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**SECRET.**



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## POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

### ENEMY TERRITORY.

15th August, 1918.

#### POLITICAL.

##### A.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

###### CRIMEA.

An Armenian Officer Prisoner of War says that, just before leaving Constantinople on April 9th for Palestine, he heard that volunteers were being asked for to go to the Crimea to organize and train the Moslem inhabitants. Only Moslem Officers were eligible, but not Arabs. Neither Armenians nor other subject races would be accepted. The formation was to be called Khrim Islam Ordu. An Arab Officer prisoner from the same regiment confirms the above, in so far as he states that he also heard about the formation of Khrim Islam Ordu. The first prisoner gave the name of another officer, who is now a prisoner, as having volunteered for the Khrim Islam Ordu. This officer states that he is a native of Kazan (in Russia on the middle Volga), but that he knows nothing of Khrim Islam Ordu. He himself joined the Turkish Army because he was in Constantinople during the Balkan War. He is a fanatical Moslem, and his information is unreliable for that reason.

###### CAUCASUS.

Boghos Pasha Nubar, President of the Armenian National Deputation, who is now in Paris, has sent the following telegram to the Egyptian Branch of the Armenian National Union. The telegram has been published in the Armenian newspaper "Housaper" in Cairo.

"July 27th.—I have received the following telegram from Enzeli (port of Resht, on the Southern coast of the Caspian Sea):—The situation in the Caucasus is hopeful. The Armenians are resisting on three fronts, namely, Erivan (under the command of Andranik), Alexandropol and Haji Khalil.

General Bisharakoff is coming to the aid of the Armenian forces at Haji Khalil, and expects to occupy Elizavetpol, when the union of all three fronts will be effected."

[NOTE.—Andranik is the Armenian partizan leader who captured Van from the Turks in the first stage of the war. Haji Khalil cannot be identified.]

The following telegram, dated July 26th, has been sent from Kasvin (90 miles North-West of Teheran) to Boghos Pasha Nubar, head of the Armenian National Deputation in Paris:—

"Split up by the Turkish forces and by Tatar bands throughout Trans-Caucasia, and cut off from the Georgians, who proclaimed their independence, our National Council at Tiflis was obliged, in order to save the existence of the Armenian people, to sign peace with the Turks in the middle of June, at the same time proclaiming the Armenian Republic of Ararat. Independent Armenia includes the districts of Erivan and Echmiadin, East of the river Karsakh, a territory of nearly 12,000 square kilometres, with a population of 4,000 (? 400,000) people, of whom a quarter are Tatars. The treaty has already been ratified by our delegates in Constantinople. The struggle continues on the Elizavetpol line, where the Turks and Germano-Tatars are operating on a front of 100 kilometres. West of Baku the situation is critical. Communications are broken between Tiflis, Erivan and Kasvin. A number of our compatriots from Kars, Alexandropol, and other districts occupied by the Turks have left for Vladikavkas under painful conditions. Up till now few excesses have been committed but the distress is great. The day before yesterday (July 24th) Andranik telegraphed a protest on behalf of his army against the defection of Trans-Caucasia, and confirmed his resolve to go on with the war against the Turks."

On 13th June the "Proodos" published the following:—

"It has already been announced that a Conference will be held in Constantinople to follow up and complete the negotiations concerning the Caucasus. According to the "Terjiman" the German Ambassador, H.E. Count Mensdorff, has been appointed German Plenipotentiary at this Conference."

"To-day the arrival is expected here of the Ottoman Delegation, which conducted the negotiations at Batum, under the Presidency of H.E., Halil Bey, Minister of Justice."

