, VI 3, VIII 7.
Bread ( <i>see also</i> Rations), Price of	II 4, III 3, IV 5, V 3, VI 3 4, VII 7 8, VIII 5 7, IX 6.
Brest-Litovsk negotiations	II 1, III 1, IX 1.
Brusa	II 5, VI 2.
Bulgaria	III 1, Attachment, VI 1, VII 1, VIII 1.
Bulgur, Price of	II 4, III 3, VII 6 8, VIII 5.
Butter, Price of	I 5, II 4, IV 5, V 3 4, VII 7 8.

**C.**

Cabbage, Price of	IV 5.
Calico, Price of	VII 6.
Camels	VI 3.
Capitulations	IV 1.
Carasso (deputy)	IV 5.
Castor Oil	VIII 5.
Cattle	V 3, VII 6.
Caucasus—General Survey	IX Attachment.
Pan Turanian propaganda in the	II 1, IV 1, IX Attachment.
Government of	II 3, VII 1 2, VIII 1 2, IX Attachment.
Enemy intentions concerning the	III 1, VII 2, VIII 2, IX 1.
Peace with Turkey, etc.	III 1, IV 1, VI 1, VII 2, VIII 1 2, IX 1, Attachment.
Turkish Moslem Army in the	VII 2, IX Attachment.
German views on Turkey's expansion in	IX 1.
Armenians in the	II 1, VII 3, VIII 3, IX 1, Attachment.
Population of	VIII 2, IX Attachment.
Censorship—In Turkey	VII 1.
Charcoal	IV 5, VI 5.
„ Price of	IV 5.
Cheese, Price of	VIII 7.
Chengelli	IX Attachment.
Chestnuts, Price of	II 4.
Chick Peas, Price of	VII 6.
Circassians	V 2, VII 4, VIII 3.
Cis-Caucasia ( <i>see</i> Caucasus)	
Cloth	I 3, VI 3, IX 5.
Clothing	I 3, II 4, IV 5, VI 3, VII 8.
Coal	IV 5, VI 3, VII 8, VIII 6.
„ Price of	IV 5.
Coffee, Price of	II 4, VII 8, VIII 7, IX 5.
Committee of Union and Progress	I 2, Attachment, II 1 3, III, Attachment, IV 1 3, VI 1, VII 1, Attachment, VIII 1.
Constantinople ( <i>see also</i> Exchange, Prices, Sanitary Conditions):	
Attitude of population	I 2, IV 2, VI 1 2, VII 1.
Economic Conditions	I 4, II 4, III 3, IV 5, VI 3, VII 7 8, VIII 5 6.



Constanza ... ..	IX 8.
Copper ... ..	VIII 6.
Cotton ... ..	II 4, III 3, VI 4, VII 8, VIII 6.
Cracow ... ..	VIII 2.
Crimea ... ..	VIII 2.
Crops—Adana ... ..	II 5.
Afiun Karahissar ... ..	VIII 7.
Ajlun ... ..	V 2.
Akka (Acre)... ..	V 3, CII 7.
Aleppo ... ..	I 4, II 5, V 3, VI 3, VII 7, IX 5.
Angora ... ..	II 5.
Baalbek ... ..	VII 7.
Beirut ... ..	I 4, VII 7, IX 5.
Brusa ... ..	II 5.
Damascus ... ..	VI 3.
East of Jordan (Deraa—Maan) ... ..	IV 4, V 2, VII 5, IX 4.
Hama ... ..	I 4, VII 7.
Hauran ... ..	II 5, IV 4, VII 7.
Homs ... ..	I 4, VII 7.
Jenin ... ..	V 2.
Kalkilieh ... ..	V 2, VII 5, VIII 5.
Karasi ... ..	IX 8.
Kastamouni ... ..	II 5.
Konia ... ..	II 5.
Latakiah ... ..	III 3.
Lebanon ... ..	VII 7.
Mesopotamia ... ..	III 3.
Nablus ... ..	IV 4, V 2.
Smyrna ... ..	II 5.
Tul Keram ... ..	IV 4, V 2, VII 5, VIII 5.
Currency ... ..	II 4, IV 6, VII 9.

**D.**

Daghestan ... ..	IX 1.
Damascus ( <i>see also</i> Crops, Exchange, Prices, Sanitary Conditions) :—	
Economic Condition ... ..	I 4 5, III 2, IV 5, VI 3, VII 7, VIII 5, IX 5 6.
Attitude of population ... ..	I 3, II 2, III 1 2, IV 1-3, V 1, VI 1 2, VII 4, VIII 3, IX 4.
Deportations from ... ..	VII 2.
Armenians in ... ..	III 2, VI 2, VII 3.
Damianos (Greek Patriarch of Jerusalem) ... ..	VII 2.
Dardanelles ... ..	II 1, VII Attachment, 4.
Deforestation ... ..	VIII 6.
Deir ez Zor ... ..	II 2, III 2, V 2.
Deraa ... ..	III 2, V 2.
Desertions ... ..	VII 2, VIII 4.
Deyermenjik ... ..	VIII 7.
Diarbekir ... ..	V 2.
Disease ( <i>see also</i> Sanitary Conditions and Hospitals) :—	
Cholera ... ..	I 1, II 4, V 5, VI 4 5, VII 9, IX 8.
Debility ... ..	VI 4, VII 9.
Diphtheria ... ..	VI 4.
Dysentery ... ..	I 1, III 4, VI 4, VII 9, IX 8.
Eye disease... ..	VI 4.
Influenza ... ..	VI 4.
Malaria ... ..	I 1, VI 4.
Meningitis ... ..	VI 5, VIII 8.
Para-typhoid ... ..	VI 4.
Plague ... ..	I 1, VI 5.
Pleurisy ... ..	VI 4.
Pneumonia ... ..	VI 4.
Pyuria ... ..	VI 4.
Relapsing fever ... ..	VII 9.
Rheumatism ... ..	VI 4.
Scabies ... ..	VI 4.
Scurvy ... ..	I 1, II 4, VI 4.
Smallpox ... ..	VI 4 5.
Tuberculosis ... ..	VI 4.
Typhoid ... ..	I 1, VI 4.
Typhus ... ..	I 1, II 4, III 4, VI 4 5, VII 9, IX 8.
Venereal ... ..	I 1, V 5, VI 4.



Dobruja ... ..	VI 1, VII 1.
Donkeys ... ..	V 3, VI 3, VII 6.
Drama ... ..	VI 1.
Drugs ... ..	II 4, VI 4 5, VIII 8.
Druse—Attitude of ... ..	I 3, II 4, IV 3, V 2, VI 2.
Attitude of Turkish Government towards ... ..	I 3, II 5, VI 2, IX 4.
Durra, Price of ... ..	VI 3, VII 5, VIII 5, IX 4.

## E.

East of Jordan (Deraa to Maan ; <i>see also</i> Crops)—Armenians	VII 3.
Eggs, Price of ... ..	I 5, II 4, IV 5, VII 6, VIII 7.
Egypt—Enemy intentions concerning ... ..	III 1, VII 4, VIII 3.
Nationalists ... ..	VIII 3.
Enver Pasha ... ..	I 2, Attachment, II 1, III 1, Attachment, IV 6, VI 1, VII 1 2, Attachment, VIII 1.
Equipment (Turkish Army), <i>see also</i> under Various Articles	I 3, II 4.
Eregli ... ..	VIII 6.
Erfeifan (Sheikh) ... ..	IV 3, VII 3 4, VIII 4.
Eski Shehr ... ..	VIII 6.
Esper Shukair ... ..	IX 2.
Essad ... ..	IV 1.
Essad (Pasha), Oculist ... ..	VII 1, VIII 1.
Essad (Effendi) ... ..	IX 4.
Evacuations in enemy territory ... ..	I 1, VII 2 3, VIII 4, IX 2.
Exchange, Rate of :—	
Aleppo ... ..	II 4, III 3, V 3, VI 3, VII 7.
Beirut ... ..	I 4, V 3, IX 5.
Constantinople ... ..	I 4, II 4, VI 4.
Damascus ... ..	II 4, IV 5, VI 3.
Haifa ... ..	IV 5.
Kalkilieh ... ..	VIII 5.
Nablus ... ..	VII 5.
Tul Keram ... ..	IX 4.
Ezdraelon ... ..	VIII 5.

## F.

Fahri (Pasha) ... ..	II 3.
Falkenhayn, Von ... ..	II 4, III 1, IV 2.
Fankhur (Sheikh) ... ..	VII 4.
Fara ... ..	V 2.
Farez el Atrash ... ..	IX 4.
Fathi Mosque ... ..	VIII 5.
Feisal (Emir) ... ..	II 2, V 2, Attachment.
Feizullah ... ..	IV 1.
Fethi (Bey) ... ..	VII 1, VIII 1.
Figs ... ..	II 4, IV 5, VII 6 8, VIII 5.
Finance ... ..	III 3, IV 1 6, V 4, VII 9, VIII 7, IX 8.
Fish, Price of ... ..	IV 5, VII 8.
Flannel, Price of ... ..	VII 6.
Flax, Price of ... ..	II 4.
Flour, Price of ... ..	III 2 3, V 3, VIII 5, IX 5.
Fokia ... ..	VIII 7.
Food Control in Turkey ... ..	VII 7 8 9, VIII 5 6 7, IX 6-8.
Forage ... ..	VIII 4.
Fowls, Price of ... ..	II 4.
Fuel ... ..	VII 5, IX 4.

## G.

Gaza, Talaat's justification of evacuation of by Turks...	VII Attachment 5.
Gegetchkori ... ..	IX Attachment.
Gendarmerie ... ..	VIII 3.
Georgia ... ..	VIII 2, IX 1.
Germans in Turkey—Relations with Turks ( <i>see</i> Turco-German relations) :—	
Commercial penetration ... ..	II 3, III 2, IV 5, VI 4, IX 3.
Purchase and export of Grain ... ..	II 3 4, III 2, IV 5, VII 7, IX 4 5.
Propaganda ... ..	II 3, IX 2.
Ghawarman (tribe) ... ..	III 2.



Ghazi Moukhtar (Pasha)	... ..	I Attachment, III Attachment, VII Attachment.
"Goeben"	... ..	I 2.
Grapes	... ..	V 3.
Graphite	... ..	VIII 6.
Graves ( <i>see also</i> Sacrilege), Desecration of British	... ..	III 2.
Greece	... ..	III Attachment.
Greeks, Deportation of	... ..	VII 2, VIII 4, IX 2.
Gumuljina	... ..	VIII 1.

## H.

Haifa ( <i>see also</i> Exchange):—		
Attitude of population	... ..	II 3, IV 4.
Economic condition	... ..	IV 5.
Hairi Bey (ex-Sheikh el Islam)	... ..	IX 3.
Hajin	... ..	VII 3.
Hama ( <i>see also</i> Crops and Sanitary Conditions):—		
Attitude of population	... ..	III 2, VI 2, VII 2.
Hardware	... ..	VI 3.
Hassan (Beni)	... ..	IV 3.
Hauran ( <i>see also</i> Crops):—		
Economic condition	... ..	II 5, III 2, VII 6, IX 6.
Population	... ..	I 3, II 4, III 2.
Health ( <i>see</i> Sanitary Conditions).		
Heinze, Geheimrat	... ..	IX 3.
Hejaz, King of ( <i>see also</i> Arab Movement)	... ..	II Attachment, IV 3, VI Attachment.
Homs ( <i>see also</i> Crops and Sanitary Conditions):—		
Attitude of population	... ..	II 4, III 2, VI 2, VII 2.
Honey, Price of	... ..	II 4.
Horses	... ..	III 4, IV 4, V 3, VI 3, VII 6, VIII 4.
Hosn, El	... ..	V 2.
Hospitals ( <i>see also</i> Sanitary Conditions, Diseases):—		
Conditions in	... ..	II 4, VI 5.
At Adana	... ..	I 1.
Aleppo	... ..	I 1.
Baalbek	... ..	III 4, VII 9.
Constantinople	... ..	VII 9.
Damascus	... ..	I 1, VI 4 5, VII 9.
Jerusalem	... ..	I 3.
Kirk Kilisseh	... ..	IV 6.
Rayak	... ..	III 4.
Es Salt	... ..	IV 6, VI 4 5.
Wadi Surar	... ..	IV 6.
Zahlé	... ..	II 4.
Hudeira	... ..	IV 4.
Hussein Jahid	... ..	IX 2 8.
Hussein Zade	... ..	VII 2.

## I.

Ibn Rashid (Emir of Hail)	... ..	IX 3.
Ibn Saud (Emir of Nejd)	... ..	II Attachment.
Idlib	... ..	IX 5.
India	... ..	VII 2.
Industries in Turkey	... ..	VIII 6.
Irbid	... ..	IV 4, V 2.
Izzet (Pasha)	... ..	V 2, VIII 1.

## J.

Jaafer Seid Ahmed (Effendi)	... ..	VIII 2.
Jaffa—Talaat's justification of evacuation by Turks	... ..	VII Attachment, 5.
Jarash	... ..	III 2, V 2.
Javid (Bey)	... ..	V 4, 5, VIII, 1 6 7.
Jemal ed Din	... ..	VIII 4.
Jemal Pasha, No. 1	... ..	I 2 3, Attachment, II 1, III Attachment, IV 1, VI 1, VII Attachment, 1 2, VIII 1 4, IX 1.
Jemal Pasha, No. 2.	... ..	IV 4, VII 3 4, VIII 4, IX 4.
Jericho—Evacuation of	... ..	I 1.



Jevdet (Bey) ... ..	III 2.
Jewish Legion ... ..	IX 2.
Jews—Attitude of, in Turkey ... ..	II 3.
In Germany ... ..	VII 1.
Evacuations of, in Turkey ... ..	II 3, VII Attachment, 5 6.
Relations with Turks ( <i>see</i> Turco-Jewish relations).	
Jisr el Soghur ... ..	IX 5.
Jiljulieh ... ..	VII 3.
Jordania, Noe ... ..	VIII 2.

## K.

Kafr Haris ... ..	IX 4.
Kafrinji ... ..	V 2.
Kafr Kasim ... ..	IX 4.
Kafr Saba ... ..	VII 3.
Kafr Thilth ... ..	VIII 5.
Kakon ... ..	V 2.
Kalkilieh ... ..	VII 5, VIII 5, IX 4.
Karasi ... ..	IX 8.
Kardorff, Von ... ..	IX 1.
Kars ... ..	IX 1.
Kastamouni ... ..	II 5.
Kavalla ... ..	VI 1.
Kerak ( <i>see also</i> Crops, East of Jordan) ... ..	III 2, IV 3 4, VII 3 4, VIII 4, IX 4.
Kerkuk ... ..	III 1.
Kiamil (Pasha) ... ..	I Attachment, III Attachment, VII Attachment.
Killis ... ..	IX 5.
Kirk Kilisseh ... ..	IV 6.
“Kizil Irmak” ... ..	III 3.
Konia ... ..	II 5.
Koweit ... ..	VIII 5.
Kress, General Von ... ..	IX 1.
Kühlmann, Von ... ..	II 2, IX 1,
Kuneitra, El ... ..	VI 2.
Kurds ... ..	VIII 4.
Kutais ... ..	IX 1.
Kutrani ... ..	IX 4.