###### MESOPOTAMIA.

The Damascus Arabic newspaper "El Ababil" of June 3rd publishes an article accusing the British in Mesopotamia of having deliberately destroyed the most sacred Mosque of the prophet's grandson, Ali Ibn Abi Talib, at Najaf El Ashraf. According to this account, British rule is not favourably regarded in Mesopotamia because of the insults offered to the Moslem religion and the open and secret persecution of the population. "The Moslem inhabitants of Bagdad, and especially those of Najaf El Ashraf rose in indignation against the severe cruelty with which the British treated them, but the British, noticing the excitement which their actions had caused, sent over their

aeroplanes and demolished the sacred Mosque with bombs. The sad news spread with the quickness of lightning throughout the neighbourhood, and all Mesopotamia and Moslems began to think out plans for revenge. The four hundred million (sic) Moslems scattered over the world will hear of this disaster and be ready to sacrifice all that is dearest to them for the defence of Islam." The article ends by leaving its readers in suspense, saying that "as soon as the British realized the serious situation they had created for themselves, they took steps to calm the excitement among the Moslems, but all in vain."

[NOTE.—The above is of course a pure invention for propaganda purposes. The true facts of the incident evidently referred to are as follows:—

The settled administration introduced by the British after the occupation of Bagdad militated against the interests of some of the less reputable Bedouin Chiefs in Najaf el Ashraf and the vicinity. One of these, a certain Sheikh Atiyah gave considerable trouble, which culminated in the murder by Sheikh Atiyah's men of Capt. Marshall, the Political Officer at Najaf el Ashraf, in March or April, 1918. It was decided that an example must be made of the murderers and their instigators, who refused to submit and shut themselves up in Najaf el Ashraf. In view, however, of the extraordinary sanctity of the vicinity in Shiah eyes, the authorities determined to secure their objective without fighting over sacred precincts. The quarter harbouring the rebellious elements were therefore isolated by a military cordon and a blockade was maintained, cutting off supplies and water in the face of a galling fire from the rebels, until in May the place surrendered, when the guilty parties were dealt with and the local excitement completely subsided.]

#### PERSIA.

The occupation of Tabriz by the Turks calls forth considerable comment from the Turkish Press, tending to justify Turkish military intervention in Persia. The "Lloyd Ottoman" of June 13th prepares the way by quoting an article from the "Berliner Nationalzeitung" which says that if Great Britain succeeds in adding to her own sphere of influence that which Russia has vacated, Turkey would see her Mesopotamian possessions seriously threatened. Similarly, the British in Northern Persia would be a menace to Russian interests in the Caucasus and to the trade routes which Germany intends to use for the East. It is therefore the interest of Germany, Turkey and Russia to secure an independent Persia, free from the British yoke.

The "Lloyd Ottoman" of June 16th explains that the Turkish occupation of Tabriz is intended to guard the right wing of the Turkish Army in the Caucasus against the British advance in Azerbaijan. As the Persian Government is unable to defend its own neutrality it was incumbent on the Turks to do it for them. The article goes on to say that in view of the "presumption" of the British "it would not be surprising if the English press tried to represent Turkish action as the violation of a defenceless neutral country. But it is doubtful whether such a point of view will be accepted anywhere." Illustrating the "hypocrisy" of British policy, the newspaper proceeds to show that Lord Curzon's "audacious" declaration that Persia should remain neutral during the war, and must remain independent after it, simply meant that Great Britain claimed freedom of action in Northern as well as Southern Persia, and recalls a statement by the German Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Von dem Bussche, who expressed the fear that Persia would become another Ireland, Egypt or India. This, the paper says, is confirmed by a series of articles in the "Near East" dealing with the future administrative and financial re-organization of the country under British direction. In spite of Lord Curzon's statement that the South Persian Rifles were essentially a Persian formation and were in no way charged with the military occupation of the country, these troops, who are in reality nothing but a band of mercenaries mingled with Russian volunteers and commanded by British officers and N.C.O's. had occupied a series of important strategic points in Northern Persia.

The "Hilal" of June 18th, as evidence of British "hypocrisy and brutality" prints the text of a proclamation issued on April 11th by Colonel Kennian (?), the British Consul at Kermanshah, in which he assured the population that the intervention of British troops was intended solely to thwart Turco-German intrigues and that it is not their intention to interfere with the internal affairs of the country or in any way to prejudice its independence.

The "Tanine" of June 19th comments on the British Consul at Kermanshah's proclamation in much the same strain as the "Lloyd Ottoman's" article summarized above. It accuses Great Britain of trying to subjugate Moslems all over the world. She is already fighting to overthrow Moslem Turkey, and now, under the guise of friendship she is trying to overrun Persia, another independent Moslem power, so as to open up a strategic road into the Ottoman Empire. The Turkish army must therefore defend Persia in its own and Persian interests.

The "Proodos," a Greek newspaper of Constantinople, on the 8th June, quotes the Turkish newspaper "Sabah" on the subject of Turco-Persian relations as follows:—

The "Sabah," speaking of the new Persian Cabinet, remarks that it does not inspire confidence in Turkey, as the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of War are connected with the Bakhtiari, who are under English influence. Whereas, until the time of the Shah Mohamed Ali, the Persian Government was in the hands of the Turks, to-day it has passed entirely into the hands of the Persians, who deny all Turkish affinities. Seeing this, the Ottomans cannot conceal their regret. The Ministers in question, even if they are good patriots, cannot withdraw themselves from the English influence, in consequence of the interests of their (Bakhtiari) tribesmen, which are opposed to the interests of the Ottoman Government in Mesopotamia, Anatolia, and the Caucasus.

## AFGHANISTAN.

The "Hilal" on May 19th published an interesting interview between an Indian named Mahendra Pratap, who had just arrived at Constantinople from Berlin, and a representative of the "Tanine." In reply to a question as to what the attitude of Afghanistan as regards the war might be, Mahendra Pratap stated that the country was ruled by a very strong Central Government, and that there were no party divisions or internal dissensions. He said that the Amir was a very enlightened person, and that owing to his Moslem education and democratic tendencies, he considered himself to be one of his own people. The Amir's friendship was particularly desired by all powers, and especially the present belligerent nations, both on account of the vital importance which its geographical position gave to his kingdom, and because by a word he could set war alight in the neighbouring countries.

Asked what were the sentiments of the Afghans towards the Central Powers, and particularly towards Turkey, Mahendra Pratap said that Great Britain could not pretend to friendship with Afghanistan which was a Sunni country, and recognised Turkey as head of Islam. It would be easy for Turkey and Germany to get into friendly relations with Afghanistan. Indeed, "bonds of friendship perhaps exist already between these countries."

Questioned as to whether Afghanistan would keep neutral till the end of the war, Mahendra Pratap contended himself with replying that he could not read the future. He, however, hazarded the opinion that the nation were on the side of the Quadruple Alliance, and that it was really only a question of deciding under what circumstances Afghanistan could intervene.

Asked what would be the position of Afghanistan if peace were concluded in the immediate future, Mahendra Pratap said that if the Quadruple Alliance concluded a rapid and indecisive peace, public opinion in Afghanistan would certainly be influenced. "If peace is signed to-morrow, there is reason to fear that Afghanistan would fall into the arms of India, that is to say, of Great Britain."

[NOTE.—Mahendra Pratap is the owner of large estates in the United Provinces. The violence of his anti-British sentiments has for a long time past amounted almost to monomania. In December, 1914, he went to England, and thence, *via* Switzerland, to Berlin. In September, 1915, he was sent, *via* Constantinople, with Von Hentig's Mission to Afghanistan, bearing letters from the Kaiser and the Sultan of Turkey, to the Amir of Afghanistan, calling upon him to declare war on England, and also to the Ruling Princes of India, inciting them to rebel. Here he remained until the spring of this year, doing his utmost to induce the Amir to come into the war on the side of Turkey and Germany. He was then sent for by the Bolsheviks and travelled to Moscow *via* Tashkend, being used to expound the revolutionary doctrines of self-determination to the Russian Moslems, although he himself is a Hindu.

Although Mahendra Pratap's statements in this interview are very guarded, they give several indications of his real opinion on the situation.