## L.

Leather ... ..	I 3, VI 3, IX 5.
Lebanon—Government of ... ..	VII 4.
Economic Condition ... ..	VII 7, IX 6.
Leeks ... ..	VIII 7.
Leipzig ... ..	VII 2.
Lemberg ... ..	VIII 2.
Lentils, Price of ... ..	VII 6 8.
Lignite ... ..	VIII 6.
Linseed ... ..	VII 8.
Loan, Turkish Internal ... ..	IV 6, V 4, VII 9, VIII 7, IX 8.

## M.

Maain ... ..	V 2.
Maan ... ..	III 2, V Attachment.
Maarit el Na‘aman ... ..	IX 5.
Macaroni ... ..	VII 8.
Madeba ( <i>see also</i> Crops, E. of Jordan) ... ..	IV 4, V 2, VII 4.
Maghara ... ..	III 2.
Mahmoud Shevket (Pasha) ... ..	III 1, Attachment.
Maize ( <i>see also</i> Durra), Price of ... ..	IV 4, VII 6.
import of ... ..	VIII 6.
Manure ... ..	II 5.
Mardin ... ..	V 2.
Mashagara ... ..	VI 3.
Maxwell, General ... ..	VIII 3.
Meat, Price of ... ..	I 5, II 4, III 3, IV 5, V 3, VI 3 4, VII 5 6, VIII 5 6 7.
Medina ... ..	II 3, II Attachment, V Attachment.
Mejalli (tribe) ... ..	IV 3, VII 3, VIII 3.



Mekarim	...	VII 6, IX 6.
Mercury	...	VIII 6.
Mersina	...	II 3, VII 3.
Meskena	...	III 2.
Mesopotamia—Enemy political and military intentions	...	I 4.
Mezrah	...	V 2.
Midhat Shukri (Bey)	...	VIII 2.
Milk, Price of	...	II 4, IV 5, VI 4, VII 6 8.
Millet ( <i>see also</i> Durra), Price of	...	VII 6.
Mines in Turkey	...	VIII 6.
Mirza Jevad	...	IV 1.
Moharrem (Effendi), (Mudir of Amman)	...	IX 4.
Mohamed el Idris (of Asir)	...	II Attachment.
Mohamed Ferid (Bey)	...	VIII 3.
Mosul	...	V 2.
Mourad (Bey)	...	VIII 6.
Mules	...	VII 6.
Munbij	...	IX 5.
Murzuk el Tihaimi (Sherif)	...	VII 4.
Musa Kiazim ( <i>see</i> Sheikh el Islam)	...	IX 4.
Mush	...	II 1.
Mustafa el Atrash	...	IX 4.
Mustafa Kamel	...	VIII 3.
Mutid el Atrash	...	IX 4.
Mutton ( <i>see also</i> Meat), Price of	...	VII 6 8.
Muzeirab	...	III 2.

## N.

Nablus ( <i>see also</i> Crops, Exchanges, Prices, Hospitals, Sanitary Conditions):—		
Economic Condition	...	I 4, IV 4, VII 5, VIII 5.
Evacuation of	...	I 1, VIII 4.
Attitude of population	...	VI 2.
Naphtha	...	VIII 6.
Nazim, Dr.	...	IV 1, III Attachment, VII Attachment.
Nazim (Pasha)	...	V 2.
Nazmi (Effendi)	...	III 1.
Nejm el Atrash	...	IX 4.
Nessib el Atrash	...	IX 4.
Nimrin	...	VII 5, IX 8.

## O.

Oats, Price of	...	VI 3, VII 6.
Odessa	...	VII 8, VIII 6, IX 8.
Oil	...	VII 6, VIII 6 7, IX 4 6, Attachment 4.
Olive Oil	...	IV 5, VI 8, VII 6 8.
„ Price of	...	I 5, II 4, IV 5, V 3 4, VIII 7.
Olives, Price of	...	I 5, VII 8.
Onions, Price of	...	II 4, VIII 7.
Opium	...	V 1.
Opposition Party in Turkey	...	I 2, VII 1.
Osman Fuad, Prince	...	IX 2.
Osmanieh	...	VII 3.
Ottoman Public Debt	...	VII 9.

## P.

Palestine—Enemy intentions concerning	...	I 4, III 1, VII 1.
Pan-Islamism	...	I 2.
Pan-Turanian Movement	...	I 2, II 1, III Attachment, IV 1, VII 2, Attachment 2, IX Attachment.
Peas, Price of	...	VII 8.
Persia	...	II 1, III 1, IV 1, V 1, VI 1, VII 2, VIII 2.
Petroleum	...	I 3, IV 5, VIII 6.
„ Price of	...	III 3, IV 5, VII 6.
Phylloxera	...	II 5.
Pitch	...	VIII 6.
Potatoes, Price of	...	II 4, III 3, VII 6 8.



Prices—Afiun Karahissar	... ..	VIII 7.
Aleppo	... ..	I 4, III 2 3, V 3, VI 3, VII 7.
Angora	... ..	VI 4.
Beirut	... ..	I 4, III 2, V 3 5, VII 7.
Constantinople	... ..	II 4, III 3, IV 5, V 3, VI 4, VII 7 8, VIII 5.
Damascus	... ..	I 4 5, III 2 3, V 3, VI 3, VII 7.
Hama	... ..	V 3.
Kalkilieh	... ..	VII 5, VIII 5.
Konia	... ..	V 5.
Latakiya	... ..	VII 6.
Nablus	... ..	I 4, IV 4, VI 3, VII 5.
Saida	... ..	VII 6.
Tul Keram	... ..	VII 5.
Prisoners of War (British in Enemy Territory)	... ..	I 3, II 1, IV 1 6.
Propaganda, Allied	... ..	I 2, IV 1, IX 2.
Enemy	... ..	II 3, VII 2, VIII 4.
“Pro-Palestina” Society	... ..	VII 1.

# R.

Rahmi Bey (Vali of Aidin)	... ..	III Attachment, VII Attachment, 1, IX 1.
Railways	... ..	III 1, VII 9.
Raisins, Price of	... ..	II 4, III 3, IV 5, VII 6 8, VIII 6.
Ras el Ain	... ..	II 1, III 2.
Rations	... ..	I 3, II 4, V 3 4, VI 3, VII 5, VIII 4.
Rayak	... ..	III 2, IV 3.
Red Cross	... ..	II 1.
“Régie des Tabacs”	... ..	V 3, VIII 6.
Reventlow, Count	... ..	VIII 3, IX 1.
Rice, Price of	... ..	II 4, V 3 4, VII 6 8, VIII 7.
Rihandi	... ..	IX 5.
Riza (Pasha)	... ..	VII 4.
Roumania	... ..	III 1, Attachment, IV 5, VI 1, VIII 3 6.
Rubber	... ..	I 3.
Rushan (Bey)	... ..	VIII 7.
Russia	... ..	II 1 2, III 1, IV 5, VI 1 3, VII 2, VIII 3, IX 1.

# S.

Sabri (Hoja)	... ..	IX 4.
Sacrilege, Acts of, in O.E.T.	... ..	I 3, III 2.
Saddlery	... ..	II 4.
Saida (Sidon)	... ..	I 2 5, III 2, VII 6.
Said Halim (Pasha)	... ..	III Attachment, VII Attachment 3.
Sakhr (Beni)	... ..	III 2.
Salt, Es (see also Crops, E. of Jordan)	... ..	IV 2, VII 2 4 5, VIII 8.
Salt	... ..	III 2, IV 4, VII 6, IX 5.
Sama Dowleh	... ..	IV 1.
Sanders, Liman von	... ..	III Attachment, VII 3, Attachment 2.
Sanitary Conditions (see also Disease, Hospitals):—		
General Headings	... ..	I 1, II 4, III 4, IV 6, V 5, VI 4, VII 9, VIII 8, IX 8.
At Adana	... ..	I 1.
„ Aleppo	... ..	I 1, VII 9, IX 8.
„ Amman	... ..	V 5, VI 4.
„ Baalbek	... ..	VII 7.
„ Beirut	... ..	I 1, V 5, VI 4, VII 9.
„ Constantinople	... ..	VI 4 5, VII 9, VIII 8.
„ Damascus	... ..	I 1, V 5, VI 4 5, VII 9.
„ Hama	... ..	I 1.
„ Homs	... ..	I 1, II 4.
In Lebanon	... ..	III 4, VI 4.
At Nablus	... ..	VII 9.
On Palestine front	... ..	III 4, VI 4 5, VIII 8.
At Es Salt	... ..	VI 5.
„ Trebizond	... ..	I 4.
Secret Service (Turkish)	... ..	IV 5.
Selfit	... ..	I 3.
Selim el Atrash (Pasha)	... ..	I 1.
Sel Wad, Evacuation of	... ..	IX 4.
Senirieh	... ..	VIII 3.
Senussi	... ..	



Serbia ... ..	III Attachment.
Sesame Oil, Price of ... ..	VII 6.
Sesame, Price of ... ..	VII 8.
"Sham" ... ..	III 3.
Shatta ... ..	VIII 5.
Sheep ... ..	V 3.
Sheikh el Islam ... ..	II 3, IV 4, V 2, IX 4.
Sheis, Esh. ... ..	VII 6.
Shekib Arslan (Bey) ... ..	VII 4.
Shukri (Bey) ... ..	VII 1, VIII 1 6.
Silk ... ..	III 3, IX 5.
Sirhan (tribe) ... ..	III 2.
Sis ... ..	VII 3.
Smyrna ... ..	II 5, VIII 6, IX 2.
Soap ... ..	VI 5, VIII 6.
„ Price of ... ..	I 5, II 4, VII 6 8.
Sokia ... ..	VIII 7.
Spinach, Price of ... ..	IV 5.
Sugar, Price of ... ..	VII 6 8, VIII 5 7 8, IX 5.
Suleimanieh ... ..	III 1.
Sulphur ... ..	II 5.
Sultan (Sheikh) ... ..	VII 4 5.
Sur (Tyre) ... ..	III 2, VII 2.

# T.

Tahin Helva, Price of ... ..	III 3.
Talaat (Pasha) ... ..	I 2, Attachment, II 1 2, III Attachment, VI 1, VII 1, Attachment, VIII 1.
Tarsus ... ..	VII 3.
Tatars in the Caucasus ... ..	IX 4.
Taxation ... ..	I 5, II 4 5, IV 4, VII 5 6 7, VIII 7, IX 5 6 7.
Tcheidze ... ..	IX Attachment.
Tea, Price of ... ..	VII 7 8.
Tel Helif ... ..	II 1.
Tiberias ... ..	II 4.
Tiflis ... ..	IX 1.
Tirpitz, Admiral Von ... ..	VIII 3.
Tobacco ... ..	IV 5, V 3.
Tombeki, Price of ... ..	VII 6.
Trade—Black Sea ... ..	III 3, IV 5, V 3, VII 8, VIII 6, IX 8.
„ Between Turkey, Germany and Austria ... ..	III 3, IV 5, V 1, VI 3, VIII 6.
„ Between Syrian ports ... ..	IX 6.
Trans-Caucasia ( <i>see</i> Caucasus).	
Trebizond ... ..	VII 8.
Tripoli (in Africa) ... ..	VIII 3, IX 2.
Tripoli (in Syria) ... ..	IX 5.
Tul Keram ... ..	VI 3, VII 5, VIII 5, IX 4.
Turco-Bulgarian Relations ... ..	VII 1, VIII 1.
Turco-German Relations :—	
General headings ... ..	I 1, II 2, III 1, IV 1 2, V 1, VI 1, VII 3, VIII 3, IX 2.
In Syria ... ..	I 1, II 2, III 1, IV 1 2, V 1, VI 1, VII 3, VIII 3, IX 2.
In the Caucasus ... ..	IX Attachment 4.
In Constantinople ... ..	I 2, III 1, IV 2, VI 1, VIII 1.
Turco-Jewish Relations ... ..	II 3, IX 2.
Turkestan ... ..	II 1 3, IV 1, VII 2.
Turkey :—	
Civil Administration ... ..	VIII Attachment.
Territorial integrity ... ..	II 1, VI 1.
Peace feeling in ... ..	II 2.
Agreements with other Powers ... ..	II 1, III 1, Attachment, IV 1, VI 1, IX 3.
Parliament ... ..	VII 1.
Economic Condition ... ..	I 4, II 4, III 2, IV 4, V 2, VI 3, VII 5-9, VIII 5-7.
Entry into the War ... ..	VII Attachment, 2 4.

# U.

Ukraine ... ..	II 1 3, VIII 5 6, IX 8.
Urfa ... ..	VII 2.



V.

Vegetables, Price of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	VII 6, VIII 7.
Vienna	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	VIII 2.
Vines	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	VIII 7.
Vurla	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	IX 2.

W.

Warsaw	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	VIII 2.
Weizmann, Dr.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	IV Attachment.
Westarp, Count	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	VII 1.
Wheat, Price of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	III 2, IV 4, VI 3, VII 5 6, VIII 5 7, IX 4.
Wood, Price of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I 5.
Woollen Goods	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	III 3, VI 3.

Y.

Yahia (Imam)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	II Attachment.
Yemen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	II Attachment.
Yoghurt, Price of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	VIII 7.

Z.

Zahléh...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	II 4, III 1 2.
Zekki (Pasha)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	VIII 1.
"Zeman"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	VIII 6.
Zerka	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	VI 3.
Zimmarin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	IX 4.
Zionists	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	IV Attachment.
Movement in Turkey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	II 3.
Movement in Austria-Hungary, Germany and Poland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	VIII 2 3.
Zongulduk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	III 3.



**SECRET.**

No. 8.

**POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.****ENEMY TERRITORY.**

22nd June, 1918.

**POLITICAL.****A.—HOME AND FOREIGN POLITICS.****SITUATION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE OF UNION AND PROGRESS.**

It is reported that in spite of the apparent strengthening of the opposition, Germany's hold over Turkey is so great that there is little possibility of a change in the political situation. Enver alone remains the convinced friend of the Germans, who are suspicious of the other party leaders, including Talaat and Jemal.

It is said that Germany has discovered that a considerable amount of discontent exists in the Army, owing to the jealousy of certain members of the Committee of Union and Progress at the rapidity with which Enver is amassing a fortune by illicit means. The Germans requested Enver to moderate his appetite, but Enver took the advice in bad part and has recently been showing a certain reluctance to execute orders from Berlin.

In order to put pressure on Enver the Germans have for some time past been supporting Jemal Pasha, who is rapidly increasing his following. Among these are to be numbered Fethi Bey, the leader of a party of more moderate members of the Committee.

The dissatisfaction against Enver is manifesting itself among the opposition parties by a growing desire to emancipate the country from German control and oppose German designs for the Economic exploitation of Turkey.

The immediate object of the opposition is the overthrow of Enver. Talaat's position is still strong. He can be said to occupy a middle position with leanings towards the German side. He is, however, constantly quarrelling with Enver, and the opposition does not despair of persuading him to throw his weight into the scale in order to cause Enver's downfall.

The party of Essad Pasha, the oculist, is said to be gaining ground among the military and the passive members of the Committee. It is anti-German and preaches a more liberal treatment of subject races, but is apparently not in sympathy with the party of Shukri Bey, which is said to be suffering from Essad's successes.

It would appear that Shukri Bey, Fethi Bey and Jemal are working together, possibly with the support of Talaat, against Enver. Essad's party has presumably not yet been brought into line, possibly because they cannot approve his policy of decentralization.

In the event of Enver being overthrown, Izzet Pasha, former War Minister, or Zekki Pasha, formerly commanding the Turkish Army in Macedonia during the Balkan War, are mentioned as his possible successors at the Ministry of War.

Javid Bey, the Minister of Finance, is said to have become very unpopular with profiteers and dishonest officials, owing to the feeling that certain measures introduced by him will curtail their gains.

There is considerable discontent in Constantinople directed against the Germans and the Committee of Union and Progress. People were saying at the end of March that, whereas formerly they had one Abdul Hamid they now have a hundred.

**TURCO-BULGARIAN RELATIONS.**

With reference to the Turco-Bulgarian differences on the question of the territory ceded by Turkey to Bulgaria in 1915, it is reported that the Moslem Deputies for the Gumuljina district interpellated the Bulgarian Government in the Sobranje, declaring that their Moslem brethren in Eastern Macedonia were being treated as enemies rather than as Bulgarian subjects.

It is generally believed that the incident was prompted by the Turkish Government, and was not unconnected with Turkish aspirations in the Gumuljina area.

There is very little definite information regarding the present state of Turco-Bulgarian negotiations. Germany is supporting Turkish claims, but, although it has been reported that a settlement has been reached, this does not appear to be the case, as neither side is willing to give way on essential points. It is said that Bulgaria will not consent to the proposed cession of territory to Turkey until she enters into possession of the Dobruja, which is still being jointly held by the Powers of the Quadruple Alliance.

In Constantinople, about the beginning of May, a lecturer at the Law School stated that now Russia had gone under, the Black Sea must be considered a Turkish lake. A Bulgarian lawyer who was present, protested violently and accused the lecturer of raising barriers between Bulgars and Turks.

**THE CAUCASUS.**

The Russian newspaper "Izvestiya," of April 27th, announces that the Trans-Caucasian Diet proclaimed complete independence on April 22nd.

A Constantinople telegram, of May 14th, states that Cis-Caucasia has done the same.

A telegram from the Russian Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, of May 14th, accepts German mediation between Russia and the Caucasus as "it seems Germany and Turkey are taking part in the events now in progress in the Caucasus."



Meanwhile, the delegates of the Caucasian Moslems in Constantinople are reported to have declared that apart from Military Administration, the details of which would be arranged mutually, they wished to be placed in a similar relationship to the Ottoman Empire as that in which Hungary stands to Austria. They would not, however, consent to be in any way governed directly from Constantinople.

It is reported (May 4th) that the Turkish Government is studying the possibility of forming a federation of states, including Persia, the Caucasus and Turkestan. It is for this reason that the Turkish Armies have received orders not to advance into the interior of the Caucasus at present.

*NOTE.*—Recent information shows that these orders are not being acted on, if, indeed, they were ever given.

The Turkish Press is said to have received orders to propagate the idea of a Moslem Federation.

The "Lloyd Ottoman," of March 25th, published a long interview with a Georgian Prince, who was passing through Constantinople. The Georgians, he says, are divided into the following parties:—

1.—SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.—These formerly belonged to the Russian Social Democratic party, which stood for federalism. They broke away from the Bolsheviks and now advocate a Federal Trans-Caucasian Republic.

2.—ALLIONIST SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, who are grouped round the nationalist newspaper "Allion." Their programme is practically the same as that of the first party.

3.—SOCIAL FEDERALISTS, who uphold the formation of an independent Confederation of Trans-Caucasia.

4.—GEORGIAN REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISTS, who are a development of the Russian Revolutionary Socialists and follow the third group.

5.—"NATIONAL DEMOCRATS," composed of the more thinking "bourgeoisie." This party has recently considerably increased in importance, and aims at the union of all those provinces which belong historically or ethnically to Georgia.

The Government is composed of nine members under the presidency of a social democrat called Noe Jordania, who was educated in Germany, Switzerland and Italy, and was a member of the first Duma.

The population of Georgia includes 2,500,000 Georgians of pure race. Russian statistics credit the country with 150,000 Moslems, but the Prince assured the representatives of the newspaper that there were actually 300,000.

*(NOTE.*—The Turkish paper naturally aims at establishing as high a figure as possible.) Only the upper classes have learnt Russian. The mass of the people speak Georgian only.

According to the Russian newspaper "Zaria," Germany has suggested that Turkey should return Batum to the Trans-Caucasian Republic, on condition that they allow the German Army of Occupation to pass through the Caucasus, in order to operate against the British in Mesopotamia.

The "Zhisn" reports that Baku is surrounded by Moslems demanding the surrender of Soviet troops.

## THE CRIMEA.

The Germans are said to have promised Turkey that they will arrange for the inhabitants of the Crimea to petition the Sultan to accept the same position with regard to the Crimea as that offered by certain Baltic provinces to the Kaiser.

*(NOTE.*—This would imply the establishment of the Crimea as a vassal state under Turkish Suzerainty.)

At a dinner given at Constantinople by the Committee of Union and Progress to Jaafer Seid Ahmed Effendi, Director of Foreign and Military Affairs of the Crimean Republic, Midhat Shukri Bey made a speech in which he said that Turkey was essentially Moslem, and that the Crimea and the Southern Caucasus were bound to Turkey by ties of race, religion and history. He went on to say that they would shortly witness the union of these two fractions of the Tatar race with Turkey, and that they would not differ from Anatolia in their relations to the Mother Country.

## PERSIA.

There are reports from Constantinople of a Turco-Persian agreement to be signed in the near future, dealing with railways, the Postal Union, and the formation of a Persian Army under Turkish and German auspices.

## ZIONISM IN AUSTRIA.

A Vienna telegram to the Jewish Correspondence Bureau, dated May 2nd, states that the Austrian authorities have closed all Zionist Headquarters and meeting places in Cracow.

In Vienna, the message adds, many Socialist Zionists, even young students, have been arrested, and the Pro-Ally Zionist Society has been dissolved.

The Jewish Press Bureau at Stockholm on May 2nd, announces that the Polish Zionists are being systematically persecuted in Austria and Poland. Both of the existing Zionist organizations in Warsaw have been suppressed. Several Polish Zionists have been arrested and domiciliary searches have been carried out in Warsaw, Lemberg and Berlin.



## EGYPT.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the death of the prominent Nationalist leader, Mustafa Kamel, the Egyptian Nationalist Society, under the presidency of Mohamed Bey Farid, held a meeting at Berlin on March 4th. Besides a number of prominent Turks and Egyptians, Admiral von Tirpitz and Count Reventlow were present.

The principal feature of the meeting was a speech by Abdel Malik Hamza. Comparing the Egyptian and Belgian questions, the speaker stated that the solution undoubtedly lay in the hands of the possessor of power. It would be a mistake, however, to confuse power (Macht) and force (Gewalt). Belgium had been conquered by the force of German arms, but this was not sufficient to decide the country's future. The cleverness of Entente diplomacy was a proof of that: similarly, the fact of Great Britain being in actual forceful possession of Egypt should not be taken as final. Much could still be achieved for that country by the power of right and German diplomacy.

In reply to Mr. Balfour, who had said that England would defend Egypt against Turkish oppression, Abdel Malik Hamza stated that if Great Britain's intentions towards the Egyptians were honest, she ought to propose the independence of Egypt under international guarantees such as were given to Switzerland. He said he was sure that not a single Turkish statesman would object to this. If Great Britain will not do this, the speaker asserted that she would be denying the right of self-determination to Egypt, which she insists on with regard to other civilized countries.

In support of the contention that the Egyptians do not want to remain under English rule, he instanced the desertion of coastguard officers to the Senussi, and said that most of the officers fighting for Turkey in Tripoli are Egyptians. Although, he added, England had sent the armies of most of her dependent peoples to the front, she had sent no Egyptian troops. The attempt to do so provoked a protest from Egyptians against fighting their brothers the Turks, and resulted in General Maxwell's recall. This passive resistance was a proof that the Egyptians wanted to throw off British domination.

## GENDARMERIE.

The "Lloyd Ottoman" reports that at the sitting of March 24th in the Senate, Abdul Halik Bey, Under Secretary for the Interior, went into details of the reinforcement of Gendarmerie in the Interior. He did not disguise the fact that some of the officers had been found guilty of abuses in the execution of their duties. 171 had been punished, of whom three had been sentenced to death.

## B.—ARMENIANS.

## GENERAL.

The "Tanin" in a leader of March 10th, attacks the Armenians and adopts a somewhat threatening attitude. After accusing them of "imperialism" (sic), the paper goes on to say that "if they had been merely nationalists we should have understood and even might have protected them. In a short time the curtain will fall on the scene of this war and then we and the Armenians will meet face to face. The Armenians must be made to understand that their duty is to show themselves good subjects of the Ottoman Government. This is the real lesson they will have to learn through the war."

## CAUCASUS.

The same paper on March 21st, says that the Turks cannot leave the Moslems in the the Caucasus to the tender mercies of the Armenians and Bolsheviks. "The Armenians," it says, "though few in numbers, have a strong organization and are capable of causing great misfortunes to our brothers of Russia."

## EAST OF JORDAN.

An Armenian refugee from East of Jordan states, that after the operations against Amman, the Circassians were sent out to gather in Armenians and other Christians who were later sent to Damascus. Informant left the farm where he was working on June 1st, for fear of being caught, and came into our lines.

NOTE.—The Circassians of Amman seem to have interpreted their instructions rather liberally, by cutting the throats of all the Armenians whom they were able to gather in (see Summary No. 5, of May 10th, p. 2).

Since the 1st of June, 1918, 581 more Armenians have been brought in to Hebron from Kerak, where they were being very badly treated by the Mujalli Sheikhs.

## C. TURCO-GERMAN RELATIONS.

## GENERAL.

The results of the campaigns in Russia and Roumania have given a great impetus to German influence in Turkey. Certain circles are under the impression that as Germany has conquered so many nations, final victory must be hers.

## ALEPPO.

A native of Aleppo, who left that town at the end of April, states that the arrogance and bad behaviour of German soldiers has led to violent scenes at times with the Syrian population. It has been found necessary to establish a German Military Police force, in view of the increase of German units on this front.

## DAMASCUS.

An officer prisoner of war states, that recently while a Turkish officer was travelling with his luggage in a tram at Damascus, two German officers got in and one of them sat on the luggage. The Turk was annoyed and offered to give up his seat to the German. A quarrel ensued in which other Turks joined, and which ended by the two German officers being shot. As a result one Turk was court-martialled and sentenced to death.



## D.—ARAB MOVEMENT.

## KERAK.

A Refugee who left Kerak on May 29th, reports that the troops which arrived at Kerak from Damascus on May 26th were sent at the request of Sheikh Erfeifan, who telegraphed to Jemal Pasha No. 2 that the Sherif's forces were approaching. Sheikh Erfeifan is said to have received £T. 800 in gold from Jemal, and to be recruiting men to oppose the Sherif.

Some Armenian refugees who arrived at Hebron from Kerak on June 6th, state that the 150 soldiers who were sent by Jemal to help Sheikh Erfeifan turned out to be Arabs and in favour of the Sherif. Sheikh Erfeifan, fearing that they would desert, ordered them to be put under lock and key until further orders.

Informants stated that Sheikh Erfeifan had extorted large sums of money by continual threats and oppression from the Christians at Kerak, who were impatiently awaiting deliverance by the British.

Another Armenian refugee stated at the beginning of June that our air raids have an encouraging effect on those Bedouins who are pro-Sherif, as they look upon them as the prelude of another British advance.

## E.—GENERAL.

## ENEMY PROPAGANDA.

A certain Jemal ed Din is reported to have left Berlin for Constantinople with some Germans, to consult with the Committee of Union and Progress on the subject of sending a secret mission to Afghanistan, provided with funds to win over the tribes.

A Turkish mission including Abdur Rahman Sami, a son of the famous Bedr Khan, is reported to have left Constantinople about the end of April to reconcile the Turkish and Persian Kurds.

A Greek deserter recently captured states that the troops are being told that, in addition to Arabs, there are also Armenians fighting against them on this front, who kill Turkish prisoners.

## DESERTIONS.

A deserter captured about June 1st, says that the number of persons deserting to our lines are very few compared with the numbers deserting into the interior.

It is reported that, South of Nablus and up to the front line, the Turks do not collect deserters, for fear of causing them to come over to the British.

## EVACUATIONS.

It was reported on June 1st, that many Government Departments have been sent North from Nablus but that the Mayor and his staff are still there. Supplies, arms, ammunition etc., have all been evacuated and only guards and police are left in the town.

## GREEKS.

It is stated that the Germans in Turkey are endeavouring to ingratiate themselves with the Greek element of the population, and to prove that they were not responsible for their persecution.

## PALESTINE FRONT.

It was reported on May 24th, that Jemal Pasha was to go to Palestine on June 8rd to inspect the troops.

ECONOMIC.

## A.—PALESTINE FRONT.

## RATIONS.

A deserter who was captured on June 11th, states that rations, though still bad, have improved recently. He says that he himself has had sugar daily for the last 10 days, together with figs, raisins and tinned meat. The sugar, he states, comes from Russia.

A German prisoner of war, captured on June 8th, says that his rations were good. He had a hot meal twice daily, meat every day,  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. of bread, butter, sheep dripping, jam, raisins, coffee and occasionally tea. They used to give the Turks half their leavings. There were Turks in his unit. They received the same rations as the Germans except the white bread. They received also an issue of olives, which the Germans did not get, and had olive oil instead of butter. The pay of German soldiers was £T. 2 (paper) and £T. 1 (gold) per month.

## FORAGE.

A Turkish prisoner of war belonging to the Veterinary Corps gives the following scale of forage issued to animals at the 1st Veterinary Hospital, VIIIth Army, at the beginning of June:—

- 1st day—4 kilos of barley.  
1 sackful of tibbin.
- 2nd day—4 kilos of wheat.  
1 sackful of tibbin.
- 3rd day—4 kilos of durra.  
1 sackful of tibbin.

and so on in rotation.

Salt is issued twice a week with the morning feed.

Horses are also taken out to graze.

The above presumably represents the best possible ration which the army can afford to give its animals.



## KALKILIEH.

An agent reports that many of the poorer inhabitants of Kalkilieh have emigrated to the Hauran in search of food, their crops this year having either been severely damaged or stolen by the Turks.

A refugee states that Turkish soldiers have stolen a quantity of crops round Kalkilieh. Informant gives the following prices in Kalkilieh on June 1st:—

Wheat	...	17½ P.T. (silver) per rotol (5½ lbs.)
Barley	...	18½ " " "
		(only purchasable from troops)
Durra	...	16 P.T. (silver) per rotol (5½ lbs.)
Meat (scarce)	54	" " "

The exchange was £T. 1 (paper) = 30 P.T. (silver).

An agent states that nearly all the crops in the district East of Kalkilieh (Azzun, Kafr Thilth, Bidieh) have been reaped. Owners are allowed to keep enough grain for next year's sowing, but much of the remainder is being requisitioned by the Government. Owners are said to be forbidden to sell to the Germans.

## TUL KERAM.

Aircraft observed on June 5th that all crops had been reaped between Anebta and Tul Keram.

## HARVEST.

It is reported that the Valis of Beirut, Damascus and Aleppo, with the Mutessarif of Latakia, arrived at Nablus about May 18th and sanctioned the requisition of 60% of this year's cereal harvest.

In a letter dated May 24th from an informant at Nablus, it is stated that 68% of the year's produce has been requisitioned by the Government and that the suffering population has no one to listen to their grievances.