The part about the effects of an immediate peace is interesting, because it reads as if Mahendra Pratap had found an atmosphere favourable to such a peace in Constantinople. It would be to his interest to dispel this, if possible, by laying stress on the advantages which Turkey would reap in the East by continuing to bring pressure to bear on the Amir. Unless Mahendra Pratap succeeds in forcing Afghanistan out of her neutrality, his mission fails, and he becomes discredited. At the same time, it is clear that Mahendra Pratap thinks that at the present moment the Amir is still loyal to British interests. The end of the interview is therefore almost an admission of the success of British policy.]

## B.—HOME POLITICS.

## 1.—PUBLIC OPINION AND THE GOVERNMENT.

A Syrian refugee of good family states that a number of the officers, whom Enver placed on the retired list when he became Minister of War, have formed a Committee of "the Reformers for the Welfare of the Turkish Fatherland." The object of this Committee is to fight the policy of the Committee of Union and Progress by a "rapprochement" with the Kurds, Arabs, and Great Britain, and to overthrow the Unionists by creating a revolution. Informant says that the Headquarters of this organization are in Eastern Anatolia, but that most of the members live in Constantinople. Among the members he mentions Ahmed Abuk, Hassan Tahsin Pasha, Osman Pasha Tatar, Nazim Pasha and Mahmud Nedim Bey, deputy for Urfa.

## CONSTANTINOPLE.

The following statements were made by a Turk who left Constantinople about the beginning of June, and who is in a position to know the opinion of official circles:—

Turkish military circles are very triumphant and are making plans for a future Greater Turkey, delivered from the yoke of foreign powers.

The collapse of Russia has opened up opportunities which no one had ever dared to hope for. The release of Russian Moslems from Tzarist domination had made the acquisition of vast provinces by Turkey almost an accomplished fact. Turkish influence in Persia will steadily increase on this account.

Nevertheless there is a general feeling of depression even in Constantinople. The people are tired of the war and take no interest in what takes place. Few believe in the permanence of Turkish successes.

Owing to the failure of the German offensive in France to achieve the anticipated success, the general feeling is one of disappointment and annoyance. It was thought that Germany could destroy all opposition with one blow, and that peace would be the immediate result.

The knowledge that the fate of Turkey is intimately linked with that of Germany and Austria has destroyed all private initiative, as no one is willing to take any risks.

People are repeatedly asking why Turkey's Allies do not come to her assistance, and why German generals like Falkenhayn and Liman von Sanders are not successful against the English.

The policy of Jemal Pasha towards the Arabs has done untold harm to Turkey. The British find everywhere a people ready to desert Turkey. They have understood how to profit by the situation in the Hejaz.

The extent of the British advance, and the question as to whether they will only keep the territory occupied by them for a time depends entirely, however, on the success of the Germans in France.

According to an informant who left Damascus about June 25th, it was reported there that, after the recent great fire in Stamboul, notices were found posted up in Armenian and Turkish, purporting to emanate from Armenian and Turkish revolutionary societies, and stating that the fires had been started as a protest against the nefarious exploitation of the people by the Government, and threatening, unless the Government altered its policy, to extend these fires over the whole city.

A Turk, who deserted on July 26th, states that he was formerly a gendarme at Constantinople, which he left about a month ago. He knows of no actual disturbances having taken place in the town, but says that riots by women were daily expected. Constantinople was full of deserters, and 20 and 30 arrests were being made every day.

#### BRUSSA.

Deserter is positive about there having been disturbances at Brussa, but as the matter was kept very quiet he can give no details. The troops expect the new Sultan to make peace soon. If he does not do so before the winter there will be wholesale desertion.

#### ADANA.

It is reported that, in May, thirty officials of the Adana Railway were arrested on suspicion of having planned to blow up the bridges and tunnels on that line; they were subsequently released.

#### KONIA.

A deserter states that he heard that about the end of May, the natives of Konia blew up the railway as a protest against the continuation of the war.

#### DAMASCUS.

The same deserter was in Damascus at the end of June, and states that the most general topic of conversation was peace, on which it was expected that the new Sultan would insist. The usual rumours were current that Enver had been wounded and had fled to Germany.

#### BEIRUT.

It was reported about the end of June, in Beirut, that the Turkish Cabinet was on the point of falling. Jemal No. 1 is named as the probable successor of Enver. It is not thought that this change will affect the situation much, except in so far as Jemal's anti-German tendencies may assert themselves. The public and the army are said to be apathetic. The only thing they want is a Government which will put an end to the present bad conditions.

### 2.—RECALL OF THE SYRIAN VALIS.

#### DAMASCUS.

The "Journal de Beirut" announced, on June 25th, that Tahsin Bey, Vali of Damascus, had left on June 24th for Constantinople. Emin Bey Tamimi was acting Vali.

It is reported that Hussein Bey, the new Vali of Damascus, arrived at Aleppo on June 26th.

An Arab refugee states that the resignation of Tahsin Bey, the Vali of Damascus, was due to his disagreement with the Constantinople Government on the subject of the increase of taxation and requisitioning of foodstuffs in Syria. Tahsin Bey informed the Minister of the Interior that the population was in a deplorable economic state, and could not stand such heavy taxation. He was also reported to have wired to Constantinople, protesting against the wholesale purchase by Germans of wheat for export to Germany.

[NOTE.—Tahsin Bey was Vali of Van before the war, and has a good reputation for honesty and energy, though without much administrative capacity. As Vali of Damascus since 1916, he seems to have refrained from persecution of the Arabs, and to have been popular, as far as it was possible for a Turkish Governor-General to be so.]

#### BEIRUT.

The dismissal of Azmi Bey, the Vali of Beirut, is said to have been due to the machinations of Liman von Sanders, who took advantage of the fact that Azmi had failed to levy the tithe according to the decrees of the Chamber of Deputies. Other reasons given are that he was found to be hoarding sugar, fraudulently obtained from military stores, and that he was implicated in a discreditable deal in corn last year. Azmi was apparently unwilling to give up his post. He arranged a meeting and demonstration, which petitioned without enthusiasm for his retention, but without success. It is expected that he will be succeeded by Ismail Hakki Bey, Mutessarif of the Lebanon, but certain Lebanese notables are preparing to petition against their Governor's transfer.

The "Journal de Beirut" stated, on June 25th, that Azmi Bey would remain for the present at Beirut to superintend the execution of some measures he had inaugurated.

[NOTE.—Azmi Bey, ex-Vali of Beirut, is one of the most sinister figures of the new régime in Turkey. When the Revolution took place in 1908, he was a prominent member of the Committee of Union and Progress. In 1909 he was engaged in a secret mission to Egypt, and on his return became Chief of Police at Constantinople, where he was notorious for the infliction of torture upon prisoners for the extraction of confessions. He was dismissed from this post, owing to the death, under torture, of a Russian subject, whom he had illegally arrested, and he was then employed to procure the assassination of Sherif Pasha, a rich Turk, who published an opposition newspaper at Paris. This plot failed, and the assassin was shot by Sherif Pasha's son-in-law, while Azmi had to leave Paris hastily to escape arrest. On the outbreak of war, he was appointed Vali of Konia, and then transferred to Beirut, where he has been very unpopular, owing to his severity and exactions. He is regarded as a staunch supporter of Talaat Pasha.]

#### ALEPPO.

An Aleppo newspaper, the "Rai el Aam," states, on June 27th, that Bedri Bey, Vali of Aleppo, has resigned, and expresses the usual perfunctory regrets.

[NOTE.—Bedri Bey was formerly a minor official in one of the Constantinople Law Courts, and is now about 40 years of age. He came into prominence as an extremist member of the Committee of Union and Progress, and was made Chief of Police in 1913. Corrupt and cruel, he has played a large part in arranging for the massacre of Armenians, and the ill-treatment of Entente residents in Turkey after the outbreak of war. He is also accused of ordering the use of torture in prison and countenancing the sale of Armenian refugee children to brothels. He is generally regarded as one of Talaat Pasha's tools and was appointed Vali of Aleppo last year.