## B.—NORTHERN SYRIA.

## DAMASCUS.

An intelligent prisoner of war says, that on two occasions about five months ago, Arab caravans brought a quantity of loaf sugar to Damascus. On the first occasion they sold their goods direct to the merchants, but on the second they were seized by the Military Authorities. In consequence of the arrival of these stores, the price of sugar at Damascus fell from 100 P.T. (silver) to 50 P.T. (silver) per oke (2½ lbs), but after a few days rose again to its former rate.

NOTE:—This appears to refer to the caravans which were reported to have arrived at Damascus from Koweit at the beginning of the year.

It is reported that a small factory now exists at Damascus for the production of castor oil, to be used as lubricating oil for the Hejaz Railway and also for Aeroplane engines. Castor beans in commercial quantities used to be grown in the Plain of Esdraelon 40 to 50 years ago. When a shortage of lubricating oil began to be felt on the Hejaz Railway early in 1915, the Administration began to grow Castor beans experimentally along the railway near the Shatta and Beisan stations. The first experiments were a failure owing to bad agricultural methods, but they were renewed more successfully in 1916 and extended to the Aleppo region. In 1917, a crop of about 20,000 kilograms was obtained, which should have yielded 8 to 9,000 kilograms of oil, but the oil presses established in Damascus were somewhat primitive and only half of the expected yield was obtained. This had to be used for lubricating oil on the German locomotives which arrived in August 1917. These work with super-heated steam (350 degrees C), and olive and sesame oil being the only available oils and quite unfit for such high temperatures, castor oil was the only alternative.

## C.—CONSTANTINOPLE.

From a reliable source, information has been received that a great fire has taken place at Constantinople, destroying the Eastern part of the Sultan Selim quarter of Stamboul, with the exception of the Fatih Mosque. The Austrian Ambassador in the name of his Government has expressed his sorrow at this terrible fire.

A deserter who left Constantinople about May 15th gives the following current prices for that date in the capital:—

Bread	...	65 P.T. (paper) per oke (2½ lbs.)
Maize flour	...	32 " " "
Bulgur	...	35 " " "
Raisins	...	70 " " "
Dried figs	...	80 " " "

An Armenian prisoner of war, captured on May 1st, states that the bread ration in Constantinople was about 250 grammes of bread per day, and 250 to 500 grammes of meat per week.

The "Ottoman Lloyd" of April 7th complains of the rise in the price of sugar which was retailed on April 2nd at 155 P.T. per oke, on April 3rd at 180 P.T. per oke, on April 5th at 200 P.T. per oke and on April 11th at 210 P.T. per oke. The "Lloyd Ottoman" accuses the profiteers, as it says there is an ample stock, and that after the Ukraine peace the price fell to P.T. 110 per oke. "Tasvir-i-Efkari" however denies that profiteering in sugar is possible, as the Government alone can import it from Germany and Austria and also controls the distribution.

(NOTE:—In this case it looks as if any profiteering was done by the members of the Government themselves).



With regard to the price of meat, the Turkish press in March and April complains very bitterly, and attributes the exorbitant rise to profiteers, as there should be plenty of animals from Roumania and Anatolia. The "Lloyd Ottoman" (March 21st) says, that prices vary in Constantinople in different quarters of the town from P.T. 60 to P.T. 200 per oke, on a basis of average quality, which shows what an excessive profit some people must make. There is also an outcry over the slaughter of young lambs under the regulation weight.

There is abundant evidence of the shortage of wood at Constantinople. The "Lloyd Ottoman" (April 8th) criticises the cutting down of trees in the Sultanieh Park at Beicos. The same paper (March 23rd) protests against the desecration of the cemeteries, where the cypress trees are rapidly disappearing. Again on April 4th, the "Lloyd Ottoman" states that in certain quarters of the town old houses are being demolished for the sake of the timber, which is a great source of profit to proprietors, and affords an opportunity to the population of indulging in what the newspaper calls "a new form of poaching."

#### D.—GENERAL.

A widespread movement has arisen in Turkey for the nationalization of commerce and industry. The newly founded paper "Zeman," the organ of Shukri Bey's opposition party, has instituted attacks on such companies as the "Banque Ottomans," "Compagnie des Chemins de Fer Ottomans," "Régie des Tabacs Ottomans," which are all working in Turkey for the benefit of foreign capitalists.

The "Tanin" of April 13th, has an article on the economic education of Turkey, in which it applauds the growth of the commercial spirit. If England is beaten in the war, it is because she lacks military education. Turkey must not throw away the advantages gained in the field by want of economic education.

It is stated that the Minister of Finance wishes to make the Ottoman National Bank of Credit a State Bank.

A number of new Turkish Joint Stock Companies have recently been formed. Among the most important are the "National Insurance Company of Turkey," "The Wine Growers Bank of Magnesia," The Banque de Commerce et de Crédit Général," the "Company for Home Spinning," the "National Company for the Improvement and Progress of Turkish Agriculture" and the "Company for Metallurgical Industry and Manufacture of Machinery." The manufacturing companies are severely handicapped owing to the impossibility of obtaining the necessary building material and machinery during the war.

The "Bulgarische Handelszeitung" of April 24th points out that, although the Turkish chemical industry is poor, the oil and soap industries could be very advantageously developed and brought up to date.

A Greek Smyrna newspaper, the "Amalthia" says that the Red Crescent is requisitioning all the soap in Smyrna.

(Note :—Aivalik where the best Turkish soap is made is near Smyrna).

Four foreign engineers are surveying the mines at Heraklea (Eregli) and Eski Shehr.

The "Lloyd Ottoman" of April 10th states that researches are being made for coal, lignite, graphite, naptha, petroleum and pitch in the Sanjak of Magnesia.

In the sanjak of Smyrna, a German or Austrian Firm (Goldberg & Co.) have obtained a concession for a mine of mercury and arsenical copper ore.

A mine of arsenical antimony has been discovered in the Sanjak of Karasi (Balikesr).

The 6% Royalty on mineral products has been re-established. (Hilal—April 12th).

It is reported that Turkish bees-wax is being exported to Germany to replace Mozambique, Madagascar and other wax previously obtained through London. There is no indication of shortage in this commodity and the quality is fairly good, although softer than the best African wax.

The Smyrna newspaper "La Réforme" of March 23rd states that the Ministry of Agriculture has purchased 2,500 tons of maize from Roumania, for distribution as seed to farmers.

The S. S. "Mourad Bey" arrived at Constantinople from Roumania on March 31st, with a cargo of petroleum.

The "Vakit" says that an important consignment of beans from Roumania reached Constantinople on March 19th.

The same paper (April 10th), with reference to the Food Commission sitting at Berlin, quotes Javid Bey as having said that, if the Government had allowed the free importation of food stuffs from the Ukraine, it would have been the merchants and not the people who would have profited. Big Companies have been formed in Germany and Austria-Hungary for the purchase and importation of foodstuffs from the Ukraine. Turkey has not followed this example owing to the cost of transport. Turkey will receive her share from these companies, who will deliver the goods to Turkish representatives at Odessa or other Black Sea ports. When the foodstuffs arrive, they will be distributed by the Government. Javid ends by saying that he does not know whether Turkey's share will be sufficient for her needs, but states that these were the best terms obtainable.

(NOTE :—This looks as if Turkey would have to be satisfied with German leavings).

The cotton production of Turkey is reported to amount to 150,000 bales per annum. The home manufactories use only one third of this. All the rest is exported. Efforts are being made to intensify the cultivation of cotton in the Vilayet of Adana, and to extend it to the Vilayet of Aidin.

With reference to the Advisory Food Control Commission, whose appointment was reported in the Summary of June 8th, the "Tanin" of April 14th states that the Government was against this measure, but was obliged to give way to the wishes of Parliament.



There may be legal objection to its formation, but its supporters look upon it as an excellent means of obtaining practical results. Commenting on the fact that most of the members of the Commission appointed by the Government appear to be precisely the people who were hostile to its formation, the newspaper says, that doubtless the Government has chosen the men with the most experience, regardless of their opinions.

It appears to be established that, in theory at least, paper money is accepted by the Government at face value for the payment of taxes. In practice, however, much depends on the individual official. Dishonest finance officials have in many cases forced tax payers to pay in coin, which they kept themselves and accounted for as though the payment had been made in paper. In consequence they made an enormous profit. When Rushan Bey was dismissed from his post of O.C. Lines of Communication at Jerusalem by Jemal Pasha for similar malpractices, his house was searched, and £T.40,000 in gold was found there. As he was a prominent member of the Committee of Union and Progress, the only punishment he received was transfer to Aleppo.

#### AFIUN KARAHISSAR. (BRUSA VILAYET.)

A letter found on a prisoner, dated May 13th, gives the following prices as being current at Afiun Karahissar (Asia Minor):—

Wheat ...	...	18½ P.T. (paper) per oke (2¾ lbs).
Barley ...	...	12 " " "
Poppy Seed Oil ...	...	150 " " "
Cheese ...	...	100 " " "
Onions ...	...	20 " " "
Leeks ...	...	8 " " "

The letter also says that, owing to abundant spring rains, the harvest prospects in that district, which is very important agriculturally, were excellent. The vineyards, in spite of some signs of disease, promised well on the whole.

#### FOKIA (AIDIN).

A prisoner captured on April 9th, gives the following prices for the Fokia district (North of Smyrna):—

Bread ...	...	8-9 P.T. (paper) per oke (2¾ lbs.).
Rice ...	...	Unobtainable.
Sugar ...	...	Had been unobtainable, but was now coming in again at high prices.
Coffee ...	...	1½ P.T. (paper) per cup.
Eggs ...	...	2½ " each.
Yoghurt ...	...	6-10 P.T. (paper) per oke.
Meat ...	...	40 " " "
Cheese ...	...	15-20 " " "
Olive Oil ...	...	60 " " "
Vegetables ...	...	Cheap and plentiful.
Native Shoes ...	...	£T. 2 (paper) per pair.

### FINANCIAL.

It is reported from Turkish sources that subscriptions to the Turkish Internal Loan continue to be numerous. A further £T. 110,000 have been collected in the capital, and large amounts are being subscribed in Sokia (Vilayet of Aidin). The village of Deyirmenjik subscribed £T. 100,000.

*NOTE.*—A British officer who knows the Sokia Caza very well, says that, even in the prosperous pre-war days, it would have been impossible to obtain large subscriptions to a Turkish loan without great pressure on the well-to-do Greek inhabitants. Deyirmenjik is a village of a few hundred inhabitants, and the idea of their subscribing £T. 100,000 is simply ridiculous.

The utmost efforts are being made to popularize the Internal Loan. Subscribers are to be given their first six month's interest at 5 % at the same time as they pay their subscription. All interest will be paid in gold, which Germany is said to have undertaken to supply. Bonds will be redeemed twice yearly, on October 20th and April 20th, of each year. The bonds to be redeemed will be drawn by lot and payment for them will be made in gold. All transactions connected with the Loan will be free of tax, stamp duty, or other Government charges. The Loan is guaranteed by the excess revenue of the Ottoman Public Debt and the receipts of the Aghnam or sheep tax.

(*NOTE.*—The Aghnam has hitherto been one of the few taxes not mortgaged in some way or other.) The service of the Loan will be in the hands of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

In spite of these inducements, the Ottoman Government does not seem over confident of obtaining the necessary sum from the interior alone. An attempt will be made to put the Loan on the Swiss market. Ottomans abroad are invited to subscribe, and even enemy subjects will be able to participate, owing to the suppression of the formalities required by the Law of January 24th, 1931 (1915).

The "Hilal" (April 12th) says that the Mint is coining £T. 30,000-40,000 in gold daily for the payment of interest on the Loan.

It is reported that by these measures Javid Bey hopes to reduce the premium on gold in the country, or in other words to raise the value of Turkish notes.



SANITARY.A.—PALESTINE FRONT.  
ES SALT.

Documents captured in the hospital at Es Salt, on April 1st, indicate that the Turks experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining the necessary foodstuffs, drugs, and stores.

The Senior Medical Officer, 20th Division, writes that there were practically no white sheets for the beds, and urgently demands anti-tetanus serum, emetin, microscopic dye, and equipment such as buckets, towels, cotton and hydrophile, gauze, oil cloths, catgut, etc.

He states that dysentery germs were present in large numbers in the water at Jericho, and in a lesser degree at Es Salt.

"To provide our dysentery patients with rice pudding (without sugar)" he writes: "we have only been able to purchase 6 kilos at 20 P.T. per kilo. Can you imagine our straits and sufferings? There is absolutely no sugar here. Instead of sugar we are buying a substitute at 6 P.T. per kilo. You can conclude from the above how much work we can do. We therefore beg you to send us a sufficient supply of rice, sugar, tea, and more particularly soap."

## B.—CONSTANTINOPLE.

It is reported that there are 30 or 40 cases of "spotted fever" daily at Constantinople.

## ATTACHMENT.

Turkish Civil Administration, with List and Sketch Map.

G.S.P.I.,

G.H.Q.,

E.E.F.



**SECRET and CONFIDENTIAL.**

**ATTACHMENT TO POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY,**

**No. 8, 22nd June, 1918.**

---

**TURKISH CIVIL ADMINISTRATION.**

In the course of the last hundred years, the internal administration of Turkey has evolved from extreme decentralization based on the feudal system, to a highly centralized form, largely copied like other modern Turkish institutions from the French model.

The early Ottoman Sultans had parcelled out their conquests to successful soldiers, who held their fiefs, known as "Timars" and "Ziamets," subject to the payment of tithe and the production when required, of a contingent of irregular cavalry and infantry, whom they armed, equipped, and led. The regular army consisted of Janissaries, recruited from the Christian races of the Empire, the pick of whose children were forcibly converted to Islam, and trained to arms from an early age as professional soldiers under rigorous discipline. The Empire was divided into large provinces, each a kingdom or principality in itself, under a Pasha, who, so long as he contributed a sufficient share of revenue to the Imperial Treasury, and the required contingents to the Imperial Army and Navy, was allowed to govern much as he pleased, and in some cases to pass on the succession of his government to his heir.

The House of Osman gradually ceased to produce Sultans of the old conquering type. The Janissary Army, no longer recruited from the subject Christian races, but mainly from the sons of former Janissaries, lost their rigid discipline and fighting qualities, and degenerated into a Pretorian Guard, which made and unmade Sultans at will, but proved more and more incapable of withstanding European armies in the field. The authority of Constantinople, especially over the more distant provinces, was relaxed, and the process of decay, beginning towards the end of the Seventeenth Century, continued almost without intermission until the beginning of the Nineteenth. By that time, of the African possessions of Turkey, Algeria had ceased to acknowledge her suzerainty, and Tunis owned a purely nominal allegiance, while Tripoli and Egypt were practically independent, though their rulers still received their investiture from the Sultan. On the European side, Serbia was in open revolt which ended in her recognition as a vassal state, and both in Europe and Asia, cases were frequent in which provincial governors, on one pretext or another, refused obedience to the Central Government; while in the more distant provinces local chiefs, known as "Deré Beys," or Lords of the Valleys, ruled over large districts with little or no interference from Constantinople.

At length a strong Sultan appeared, in the person of Sultan Mahmud, who resolved to put a stop to the disintegration of the Empire and establish his direct authority over its provinces. When he came to the throne in 1808, Turkey was at the lowest ebb, and during the early years of his reign he was greatly hampered by unsuccessful foreign wars with Russia, by the Greek War of Independence, and by the mutinous spirit of his Janissary Army. In spite of these difficulties, he contrived to crush some of his rebellious Pashas, notably Ali Pasha of Janina in 1822, and also to create the nucleus of a regular army, trained by European instructors, with which he was able ultimately to free himself from the tyranny of the Janissaries by their complete extermination in 1826. He then proceeded to reduce the other rebellious Pashas and Deré Beys by a series of punitive expeditions under capable leaders of his own selection. These operations, however, were much delayed by the long war with Mohammed Ali of Egypt, in which the Turkish armies were constantly defeated, and Syria was occupied for several years by Mohammed Ali's son, Ibrahim Pasha. But Mahmud never ceased his efforts to restore the power of the Sultanate. Great Britain and France intervened and compelled the Egyptians to withdraw from Syria, and not long after Mahmud's death in 1839, his son Abdul Medjid found himself in possession of an Empire, most of the provinces of which had already been brought back under the direct control of Constantinople, while the others were reduced to obedience during the early years of his reign.

Owing to the protection afforded to Turkey by Great Britain and France against the encroachments of Mohammed Ali, and later against Russian aggression at the time of the Crimean War, Abdul Medjid, a weak but well-intentioned Sultan, fell very much under the influence of the two great Western Powers, and readily accepted suggestions from them for the reform of Turkish Administration, and the grant to his Christian subjects of rights which had hitherto been denied them. The new liberal institutions were announced with great pomp in Imperial Rescripts, and during the reigns of Abdul Medjid and Abdul Aziz there is no doubt that the lot of the non-Moslem inhabitants of Turkey was very much alleviated. But as the autocratic powers of the Sultan remained unimpaired, it only required the accession of a true oriental tyrant like Abdul Hamid to make the position of the subject races as unenviable as it had ever been.

The Administrative and Judicial changes introduced during this period were modelled almost entirely upon French institutions, as Great Britain furnished no symmetrical system of internal administration or Code of Laws for Turkish imitation. Thus Turkey found herself endowed with the "Code Napoléon," and a judicial organization slavishly copied from the French, while the old Turkish provinces were split up into administrative divisions depending on the Ministry of the Interior, and corresponding to the Departments, Arrondissements and Communes of modern France.



These paper reforms did not contribute much to the better government of Turkey, and it soon became apparent that they were but ill-adapted to the needs of a primitive Moslem country, possessing a very limited educated class capable of providing the necessary administrative and judicial staff. But they certainly had the effect of greatly strengthening the hands of the Central Government, and when, under Abdul Hamid, the Sultan, assisted by his Palace Camarilla and an elaborate Secret Service organization, gradually assumed direct control of the provinces, he had in his hands a highly centralized and absolutely subservient instrument for the carrying out of his policies. This instrument has now been taken possession of by the Committee of Union and Progress, the present President of which, Talaat Pasha, is at the same time Grand Vizier and Minister of the Interior. It may be briefly described as follows:—

Each of the old provinces, such as Syria, with its capital at Damascus, Irak with its capital at Bagdad, and Kurdistan with its capital at Erzerum, was, as stated above, split up into several smaller provinces under the name of Vilayets—corresponding to the French Departments. These are governed by a Vali, the equivalent of the French Prefect, appointed by Imperial Iradé, and directly responsible, in theory at least, to the Minister of the Interior. Under him are representatives of all the Departments of State, with their staffs, and he is assisted by an Administrative Council consisting of the heads of the most important Government Departments and the chiefs of the different religious communities recognized by the State. Shortly before the outbreak of war, Vilayet Councils were also created by a new Law, which granted a certain measure of local self Government to the provinces, and provided for Vilayet Budgets, a proportion of certain local revenues being earmarked for local expenditure on education, public works, sanitation, etc. But it is believed that effect has not yet been given to this Law, owing to the state of war. This measure was adopted in imitation of the French institution of "Conseils Généraux" in the Departments.

The Vilayets in their turn are subdivided into from two to five Sanjaks, each governed by a Mutessarif, assisted by representatives of the different Departments and by an Administrative Council. The Mutessarif is under the direct orders of the Vali of the Vilayet, and the Sanjak officials are under the heads of their respective Departments in the Vilayet.

There are also a number of Sanjaks which do not depend on any Vilayet, and are known as Mustekil or Independent. The Governors of these Sanjaks are in direct correspondence with the Ministry of the Interior, and are practically on the same footing as Valis, except in respect to rank and pay.

The Sanjaks are subdivided into Cazas, each governed by a Kaimakam, with a small official staff and Administrative Council, and the Cazas again are composed of two or more Nahiés, each of which should be in charge of a Mudir, who may have two or three clerks and a few policemen to carry out his orders. But it has not been found possible to extend the Nahié system to some of the outlying Vilayets, for want of the necessary personnel.

The higher branches of the Administrative Service are supposed to be recruited from the graduates of the Mulkié School at Constantinople, where selected candidates who have completed their secondary education go through a four years' course of Law and Political and Social Sciences. This Institution had at one period a good teaching staff, including several capable French Professors, and one meets among Turkish Governors now approaching middle age, a certain number of men who appear to have really benefitted by the training which it gave them. But in the later years of Abdul Hamid's reign, the standard of the School fell off sadly, and its recent graduates have proved themselves but ill prepared for an Administrative career. In practice, a very large proportion of Civil governors have received no official training whatever, but owe their appointment to rank favouritism, membership of the Committee of Union and Progress being now regarded as almost the only qualification for office.

Attached is a list and sketch map, showing the present Administrative Divisions of the Turkish Empire.

G.S.P.I.,  
G.H.Q.,  
E.E.F.



# ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS OF THE TURKISH EMPIRE.

VILAYETS.	SANJAKS.		VILAYETS.	SANJAKS.
CONSTANTI- NOBLE.	Bey Oghlu (Pera). Iskudar (Scutari).		TREBIZOND.	Trebizond. Gumushaneh. Lazistan (Rizeh).
ADRIANOPLE.	Adrianople. Kirk Kilisse. Tekfur Dag (Rodosto).			Janik (Samsoun) (independent).
	Chatalja (independ- ent).		SIVAS.	Sivas. Amasia. Tokat. Karahissar Sharki.
	Gallipoli (independ- ent).		ERZERUM.	Erzerum. Erzinjan. Bayazid.
	Kala Sultanieh (Chanak) (inde- pendent).		MAMURET EL AZIZ (Mesré).	Kharput (Mesré). Dersim (Khosat). Malatia.
	Ismid (independ- ent).		BITLIS.	Bitlis. Mush. Sert. Genj (Cheveli).
KHODAVENDI- KIAR (Brussa).	Ertoghrul (Brussa). Kutahiyah. Afium Karahissar.		VAN.	Van. Hekkiari (Bashkalé).
AIDIN.	Aidin. Smyrna. Sarukhan (Magne- sia). Menteshé (Mughla). Denizli.		DIARBEKIR.	Diarbekir. Mardin. Arghana. Severek.
KONIA.	Konia. Nigde. Hamid Abad (Isparta). Burdur. Tekke (Adalia).		MOSUL.	Mosul. Kerkuk. Suleimaniyeh.
ADANA.	Adana. Kozan (Sis). Jebel Bereket (Jar- pus). Mersina. Itch Eil (Selefké).		BAGHDAD.	Baghdad. Divanieh. Kerbela.
ANGORA.	Angora. Kaiserieh. Yosgat. Kirshehr. Chorum.		BASRA.	Basra. Muntefik. Nejd. 'Aamara.
KASTAMOUNI.	Kastamouni. Changri. Sinop.			Zor (independent).
	Bolu (independent).			Urfa (independent).
			HEJAZ.	Jeddah. Mecca.
				Medina (independ- ent).
				'Asir (independent).
			YEMEN.	Hodeida. Yemen.



VILAY-ETS.	SANJAKS.	KAZAS.	VILAY-ETS.	SANJAKS.	KAZAS.
ALEPPO	MARASH.	Aintab. Killis. El Bab. Aleppo.		JERUSALEM (independent.)	Jerusalem. Jaffa. Hebron. Gaza. Beersheba.
	AINTAB.	Jebel Saman. Harim. Beilan.			
	ALEPPO.	Alexandretta. Antioch. Idlib. Jisr el Soghur. Ma'arit el Na'aman.		HAMA.	Hama. Hamidiyeh. Selemla. Homs.  Baalbek. Nebk. Zebdani. Damascus. Dumer. Rasheya. Hasbeya. Wadi el Ajem.
BEIRUT	LATAKIYA.	Latakiya. Babanna. Jebeli. Banias.	DAMASCUS	DAMASCUS.	Kuneitra. Sheikh Miskin. Busr el Hariri. Jebel Druz. Deraa. Jebel Ajlun.
	TRIPOLI.	Safta. Kalaat El Husn. Akkar.		HAURAN.	Es Salt. Kerak. Et Tafilah. Ma'an.
	BEIRUT.	Saida. Sur. Nerj Ajun.			
	ACRE.	Acre. Safed. Tiberias. Nazareth. Haifa.		KERAK.	
	NABLUS.	Selfit. Jenin. Nablus. Tul Keram.			
	LEBANON (independent).	Kourna. Batrun. Kesraun. Metem. Shuf. Jezzin.			

**NOTE.**

1. In January, 1918, the Turkish Chamber passed a bill for the formation of three new independent Sanjaks in Mesopotamia, namely: Sinjar, Khabur, Jezireh. This law will come into force in March, 1919.

2. The remnants of the Vilayet of the Archipelago have been merged into the Sanjak of Kala Sultanieh.

3. For the Kazas of the Syrian provinces, reference should be made to the Map issued with Summary No. 5, of May 10th, 1918.



**SECRET.**

No. 9.

**POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.****ENEMY TERRITORY.**

30th June, 1918.

**POLITICAL.****A.—HOME AND FOREIGN POLITICS.****THE CAUCASUS.**

According to a Moscow message, the Russian newspaper, "Novaya Zhizn," of May 21st, announces that the peace negotiations between Turkey and the Trans-Caucasian Government, at present proceeding at Batum, will shortly be broken off, in consequence of the uncompromising attitude which Turkey, at the instigation of Germany, is adopting with regard to her claims. The Trans-Caucasian Government, on its side, is in no way disposed to make concessions.

Whereas the Central Powers are said to favour an independent Trans-Caucasian State in close touch with Turkey, the Russian Government, fearing the increase of Turco-German influence in that part of the world, has telegraphed to the Russian Ambassador at Berlin, suggesting that a Russian plenipotentiary should take part in the peace negotiations. The Russian Government denies\* recognition to the Trans-Caucasian Government, whose authority, it states, is not admitted by a large part of the country, and it claims that an important section of the local population has protested against separation from Russia. (Stockholm message, May 17th, and Kölnische Zeitung, May 20th).

On May 28th, a message from the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs protests against the attitude of the German Government. "Baron von Kühlmann (German Minister for Foreign Affairs)," it says, "accuses us of threatening to invade Trans-Caucasia, where the local Government is oppressing a country which is faithful to us. Moreover, the Turkish Army is advancing on Baku. When we speak of an armistice at all points, we include also the Turkish front. It is necessary to secure the cessation of this Turkish advance."

**NOTE.**—From the above it would appear that Russia now looks on Trans-Caucasia as a part of Russian Territory, and therefore subject to the provisions of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. This is hardly consistent with the attitude adopted by Russia at the Peace Conference, when she asserted the right of the Caucasus to guide its own destinies and protested against the seizure of Batum, Kars, and Ardahan by Turkey. Fear of enemy control of the oil wells at Baku is probably at the bottom of this move. The people with Russian sympathies are most likely the Bolsheviks of Baku and Daghestan, which do not form part of the Trans-Caucasian Republic. Tiflis and Kutais are also mentioned as containing many pro-Russians, but information points to the fact that Bolshevism is practically non-existent there.

Turkish ambitions in the Caucasus are giving rise to considerable protest, both in Russia and in Germany. The "Frankfurter Zeitung" quotes Russian newspapers to show that, whereas the Bolsheviks formerly denied any wish to prevent the secession from Russia of territories peopled by foreign races, recent events in the Caucasus, the German occupation of the Crimea, and the Revolution in the Ukraine, had so affected Russian opinion that propaganda is now on foot for the reconstitution of United Russia.

The German press is very plain spoken against Turkish activities in the Caucasus. The "Kölnische Volkszeitung" points out that Turkish efforts to gain influence by way of Tiflis in the direction of Baku have displeased the Russian Government, and that everything indicates that the Georgian and Armenian populations have no desire for union with Turkey. The paper then remarks that the Turks would do better to seek expansion in other directions, and might particularly concern themselves with the British, who are still at Baghdad. Count Reventlow writes to the "Deutsche Tageszeitung" commenting on certain statements made by the Turkish Minister at Berne, to the effect that the Caucasus question at present formed the central point of Turkey's interest, that Turkey desired the complete independence of all the Caucasian peoples, and the close union of Trans-Caucasia with the Ottoman Empire.

**NOTE.**—The last two sentences are obviously contradictory.

Count Reventlow says that it looks as if Turkey had directed comparatively strong forces against the Caucasus, that operations had extended far beyond the frontiers of Batum, Kars, and Ardahan, and that Turkey aims, for instance, at taking Tiflis. The writer points out that such a policy must entirely shift the centre of gravity of the Turkish Empire from the South to the North, and that it would be to Turkey's own interest if she concentrated her strength on the restoration of her territorial integrity. The "Vossische Zeitung," on June 3rd, expresses the opinion that Turkey's liberal interpretation of the Brest-Litovsk Treaty is strengthening the influence of England, and her desire to seek contact again with a strong Russia. Germany ought, therefore, to exert friendly pressure on Turkey, especially as the Turks know that Germany is the only real guarantor of a Turkish Constantinople. The same paper, quoted in the "Rheinisch-Westfälische Zeitung," of June 5th, announces that Herr von Kardoff, hitherto German representative in Finland, has left for the Caucasus, via Constantinople, accompanied by General von Kress and Jemal Pasha, in order to acquaint himself personally with the situation created by the Turkish advance.



## TRIPOLI.

It is reported from a reliable Italian source that Prince Osman Fuad, a grandson of Sultan Murad, of Turkey, arrived by submarine, at Syrta, in Tripoli, about May 13th. Prince Osman Fuad was born in 1895, was A.D.C. to the Sultan and has served in the Prussian Guards.

## ARMENIANS.

The Constantinople newspaper "Stamboul," of May 3rd, publishes an interview with Hussein Jahid Bey, Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies. Talking about the Armenians he says that, in spite of what Turkey has endured owing to their rebellious spirit, she is ready to open her arms to them if they repent. "Cast off by Russia," he says, "without hope of assistance from England, the Armenians must seize this auspicious moment to draw near once more to their tender mother."

## GREEKS.

A Greek Prisoner of War, interrogated at Mudros, states with reference to the situation of the Greek population on the Western Coast of Asia Minor that he knows of no official deportations by the Turks in these districts. The Christian population has, however, diminished owing to military service, deaths from starvation, and migration. The Greek School at Vurla used to have 1,000 pupils, last year there were only 400, and this year the number had dropped to 250. The larger communities were sufficiently powerful to look after themselves, and had not been seriously disturbed. Among the smaller communities, Moslem terrorism had caused a large number of Christians to take refuge in the islands. The Government may have tacitly supported the Moslem persecution. The Turks recognise the importance of the Greek element in the Ottoman Empire, and will not deal with the Greeks as they have done with the Armenians. They would, however, no doubt be pleased to see the number diminishing to make room for Moslem immigrants from Bosnia, Syria, etc. The Vali of Aidin, Rahmi Bey, has not persecuted the subject population.