#### ADANA.

It has been reported that the Vali of Adana has also been recalled, but so far this lacks confirmation.

#### C.—ARAB MOVEMENT.

##### LEBANON.

According to the Damascus newspaper "El Sharq" it would appear that Sherif Ali Haidar was in the Lebanon early in March, where he was visited by Jemal Pasha No. 2 and the Vali of Damascus.

It is reported that Melhem Kassem, Chief of a Metawalli band from the neighbourhood of Baalbek, who has long been in a state of revolt against the Government, and who surrendered to the Vali of Damascus last year, has recently raised an armed band of 300 men and taken to the mountains. After two expeditions of gendarmerie had failed to subdue him, Melhem Kassem summoned with threats all the Metawalli Chiefs to join him, and also wrote to the Kaimakam of Baalbek demanding the return of his wife and children who were in Turkish hands, and the head of his cousin and right hand man, who had been killed in one of the affrays with the gendarmerie. The Vali of Damascus thereon decided to round up the brigands, but although it is said that four battalions of infantry with guns and aeroplanes were used, Melhem Kassem seems to have held his own. His following is reported to have increased to 500 rifles, all good shots and ready to resist the fresh steps which the Vali of Damascus and the Mutessarif of the Lebanon are said to be preparing to suppress the revolt.

##### DAMASCUS.

An Arab refugee states that the great majority of the Moslems and Christians of Damascus were pro-Entente, but the following are a few of the notables who can be termed loyal to the Turkish Government:—

The Mufti of Damascus.

Abd el Rahman el Yusef Bey.

Sheikh Abd el Kader el Kateib.

Sheikh Taj-ed-din.

Mohamed Feizi Pasha el Azzur.

Sheikh Abd el Kader el Mazghur (of Jerusalem).

Shukri Pasha el Ayubi, a notable of Damascus was recently appointed to a special political mission, the chief purpose of which was:—

- (a) To endeavour to convince the Arabs that the Turks had no intention of harming them.
- (b) To try to combat the Sherifian movement.

Shukri Pasha's headquarters were at Deraa, and he had appointed several well-educated Arabs to proceed to Southern Syria to carry on this propaganda work.

It is the universal feeling that the British are sure to come sooner or later, a prospect which is welcomed by the natives, while the Turks feel that they must take all the advantage they can of the short period of power still remaining to them. The natives favour the British rather than the Sherifian rule, and took no pains to hide their pleasure at the first British occupation of Es Salt.

An Armenian officer, who deserted on July 19th, states that it was rumoured that a son of the Sherif had gone to Damascus, to meet Enver Pasha, with a view to peace negotiations.

##### ES SALT.

"El Sharq" on May 31st announces that the Third Class Osmanieh has been conferred on Seif ed Din Bey and Ela ed Din Bey, for their services to the Turkish Government at Es Salt when it was twice occupied by the British.

## MADEBA.

Twenty Christian and Moslem refugees came into Jericho on July 30th from Madeba. These people gave the following information:—

About July 18th Turkish troops to the number of 30 or 40 arrived in Madeba with orders to requisition all commodities they could lay hands on. The following day, before they could put their orders into practice, they were recalled, leaving one officer and three other ranks in the town.

The officer told the Arabs that they were to kill anyone found attempting to cross to the British lines, and further that he would pay £T.10 for every right hand brought in to him belonging to any such person.

As there were no troops in Madeba, the refugees feared lest the Arabs should make a descent on the town and loot the place. This always involved a certain amount of bloodshed and carrying off of women, so the refugees decided to take the risk of escaping, which they did by paying four Arabs £T.10 to guide them to the Dead Sea.

Refugees state that the people, both Christians and Moslems, of Madeba are weary of Turkish tyranny and are in favour of a British occupation.

## D.—TURCO-GERMAN RELATIONS.

The following is an extract from the diary of a German Warrant Officer, Vice Sergeant-Major Bushow, of 1st Company, 702nd Bn., captured in the unsuccessful attack on Abu Tellul on 14-7-18:—

"Zimmarin, Feb. 9th, 1918.