## JEWS.

The Jewish Korrespondenz Bureau at Amsterdam states that it has been informed from authentic German sources, that the German Government has been seriously considering a plan to form a Jewish Legion to fight in Palestine. The scheme was conceived to counter-balance the strong movement in Entente countries, and particularly in the United States, to form a Jewish Legion to fight for the Allies. It has fallen through, owing to the opposition of the Turkish Government.

## BRITISH PROPAGANDA.

A Deserter, captured about June 17th East of Jordan, states that the troops have picked up pamphlets dropped from our aeroplanes. The contents were discussed among the men, who were favourably impressed, and agreed with our remarks regarding the attitude of Germany towards the Turks.

A Prisoner of War captured on June 19th states that, although troops have strict injunctions to give all pamphlets dropped by our aeroplanes to their officers, the contents nevertheless become known to the troops. It is believed that our propaganda is beginning to have the desired effect upon the enemy.

Two Greek Deserters and a Prisoner recently captured near the North end of the Dead Sea, state that the troops are now beginning to disbelieve stories told to them by their officers, that the British kill their prisoners. The contents of pamphlets dropped from our aeroplanes become known to the troops. Desertion is now freely discussed, even in the presence of Sergeants.

## EVACUATIONS.

Deportees from Beirut under 15 or over 60 years of age, who were exiled to Angora at the beginning of the War, have been pardoned. Two of them, including Esper Shukair, dragoman of the British Consulate-General, have already returned.

## B.—TURCO-GERMAN RELATIONS. ON PALESTINE FRONT.

A prisoner of war, captured about June 15th, said that the Germans told the Turks they had already taken Paris. If the British advanced the Turks should not risk heavy losses by a strenuous resistance, but should retire on Damascus. The Germans would soon deal with the British in Palestine. He had several times heard that Jerusalem had been recaptured. He was also told that the Sherif had joined the Turks.

## PROPAGANDA AT SMYRNA.

It is reported that German propaganda is so good at Smyrna that even the English are absorbing German ideas. The dragomans of the Entente Consulates have been bought, and the Greeks are also being won over. The Germans distribute vernacular newspapers full of their own victories. They have even imported a German theatrical company to extend German influence.

## IN GERMANY.

The Turco-German Committee of Friendship is said to comprise 5,000 members. It has started the publication of a bulletin in Berlin. 500,000 marks have been devoted to the benefit of Ottoman students in Germany. ("Hilal," April 14th).

A Bulgarian newspaper, under the heading of "German Coolness towards Turkey," quotes largely from a recent number of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung," dealing with anti-Turkish actions and sentiments in Germany.



The "Augsburger Post Zeitung," of April 18th, publishes a remarkable anti-Turkish article presenting Turkey in its historical rôle of enemy to Christianity, and discussing the dangers of the present German policy.

After stating that the proverb "Where the Turks go, the grass ceases to grow," has lost none of its meaning, and is applicable not only to Turkey, but to all Islamic States where culture is rigid and is no longer capable of development unless all the peoples of Islam adopt Christianity, the article continues: "Germany to-day is trying to galvanize Islam into new life, and even to unite the whole world of Islam in order to benefit militarily and economically later on. In this fight for its existence Islam as such has failed. The "Holy War," from which such wonders were expected, has not justified the hopes placed in it. To-day, as before, Moslems are still fighting on the side of the Entente. Financially, Turkey is incapable of bearing the burdens of war. She has not been able to float a war loan. How will it be with the economic benefits which Germany has promised herself from the revival of Turkey? Those intimate with Turkish conditions await this revival and economic impetus very pessimistically."

With regard to Germany's economic relations with Turkey, the opinion of an expert is quoted, who considers that "German relations with Turkey are of a political rather than an economic nature. On this very account, an artificial economic interest has been created by heavy investments of capital—a risky policy, because it disregards economic laws and creates artificial obligations of a purely speculative character, which, for this very reason, carry with them a constant liability to crises, and a menace to other legitimate economic interests."

The article then goes on to say that, owing to the poverty of the population, Turkey can only be of small importance as a buyer of foreign industrial products. The balance of trade is always against her. The only hope is for Turkey to maintain her character as an agricultural State. Even then she cannot be counted on as an exporter of raw materials; her forests are being destroyed, agricultural methods are still primitive, communications are undeveloped, and the population is not large enough to exploit all the cultivable areas.

*NOTE.*—If the massacre and deportation of Armenians and Greeks continues, there is likely to be in future an even greater dearth of labour, and, what is more important, of brains to direct it.

Yet, instead of remedying those evils, Turkey has suddenly turned her attention to manufactures, completely ignoring all economic laws, and attempting to create a factitious industrialism, in pursuit of the one idea of being no longer dependent on foreign countries, which is clearly ridiculous as all instruction must come from foreigners.

The article ends up by saying that the German Alliance is by no means so popular in Turkey as is generally believed. It is not to be supposed that Germany will enjoy an economic monopoly after the war. The Turks will buy wherever they get goods cheapest. The French and British still command great sympathies, and their commerce will quickly resume its position on the markets of Constantinople. The Italians, with their cheap goods, will do even more.

No illusions should therefore be indulged in as to Germany's future prospects in Turkey. We are indeed convinced that Turkey, in spite of an apparently increasing prosperity, is on the down grade. As a result of all these observations, many experts are of opinion that the dissolution of Turkey cannot be arrested, because the Turkish Empire is rotten from the core outwards, and Islam contains no regenerative force which might lead one to expect an inward recovery.

#### TURCO-GERMAN CONVENTIONS.

A Berlin periodical which deals principally with Near Eastern subjects, states that the abolition of the Capitulations in Turkey and the conclusion of reciprocal legal and commercial treaties between Germany, Austria and Turkey, have necessitated considerable legal and administrative reforms. One of the causes for the hesitation abroad to give up the Capitulations was to be found in the deplorable state of prison affairs. Wherever possible, the Turkish Government has undertaken a reorganization of prisons on a modern basis. In those provinces where reforms are impossible owing to the war, the work will be begun immediately after the conclusion of peace. The necessary credits for this undertaking have already been voted.

The German adviser of the Turkish Ministry of Justice, Geheimrat Heinze, has given the "Vakit" details of the Turkish legal reforms. Special commissions are studying the changes to be made in Turkish Civil and Commercial Law. A "Freundschaftsverein" has been formed for the mutual study by Germans and Turks of each other's laws, and for the establishment of personal contact between the great lawyers of the two countries.

On April 9th, the new Conventions concluded between Germany and Turkey in January, 1917 were ratified. These treaties deal with consular jurisdiction and protection, and reciprocal rights of domicile and extradition. It is stated that, before the war, the question of domicile had no great interest for either state, but presumably it is expected that after the war the number of Germans in Turkey will increase. The emigration of Turks to Germany is to be expected for purposes of education, as most of the Turkish youth requiring commercial or technical instruction will now come to Germany.

#### C.—ARAB MOVEMENT.

It is reported that the Egyptian Nationalist, Abd el Aziz Shawish, arrived in Constantinople from Berlin early in May. He has been sent with Hairi Bey, the ex-Sheikh ul Islam, on a mission to Ibn Rashid of Hail, and various other Arab Chiefs, with decorations and money from the Sultan.



With reference to the Mission under Musa Kiazim, the present Sheikh ul Islam, which was reported to be on its way to negotiate peace with the King of the Hejaz, it is stated on June 9th, that Musa Kiazim returned northwards from Deraa some time ago. The Mufti of Damascus, who was to have accompanied the Mission, feigned illness and did not proceed. Jemal Pasha No 2 is said to have turned Essad Effendi and Sabri Hoja, two other members of the Mission, back from Deraa.

#### PALESTINE FRONT.

It is reported that the Turks on this front have succeeded in making the Arabs believe that the British have no respect for women, and that when our troops enter a place, all the native women are outraged. For this reason, most of the Bedouins near the front have moved north.

#### EAST OF JORDAN.

A Prisoner of War, captured on June 19th, states that he was in charge of an escort sent from Es Salt to Amman to bring £T. 56,000 in gold and 87 cases of Mejidiehs, each case weighing 48 kilos. This money was for distribution among the Arab tribes.

The Arabic newspaper, "El Shark," reports on May 5th, that Moharrem Effendi, Mudir of Amman, has been awarded the Iron Cross (2nd class) and the Mejidieh (4th class).

#### DAMASCUS.

With reference to the report (see Summary No. 7) that a subscription had been opened by the inhabitants of Damascus on behalf of the troops who fought against us at Amman in March, "El Shark," on April 17th, states that a deputation from the Damascus Municipality has gone to visit the 4th Army, with the object of distributing the presents purchased with the money subscribed.

#### DRUSES.

The Government is said to be making every effort to win over the Druse family of El Atrash in the Hauran. On May 9th, one of the Atrash family and 200 Druse horsemen were entertained by the Vali and the Government authorities at a Damascus Hotel. Unfortunately, a balcony collapsed, killing nine people.

In connection with the above, it may be noted that the "Journal de Beirut," of May 11th, publishes the award of the following decorations:—

2nd Class Osmaniye	—	Nejm el Atrash
"	"	Mutid el Atrash
"	"	Farez el Atrash
2nd Class Mejidieh	—	Nessib el Atrash
"	"	Mustafa el Atrash
"	"	Abd el Ghaffar el Atrash

### ECONOMIC.

#### A.—PALESTINE FRONT.

The shortage of lubricating oil in Turkey is further confirmed by a captured document, in which units are directed to indent for olive oil for cleaning machine-guns.

#### BIDIEH.

A refugee reports that between February and March, olive trees round Bidieh, Senirieh and Kafr Kasim were felled and carried on camels for engine fuel to Tul Keram. Olive trees round Haris and Kafr Haris were not touched, being outside the legal limit of 6 hours distance from the nearest railway.

In the Bidieh area, wheat was sold at 40 P.T. (silver) per rotol (5½ lbs.), barley at 20 P.T. per rotol, and durra 30 P.T. per rotol.

#### KALKILIEH.

An Arab refugee gives the following prices at Kalkilieh on June 16th:—

Wheat	...	...	...	13 P.T. (silver) per rotol (5½ lbs.).
Barley	...	...	...	8 " " " "
Durra	...	...	...	10 " " " "

There is a quantity of durra growing round Kalkilieh.

#### ZIMMARIN.

It is reported (June 21st) that the civilian population is allowed the use of the military flour mill at Zimmarin (18 miles S. of Haifa) on two days a week.

#### TUL KERAM.

A deserter captured on June 25th gives the following prices at Tul Keram:—

Wheat	...	...	...	17½ P.T. (silver) per rotol (5½ lbs.).
Barley	...	...	...	12 " " " "
Durra	...	...	...	12½ " " " "

The rate of exchange was £T.1 (paper) = 20 P.T. (silver).

The Government claims 36% of cereal crops, and requisitions in addition 25% at 4½ P.T. (paper) per rotol.

#### B.—EAST OF JORDAN.

It was reported on June 9th that wheat supplies are very low East of Jordan, and that the Government has issued severe proclamations ordering the delivery of the coming crop to Government depôts against payment, half in gold and half in paper. None, however, has so far been brought in.

NOTE.—The orders issued for the collection of the tithe in the Kaza of Es Salt were quoted in Summary No. 7, of June 8th, 1918.

Informant states that there is a German officer buying grain at Kutrani, the price there being twice that in Kerak.



## C.—NORTHERN SYRIA.

The Economic Supplement of the "Journal de Beirut," of April 20th, contains an article on the silk industry of Syria. Before the war 200,000 boxes of silk-worm eggs were imported from the Department of the Var (France) and a very small quantity from Italy. Since 1915, owing to the distress which compelled the peasants to cut down the mulberry trees for fuel, the silk industry has sensibly diminished. In 1917 only 45,000 boxes of eggs were used and in 1916 only 36,000.

Almost all the cocoons produced last season are reported to have been purchased by the Germans. The present silk production is only about a quarter of that of last year.

In the Kazas of Batrun (Lebanon) and Akkar (Sanjak of Tripoli) and also in the hill districts, the Germans are said to be buying the potato, tobacco and grain crops in advance. They have also purchased the grain harvest of Ghor Beisan (Kaza of Tiberias).

Syrian newspapers report that, to cope with distress in Syria, asylums for the indigent have been established in most of the big towns. They also state that 5,000 people are assisted in this way at Tripoli, and 1,100 at Damascus. A special commission of notables has been formed at Beirut to deal with the situation.

## ALEPPO.

The "Journal de Beirut," of April 27th, states that the agricultural situation in the Vilayet of Aleppo is said to be very favourable this year. Nearly all the cultivable land is reported to have been sown.

The following are detailed figures for the Sanjak of Aleppo :—

KAZA.	Acres sown.	Seed sown.
Aleppo ... ..	80,708	4,241 tons
Munbidj ... ..	100,569	5,028 "
Ma'arit el Na'aman ... ..	82,909	3,119 "
Killis ... ..	275,078	15,404 "
Alexandretta ... ..	9,420	565 "
Idlib... ..	29,471	1,723 "
Antioch ... ..	55,652	2,954 "
El Bab ... ..	73,770	4,131 "
Beilan ... ..	14,382	— "
Jisir el Soghur ... ..	45,202	1,635 "
Rihanidi ... ..	39,720	2,198 "
	<u>807,151</u>	<u>40,998</u> "

The paper says that, according to these figures, 88 % of the land normally under cultivation has been sown.

## BEIRUT.

It is reported that the olive crop in the Beirut district promises to be excellent.

The following were prices at Beirut at the end of May :—

Flour ... ..	220 to 225 P.T. per rotol (5½ lbs.)
Salt ... ..	60 " " "
Sugar ... ..	750 " " "
Coffee ... ..	1200 " " "
Cloth and leather have nearly doubled in price lately.	

NOTE.—These prices are presumably for paper money.

The price of grain was still very high in Beirut at the end of May, because the authorities had not yet settled the question of tithe, and therefore the new harvest was not yet on the market.

Last year, owing to the bad harvest, the authorities allowed the payment of a certain amount of the taxes to stand over. Orders have now been received from the Ministry of the Interior to collect all outstanding sums on the present harvest.

The "Journal de Beirut," of April 27th, states that in the Vilayet of Beirut, 1,477,208 deunums (about 370,000 acres) were sown between September, 1917, and the end of March, 1918, for which 18,000 tons of seed were required. Wheat, barley, oats, lentils, lupins and chick peas have been sown. The yield of cereals should be at least 140,000 tons.

With reference to the rate of exchange, the "Journal de Beirut" on April 27th says: "Recent transactions in paper money have been considerable and a rise in its value has been the result. It is true that we ought to rejoice at the increased value of paper money, but only on condition that prices of foodstuffs fall in consequence. This has not, however, been the case. When, during the last few days, paper money reached 33 to 35 piastres, vegetables, flour, and all other foodstuffs, were still selling at the same prices as when paper money was only worth 25, 20, or even 15 piastres."

The "Journal de Beirut," of May 2nd, says that the price of flour has again gone up. Merchants assert that this is due to the exhaustion of stocks, but the newspaper says that this is not so, as profiteers have stocks of wheat in their depôts sufficient to feed the population for three months.

According to Syrian newspapers, the price of flour at Beirut early in April, fell from about 225 P.T. (paper) per rotol (5½ lbs.) to 160 P.T. (paper) per rotol, but rose again on April 4th to 200 P.T. and even 215 P.T. per rotol.



"El Ikbal," of April 27th, publishes a notice by the Municipality of Beirut asking for 150 labourers to work in the coal mine at the village of Bahamdoum. The wages offered are 10 P.T. (paper) and 1 kilo of wheat daily.

It is reported that considerable traffic is carried on by sea between Beirut and Haifa. Wood, grain, and provisions are shipped daily. On May 10th, 16 schooners and small boats left Beirut for Haifa.

#### LEBANON.

It is reported that Adil Arslan, a Deputy for the Lebanon, recently made a speech in the Chamber of Deputies, in which he said that the Province was a prey to poverty, famine and death. There had been 150,000 deaths from famine, and he added that if the Government knew of the state of affairs, they ought to have taken steps to improve it, which they had not. Arslan is said to have left Constantinople immediately after this speech, for fear of consequences.

It is reported that orders have been received to exempt the Lebanon from the payment of this year's tithe.

#### DAMASCUS.

According to "El Shark," of April 13th, the authorities of the Vilayet of Damascus have announced that, as the Government has assured the provisioning of the Armies, thanks to the depôts of grain in the North, it will buy no more cereals from the Hauran, Kerak and the stores at Damascus. Merchants and inhabitants are authorized to procure cereals for themselves from any part of the Vilayet.

The Council of Supplies at Damascus has decided to sell bread on presentation of a ticket at 9 P.T. (paper) per oke. ("Journal de Beirut," May 2nd).

#### HAURAN.

The following report has been received from a trustworthy source on the oil works at Mekarim (Hauran, on the Deraa-Haifa Railway) :—

The boring for oil was started about 1912 by a company formed by a clever but unscrupulous German named Schumacher. The boring, which had not been successful, was stopped at the beginning of the War.

A German, Lieut. Vrobel, O.C., 503rd Motor Lorry Column, happened to be in Damascus about this time, and was struck by the relatively high proportion of bitumen in the rocks round Mekarim. (Informant states, that they are not so rich as those of Nebi Mussa). Lieut. Vrobel, who was formerly director of a gas works in Germany, made experiments with the rock, and finally obtained 30% oil, including 18 parts petroleum, 3 parts benzine, and 7½ parts lubricating oil. (Informant says these are Vrobel's figures and thinks they are optimistic). The net cost of each of the above valuable products was calculated by Vrobel at 2.65 marks per kilo. Recently an officer was sent to Germany to get material to start a large distillation plant. It is probable that the works reported at Mekarim during the last two months are the result.

#### D.—GENERAL.

##### FOOD CONTROL.

The following is a free translation of the Law of Food Supply, voted by the Turkish Parliament, and promulgated on April 2nd, 1918 :—

- 1.—A General Directorate of Food Supply is created under the Ministry of War.
  - 2.—While the Army is on a war footing, in addition to the tithe collected in kind, the General Directorate of Food Supply is charged with the purchase of an amount equivalent to the tithe, and, if necessary, a second equivalent amount of the following cereals, food-stuffs, and forage grown in the Ottoman Empire: Wheat, rye, maize, durra, millet, barley, oats, vetches, and various forage plants. It will distribute the resulting supplies to the Army, the indigent population of Constantinople and the provinces, Government officials, teachers and inmates of boarding schools. The residue retained by producers may be freely transported, sold, and purchased.
  - 3.—For the supply of the Army, Government officials, teachers and inmates of schools, orphanages and the inmates of charitable institutions and hospitals, the General Directorate of Food Supply is authorized to purchase an amount equivalent to the tithe, and, if necessary, a second equivalent amount, of the following cereals and vegetables grown in the Ottoman Empire; rice, lentils, chick peas, broad beans, French beans, peas, potatoes, etc. The residue retained by the producers may be freely transported, sold, and purchased.
  - 4.—The price to be paid for the first requisitioned amount (one equivalent of the tithe) will be six times the average price of each product during the three years preceding the General Mobilization (August, 1914). If the second requisition should become necessary, the price paid will be double that of the first requisition. The average prices will be fixed by the Municipal Councils.
  - 5.—The amount of olives and olive oil which the General Directorate of Food Supply is authorized to requisition will be three times the amount of the tithe, the residue being left to the producers. The prices will be fixed after consultation between the General Directorate of Food Supply and the local authorities.
- The General Directorate of Food Supply is charged with the distribution of olive oil required by the Army, Government officials, and the inhabitants of Constantinople.



6.—The importation from abroad and sale of the cereals and foodstuffs mentioned in articles 2, 3, and 5 is unrestricted.

7.—A Food Supply Committee will be formed wherever necessary. The Chief Civil Official of the locality will preside, and the members will consist of the Senior Military and Gendarmerie Officers, and the Senior Finance Officials, together with two members each of the Municipal and Administrative Councils of the locality.

8.—All hoarding of food supplies is absolutely prohibited.

9.—The General Supply Board will hand over to the General Directorate of Food Supply all its balances and stocks in cash and kind, its assets and liabilities, and the contracts entered into with purveyors. The unexpended balance of the £T. 3,500,000 allotted to the General Supply Board by the Treasury in accordance with the decisions of July 10th and October 25th, 1916, will be transferred as a loan to the General Directorate of Food Supply. The mode of transfer of this balance will be determined by a board appointed by the Ministry of Finance.

10.—The General Directorate of Food Supply is charged with the duty of providing the necessary seed corn for the agriculturalists who require it, and for its delivery to the Ministry of Agriculture.

11.—All persons infringing this law and the regulations promulgated for its execution will be brought for trial before the Summary Courts of Peace or, where these courts do not exist, before the Courts of First Instance, and will be punished according to their degree of guilt by the imposition of a fine of from £T. 1 to £T. 100, or a sentence of from one day to one year's imprisonment.

The foodstuffs concealed or withheld from the amounts to be delivered to the General Directorate of Food Supply will be confiscated as a penalty.

Officials who attempt to requisition any article of produce not specified in this law, or to obtain more than the authorized amounts of the produce specified, or to purchase such produce at a price inferior to that authorized, will be suspended from their functions, and punished by the imposition of a fine of from £T. 50 to £T. 200, or a sentence of from three months' to three years' imprisonment.

12.—In order to ensure the supply of the Army and the population, all officials are held responsible for the prompt and accurate execution of the orders issued by the General Directorate of Food Supply in virtue of the present law.

13.—The "Procès-Verbaux," duly drawn up by the competent officials of the General Directorate of Food Supply, will be considered legally binding until proof of the contrary.

14.—When this law comes into force, all the foodstuffs in the depôts of the General Supply Board, or still to be delivered under the existing contracts, which do not belong to the categories specified in articles 2, 3, and 5, will continue to be distributed as before to the Army and the civil population by the said Board until they are exhausted.

15.—Regulations will be drawn up for the details of the execution of the present law and the formation of the General Directorate of Food Supply.

16.—As long as the present law remains in force, any articles of other laws which may be in contradiction to it will remain without effect.

17.—The General Directorate of Food Supply will include a mixed Food Supply Council of 22 members, selected as follows by the Council of Ministers:—six members each from the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, two members each from the Vilayet Council of Constantinople, the Municipality of Constantinople and the Chamber of Commerce. The Chief Public Prosecutor of Constantinople will be appointed to the Council, the Director General of Food Supply together with the two heads of his departments will also be members. One of the representatives of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, alternately, will act as Chairman of this Council for a period of one month. The following are the questions which will be referred for decision to this Council.

A.—The exercise of special care in the execution of article 2, providing that sufficient cereals be left to the small farmers for seed, food and forage.

B.—The prevention of all attempts to hoard food supplies.

C.—Method of rationing and scale of rations.

D.—The allotment to merchants of rolling stock on a fair and equitable basis, and the duty of securing the maximum advantage to commerce from railway, sea and other means of transport.

E.—The investigation and adjustment of claims by the public under the Food Supply Regulations.

18.—The Food Supply Council is an Advisory body.

19.—All the Ministers are charged with the execution of this Law as far as their respective Departments are concerned. The Law will come into force on the day following its promulgation.

NOTE.—This Law replaces all previous legislation on the subject, and sets up a General Directorate of Food Supply as a dependency of Ministry of War in place of the former General Supply Board, whose cash balance and stocks in hand it has taken over.

The most important change introduced by the new Law is the extension of the power of requisition given by Articles 2 and 3. Whereas the former General Supply Board was authorised to requisition cereals and other produce of the soil to an extent equivalent to the tithe collected in kind, the new Directorate is empowered to requisition, if necessary, a second equivalent amount. That is to say, that the Government may take, firstly, the tithe in kind, being  $12\frac{1}{2}\%$  of the gross produce, then the war tithe,  $12\frac{1}{2}\%$  more and finally, two equivalents of the tithe =  $12\frac{1}{2}\% + 12\frac{1}{2}\%$  more, making in all 50% of the gross produce of the soil, against a maximum of  $37\frac{1}{2}\%$  under the present law.



Owing to over estimation of the crops by Government officials, cases were frequent in which the producer was called upon to deliver an amount of cereals exceeding his total crop. When he protested that if he delivered all his produce, it would still fall short of the amount claimed, he was told that he had better buy or steal the shortage, if he wished to avoid fine or imprisonment. If this occurred when the maximum of tithe and requisition was 37½%, even worse exactions may be expected when it has been increased to 50%.

With regard to the price authorized in payment of requisitioned produce, *i.e.*, six times the average price of the three years preceding the war, it is to be remembered that, as the payment will be made in paper money which at present is worth between a quarter and a third of its face value, and the prices in coin have at least trebled or quadrupled, the rate offered is very much below the real market value of the produce. The fact that it is really an underpayment is practically admitted by the readiness of the Government to pay for the second instalment of requisitioned produce at double the price of the first.

Recent information from Constantinople is to the effect that the appointment of the Advisory Council created by Article 17 of the New Law was forced upon the Government by the Chamber of Deputies, as a check upon the profiteering by high Government officials and members of the Committee of Union and Progress which notoriously took place. The Government has retorted by appointing as members of the Council, some of the strongest opponents to its creation, who may reasonably be suspected of being the very persons at whom the measure was aimed.

#### SUPPLIES FROM THE UKRAINE.

With reference to the statements made to the "Vakit" by Hussein Jahid Bey, Vice-President of the Turkish Chamber, on the subject of supplies from the Ukraine which were quoted from the "Lloyd Ottaman" in the Summary No. 8 of June 22nd, the following is the "Journal de Beirut's" version of the declarations which appeared in the "Vakit." The portions omitted by the German newspaper, evidently on the ground that they contained very definite accusations against the Central Powers, are underlined.

"With regard to our share of the goods to be received from the Ukraine, I do not know whether the share fixed by our German and Austrian Allies will be sufficient or not. Unfortunately it has been impossible to obtain more. Nevertheless I cannot pretend that our Allies have appreciated at their true worth the urgent needs of our country, and the great sacrifices which it has consented to make."

#### KARASI.

The "Lloyd Ottoman," of April 18th, states that in the Sanjak of Karasi, 1,034,111 deunums (about 260,000 acres) were cultivated last winter. This is 17% more than the preceding year.

#### THE BLACK SEA.

It was reported, early in May, that the port of Odessa had been cleared of mines, and that the route to Constanza and the mouths of the Danubé were also free.

### FINANCIAL.

#### INTERNAL LOAN.

It is reported that great efforts to secure subscriptions for the Internal Loan are being made in the Aidin Vilayet. The Vali has issued a public appeal, and the Manager of the Smyrna Railways has written to the Banks, asking for the names of merchants who have subscribed, probably with a view of influencing the others by granting or withholding railway facilities. The loan is being made practically compulsory by such means.

It was reported on June 16th, that the failure of the Turkish Internal Loan in the provinces has caused an unsatisfactory impression on public opinion at Constantinople. The total amount subscribed in the capital during the first month (up to June 1st) was £T.8,000,000, while subscriptions in the provinces for the first six weeks have not yet reached the sum of £T.3,000,000. It is stated by some newspapers that the reason for this is the delay in sending gold to the provinces for the payment of interest, but it is hoped that by the end of the second month the provinces will have done their duty.

### SANITARY.

#### EAST OF JORDAN.

A German Prisoner of War, captured on June 15th, states that his unit suffered a number of casualties from venereal disease, fever, typhus and dysentery. About four weeks ago three subalterns and 20 other ranks from another battalion of his regiment bathed in the Wadi Nimrin. They were all taken ill during the night with diarrhoea and vomiting, and all died before the morning. It was believed that the cause of death was cholera.

NOTE.—It was previously reported that the troops were not allowed to use this water.

#### ALEPPO.

25 cases of cholera were reported at Aleppo in 48 hours ("El Shark," April 11th).

#### ATTACHMENT.

Turkey and the Caucasus.

G.S.P.I.,

G.H.Q.,

E.E.F.



**SECRET and CONFIDENTIAL.**

**ATTACHMENT TO POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY,**

**No. 9, 30th June, 1918.**

**TURKEY AND THE CAUCASUS.**

Cis-Caucasia and Trans-Caucasia, the names given to the country between the Caspian and the Black Sea, were purely geographical and political terms, and correspond to no ethnological or philological boundaries. They contain a greater number of distinct nationalities and languages than any other area of equal size in this part of the World. The country has received the backwash of almost every immigration into Europe from the East, and neither the lapse of time nor the effects of proximity have been able to weld the heterogeneous elements of Mongolian or Caucasian origin into anything approaching a homogeneous whole. The Caucasian Georgians, Mingrelians, Lazes, Abkhassians, Lesghians, Avars, Armenians, and scores of others are for the most part much more distinct from each other than are the Latin and Teutonic races, while the tribes of Moslem Tatars differ widely among themselves in type and dialect, though they spring from the same Mongolian stock.

These differences have been somewhat obscured to the general mind owing to the fact that, during the last hundred years, the Caucasus has been brought under a uniform rule as a province of the Russian Empire. The Russian Viceroy, from his capital at Tiflis, governed a country extending northwards to a point 75 miles South-West of Rostow on the Don, across to a point on the Caspian Sea, 150 miles South-West of Astrakhan, and southwards to the Persian and Turkish frontiers, including the provinces of Batum, Kars and Ardahan, which were conquered from Turkey in 1878.

With the exception of the region lying north of the main chain, the whole of this country is extremely mountainous, poor in agriculture, but rich in minerals, growing barely sufficient cereals for its own nourishment, but exporting great quantities of oil from the wells at Baku, on the Caspian, through Batum, on the Black Sea, to the markets of Europe.

The area of the Russian Government of the Caucasus (180,703 square miles) was rather greater than that of the British Isles, and its population (12,288,100 in 1915) rather more than a quarter of our own. The capital, Tiflis, has 165,000 inhabitants, and Baku, the seat of the petroleum industry, has 179,000, though thirty-five years ago it was little more than a Caspian fishing village.

Although the population is so varied and divided, there are three "blocks," whose importance completely overshadows the rest. These are the Armenians, the Georgians and the Tatars. Each is divided from the other, not only by race and language, but also by religion. The Armenians and the Georgians are Christians, but belong to separate and rival churches, the Tatars are Moslems and themselves suffer from the sectarian jealousies of Shia and Sunni.

When Turkey entered the War in 1914, her first effort was directed against the Russian Caucasus front. In the depth of winter Enver ordered the advance of the Army from Erzerum. Already preparations had been made for the furtherance of Turkish aims in the country to be invaded. It is said that a scheme was drawn up to partition the Caucasus into autonomous Tatar, Georgian and Armenian States. Propagandists are reported to have been engaged to follow the Army and raise the Moslems of the country to revolt, while an unsuccessful attempt was made to induce the Ottoman Armenians to act as intermediaries between the Turks and the Armenians of the Caucasus.

Unfortunately for these schemes the Turkish expedition was both ill-planned and ill-led. At Sarikamysh and Ardahan it broke against the Russian resistance and with heavy loss in prisoners and material, the remains of the Turkish Army poured back across the frontier over the snow-covered mountains with the Czar's Divisions hard on their heels.

With the theatre of war removed to the heart of Turkish Armenia, this was the end of activities in the Caucasus for the time being, but with the outbreak of the Russian Revolution in March, 1917, the idea of national autonomy once more revived. This time, however, it was not at the instigation of Turkey so much as by the awakening of national consciousness among the peoples of the Caucasus themselves.

Georgians, Armenians and Tatars, found themselves all of a sudden freed from the restraint of the central Russian Government. Messages reached them from the revolutionaries in Petrograd calling on them to assert their right of self-determination. Tatar representatives attended the All-Russian Moslem Congress in August and demanded "the realization of the national cultural rights of personal decision," and whole peoples, which, up till then had lain submerged beneath Imperial Russian domination, found themselves free to do as they liked, though but ill-equipped to do it well. Armenians, Georgians and Tatars were soon wrangling amongst themselves over their respective spheres. At first it was noticeable that, whereas formerly there had been friction between the Georgians and Armenians, owing to the immigration of large numbers of Armenian refugees from Turkey into Georgian districts, and whereas Tatars and Georgians, under Russian instigation, had been known to unite against the Armenians, there was now, for a time, a Georgian-Armenian rapprochement on the ground of their common Christianity. It did not last long, however, and very soon the old jealousy and hostility reappeared.



In the early days of the Revolution the Provisional Government attempted to maintain its authority over the country by the appointment of a Commission of Administration for the Caucasus. Under the Kerensky Government, the national spirit developed rapidly, and Georgians, Armenians, and Tatars each set up a National Council in opposition to the Russian Council of Soldiers and Workmen. But it was not until after the Bolshevik "coup d'état," in November, 1917, that the first Trans-Caucasian Government came into being at Tiflis.

It was headed by a Georgian Christian called Gegetchkori, who declared that he would maintain order until the meeting of the Constituent Pan-Russian Assembly, and then retire in favour of whatever form of Government was chosen by the nation.

At first, although Gegetchkori did not recognise the Bolshevik Government under Lenin, and refused to follow its instructions, he did not actually break with it. In order to strengthen his position he approached the other neighbouring states, which were also struggling to assert their independence, and directed his attention towards making agreements with the Ukraine, the Kuban and Daghestan. It was not till January, 1918, when the Armenian Bolshevik, Schaumian, was appointed Commissioner for Caucasian affairs, that Gegetchkori definitely declared himself no longer dependent on the Central Russian Government, and proposed independent peace negotiations with the Turks. It was fully time that some settled form of rule should be established.

Through the latter months of the year the Russian troops, who had been fighting the Turks on the other side of Erzerum, came pouring back, an undisciplined mob, without organization, and living on the country as they went. The Moslems of the frontier districts rose against them as they passed and harassed their retreat. Chaos indescribable must have been the result, and behind them all, the Turkish Army was advancing to reap the benefit of the disorder.

The Caucasian Government bestirred itself to raise an army for its defence. A Moslem Commander-in-Chief, formerly a general in the Russian Army, was appointed, and was joined by independent Armenian formations. Georgian contingents were not long in coming in as well, and the whole proceeded to arm and equip themselves with material taken from the Russian soldiery, who were still hurrying through, in haste to reach home in time to get a share of the landlords' properties, which Lenin's Commissioners were distributing among the peasants.

Once again, however, cohesion was lacking in the Caucasian ranks. While the Georgians and Tartars aimed at a federation of the Trans-Caucasian States, the Armenians were said to hold somewhat opposite views and to favour a union with Russia or an appeal to the Entente. Turkish propaganda, financed with German money, was hard at work among the Moslems, who began to favour a rapprochement with the Turks, the one eventuality which spelt destruction to the Armenians, who were already suffering extermination at their hands.

It is difficult to ascertain, with any exactitude, the area over which the influence of the Trans-Caucasian Government extended at this time, but it appears to have comprised the old Kingdom of Georgia, together with the districts taken from Turkey in 1828 and 1878, namely: Batum, Kars, Ardahan, and Erivan.

The Georgian population may be estimated roughly at about 3,000,000, the Armenians at over 1,500,000, while the number of the Moslems is very uncertain, but probably does not exceed 1,000,000, though some Georgians have placed it so low as 150,000.

The country lying further to the East appears to have early come under Bolshevik influence. In December the Bolsheviks seized power at Baku, but although the Trans-Caucasian Government lived in constant fear of Bolshevik attack from this quarter, they do not seem to have been seriously disturbed within their own sphere of influence.

At Tiflis such Bolsheviks as made their appearance were soon suppressed, but once the necessity for union against this common danger was past, dissensions once more arose between the Georgian and Armenian parties. Georgian national pride had grown considerably owing to the results of the meeting of the Georgian National Congress in November, 1917, the re-establishment, after over a century, of the independence of the Georgian Church, and the inauguration of a new Georgian University in January, 1918. The Armenians, whose wealth and numbers had made them a very important element in the capital, saw their influence diminishing, so much so that the Armenian head of the municipality withdrew to the purely Armenian town of Alexandropol. They likewise found themselves in a minority in the Government as the four Georgian and three Moslem Ministers usually combined to outvote the four Armenian representatives.

On February 1st, 1918, a Caucasian National Assembly met in place of the Pan-Russian Constituent Assembly, which had been dispersed at Petrograd. Gegetchkori, in accordance with his previous declaration, at once offered to resign, but as he apparently commanded greater confidence than any other party leader, he was persuaded to remain in office. This was the situation when peace was signed between Russia and the Central Powers, at Brest-Litovsk, on March 3rd.

Meanwhile, Turkish schemes to extend their influence over the countries adjoining their North Eastern frontier were being vigorously pushed forward. Appeals to the Caucasus Moslems on the grounds of racial and religious affinity did not, however, produce quite such favourable results as were expected. Anxious though the Caucasus Moslems may have been to secure help against Russian encroachment, whether Tzarist or Bolshevik, they had no intention of handing themselves over bound hand and foot to the Turks. Propaganda among Russian Moslem prisoners of war in Turkey was not a conspicuous success. Bad though the Russian Government had been, they declared that, from what some of them had seen of it while on pilgrimage to Mecca, Turkish rule was a good deal worse. The Turks, despite strenuous efforts in this direction, also found it difficult to reconcile religious differences between the Shias and Sunnis, from whose union they had hoped to produce far reaching results.



The necessity of overcoming the reluctance of the Caucasian peoples to accept Turkish proposals by a substantial threat of invasion, was very soon recognized. As early as January, 1918, it was reported that it had been decided in Berlin to despatch an expedition of German troops to co-operate with the Turks in this quarter, though it would first be necessary to get control of Odessa and the ports of the Crimea, before the Black Sea could be made safe enough for the transport of troops by water to Trebizond and Batum.

Under these circumstances, the Turks took steps to delay the the peace negotiations which Gegetchkori had proposed in January, until the situation should offer a good prospect of successful military intervention.

The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk provided the necessary pretext for active interference in Caucasian affairs, if any such formal requirement had ever been considered essential.

In spite of repeated Turkish assertions that Turkey had no annexationist aspirations, and only considered herself a guarantor of Caucasian independence, the treaty, nevertheless, provided for the return to Turkey of the provinces of Batum, Kars and Ardahan, which the Russians had annexed in 1878, but which had become integral and indeed essential portions of Caucasian territory.

No sooner had the treaty been signed, than the Russian delegation at Brest-Litovsk protested against this cession of territory, on the grounds that such encroachments could only mean preparation for a fresh offensive against Russia, and that as the Soviet Government had never conquered those provinces, it was quite beyond their power to dispose of them. At the same time the Caucasus Government announced their repudiation of any agreement affecting the Caucasus, arrived at between the Central Powers and the Bolsheviks, whom they in no way recognized. They stigmatized the cession of the three provinces to Turkey as a breach of the principle of self-determination, and asked the Turkish Government whether their action was equivalent to a wish to break off peace negotiations.

The Turks were, however, very little worried by any protest the Caucasians or the Russians chose to make, and the Caucasus Government were not in a very good position to back up their words with any substantial action.

Internal dissensions were still rife. The sympathy of the Moslems for Turkey was at any rate sufficiently strong for active resistance on their part to be improbable, while they could certainly be relied on to help in any scheme aimed at the destruction of Armenian influence. This unhappy people was once more submitted to a régime of massacre and extermination. Their levies, reinforced by Georgian elements, who, as Christians, were being shown almost as little mercy by the Turks, had taken their places in the line which the Russians had abandoned. Under the pressure of the Turkish advance, which commenced in the middle of March, they were forced to give way. The Turkish armies once more entered their villages, murdering, ravishing and plundering as they went. The Armenian National Council appealed in despair through the Soviet, at Petrograd, to the German Government. As the Ally of Turkey, through whom alone the Ottoman Empire could realize its aspirations, they laid the responsibility of their misfortunes on Germany, and piteously besought her help in the name of humanity.

Needless to say, no material assistance or protection was forthcoming, though it is said that later, the German Government "guaranteed" the security of the Armenians in the occupied territory.

By the end of March the Turkish advance had recaptured Erzerum and the territory lost since the beginning of the war. By the middle of April, Batum was in Turkish hands, and by the end of the month they had pushed their line well over the frontier in the direction of Kars and Erivan.

Peace prospects from the Caucasian point of view did not seem very brilliant. A delegation which went to Constantinople early in March failed to achieve its mission, and after various attempts at a settlement, it was dismissed by the Turks, on the grounds that there were too many Christians in the delegation, and that the Moslem population must be far more strongly represented, if the negotiations were to be resumed.

The occupation of Batum, their principal Black Sea port, and the terminus of the Baku-Batum Railway, was a heavy blow for the Trans-Caucasian Government, not only because of the loss of trade and prestige it implied, but also because the transport of hostile troops from Odessa, Sebastopol or Trebizond into the heart of their country became possible.

Such was evidently the intention of the Turkish and German Governments. Towards the end of April, Jemal Pasha, Minister of Marine, and Halil Bey, Minister of Foreign Affairs, arrived at Batum, the first to inspect the port, and the second to get into touch once more with the Trans-Caucasian Government. The ministers were shortly followed by troops, including some German units, which began to push along the railway towards Tiflis. The Turkish troops in the south, whose advance had been temporarily suspended while the abortive peace negotiations were proceeding, assumed the offensive, and in spite of some resistance pushed on towards Alexandropol and the shores of Lake Sevan.

Turkey's mastery of the situation was becoming more and more evident, and it is not surprising to find the Turkish Press of this period advocating the same treatment for the Caucasus, as the Germans had meted out to Finland, the Ukraine, and Roumania; in other words a peace of so humiliating a nature as to differ very little from complete political and economic subservience. On the strength of their recent successes, the Turks re-opened peace negotiations, this time at Batum, with the confident hope that they would be able to secure their favorable conclusion.



It would be satisfactory to know more of the composition of the Trans-Caucasian Government which was faced with this critical situation. Unfortunately no very clear picture can be drawn from the scanty material available of the internal conditions of the country, which were no doubt exercising the minds of Caucasian leaders as much as the pressure from outside.

All we know is that, at about this time, the Prime Minister Gegetchkori was replaced by Chengelli, a former member of the Commission for Caucasus affairs under the Russian Provisional Government, who seems to have proved more susceptible to Turco-German influences than his predecessor.

Besides Gegetchkori and Chengelli, the Republic possesses in Tcheidze, a President whose name had been familiar in Russia in the earlier days of the revolution. As one of Kerensky's partisans he had organized the Councils of Soldiers and Workmen in Petrograd. With other Revolutionary-Socialists he had been driven from power when the Bolsheviks under Lenin seized the Government, and had sought refuge in his native country, where his appreciative fellow citizens raised him to the highest place in their State.

Of the opinions held by the people who had so suddenly made themselves masters of their own destiny, information is scanty and probably inaccurate. The Armenians as an organized body seem to have given up the struggle, and to be trying to make the best terms they can with the Turks, from whom however they have not much mercy to expect. The southern parts of the country where they predominate are already in enemy occupation, the hand of every Moslem is against them, they have only precarious support to expect from their Georgian Co-religionists and, in spite of their constant appeals, little to hope for from the outside world.

Whatever may be the divergence of opinion among themselves, the Georgians as a nation are resisting foreign interference to the utmost, and are clinging tenaciously to their independence. In any case they are less exposed than the Armenians, and even in the event of domination by Turkey, can look forward to fairer treatment than that unhappy people.

The Moslem Tatars, on the other hand, are on the whole sympathetic to Turkey. Many of them have now been persuaded to enlist in the Army of Russian Moslems, whose formation the Turks have been attempting for some time. It is even said that its strength has reached 60,000 men. Their delegates in Constantinople have been greeted as long lost brothers, and their country as the keystone of the Turco-Tatar Empire of the future. But they have not yet been entirely won over to Turkish ideas, and are recently reported to have declared that, although they were willing to place themselves in a similar relationship to the Ottoman Empire as that in which Hungary stands to Austria, they would not consent to be in any way directly governed from Constantinople.

But in spite of internal dissensions, the spirit of the Trans-Caucasian Government has not yet been so reduced as to make it pliable in Turkish hands, and other complications have arisen to hinder the execution of Turkish plans. The main sphere of activity has passed beyond the reconquered provinces on the Turkish frontier, and over prostrate but still struggling Trans-Caucasia. The Lenin Government has become uneasy at the growth of Turco-German influence. In contradiction to their former disinterested attitude towards the Caucasus, they have suddenly invented a theory that the existing Governments in Daghestan and Cis and Trans-Caucasia have imposed themselves upon peoples who are really pining for re-union with the Bolsheviks. They have claimed representation on the Peace Conference at Batum, which in the middle of May was reported to have been interrupted, owing to the unwillingness of the Trans-Caucasian delegates to make the necessary concessions.

As the military situation develops it becomes daily clearer that the immediate objective for all parties in the Caucasus is the control of the Baku oil fields. Baku itself is not in Trans-Caucasian territory; it can hardly be said to form part of any recognised state and at the present moment, is divided within itself by the struggle for possession between Tatars and Bolsheviks. But it is separated from the Black Sea by Georgia. The pipe line for conveying the oil to Batum follows the railway which passes through Tiflis. If the Turks, after occupying the provinces claimed in accordance with the Treaty of Brest Litovsk, are still advancing into Trans-Caucasian territory, it is because they are aiming at Baku and the line westward to the Black Sea. If the Germans, after helping the Turks in their attempts to impose terms on the Trans-Caucasian Government, have advanced on Tiflis, it is with the same object. But each is intent on securing the spoil for himself. A race is in progress between the allies which already shows signs of arousing serious contention between them. It is more than a local dispute. The German Press at the beginning of June is very plain spoken in its warnings. Turkey is being told that her efforts at expansion might with advantage be turned in another direction. She is reminded that the British are still in Baghdad and Jerusalem, and that the restoration of her territorial integrity will require the concentration of all her strength. Once more Turkey is being made to feel the grip of Germany. But this time the stakes for Turkey are greater than ever before, and it remains to be seen whether she will submit to be dictated to, or whether she will at last rouse herself to shake off the yoke of her masterful ally.

G.S.P.I.,

G.H.Q.,

E.E.F.