During the evening, Mock and Knoefel had a row with the Turkish Commander of the place, whose glasses Mock smashed, after his wanting to declare war on us Germans; the Lieutenant had been informed in the meantime. We succeeded in pacifying him—next, he wanted to satisfy himself about the punishment, and could not understand why Mock was not publicly cut in pieces."

It is said that Turco-German relations in Constantinople are going from bad to worse. The following example of the wild rumours which fly around illustrates the unsettled state of public feeling. The story goes that the Turkish Commander of the cruiser "Hamidieh" ordered the German Commander of the "Goeben" to hoist the Turkish instead of the German ensign. When he refused to do so, the "Hamidieh" fired at the "Goeben's" flag, whereupon the "Goeben" replied and sank the "Hamidieh."

According to an informant who left Damascus about June 25th, the German manager of the Deutsche Bank in Damascus, in conversation with a native Christian, stated his belief that Germany could not maintain the war for more than another 6 months, and that when peace came, Turkey would get a corner of Anatolia to herself to be independent in. Of course Germany was her ally, but she must look after herself first, and if it was to her advantage would crush Turkey without compunction.

## E.—MISCELLANEOUS.

## TURCO-BULGAR RELATIONS.

A Bulgarian newspaper, the organ of the democratic party, is quoted as replying as follows to an article in the Constantinople Journal "Vakit" on the subject of the disputed Maritza frontier:—

"For us, the question which our Turkish allies keep on raising continually was settled once for all by the help and guarantee of our great and powerful ally Germany, before we joined in the war, and expressly in order to drive us into the war. For us, no such question exists, and this fact has not yet been grasped by the Turkish press."

## PROPAGANDA.

A prisoner of war, captured on 27-7-18, who was formerly a Naval Warrant Officer employed under the British Naval Mission at the Constantinople Arsenal, states that our propaganda is very effective, especially leaflets which we have dropped telling the Turks to make way and let us get at the Germans, when we would rid them of their present masters. Though he did not see these papers himself, he says that all the troops know of their contents, which have been passed round. They are still told that the British ill-treat prisoners, but they do not believe it.

Informant states that the Turks resent the position of inferiority to the Germans in which they are placed. His own divisional Commander has to accept orders from the German Officer attached to the Division, (48th Division) who is only a Lieutenant. He has seen cases of a German Sergt.-Major giving orders to a Turkish Major.

A Turkish deserter who surrendered about three weeks ago to Indian troops, states that while with the Composite Division, East of Jordan, some of his comrades told him of the contents of a pamphlet dropped by British aeroplanes. This was illustrated and described the good treatment Turks received in Egypt. Although he had not seen it, this chiefly influenced him in deserting, and he believes most of the men in his unit would desert if they could see it.

## DESERTION.

Another Greek Prisoner of War, captured on July 15th, belonging to the Panderma Muhafaza Battalion, says that the 49th Turkish Division is very frightened of the insurgent bands which infest the hills of Western Asia Minor and avoids encounters with them. The following are the names of some of the brigand chiefs whose following consists principally of deserters:—

Near Oedemish—Yani Halil Ibrahim, a Turk who heads a band of 80-120 Turks.

Near Panderma—Shahin Bey, an Albanian with about 60 Albanian horsemen. Ali Bey, another Albanian with a band of 70-80 Circassians and Albanians. Kadri Effeh, a Circassian with a considerable influence among his fellow countrymen, who commands about 80 horsemen which he might increase to 150. Eshekji Kadir, a Turk with a band of 20-30 men.

Near Giaour Dag—The brother of Topal Agop with a band of 20-25 Armenians. These men have burnt many villages.

A deserter captured about July 22nd states that there was a rumour among the Turkish troops that the British had captured a German soldier, cut off his ears and nose, and sent him back to the Turkish lines accompanied by a Turkish prisoner, who had been well treated and given a haversack full of food to take away with him. A message had also been sent, saying that the British did not want to fight the Turks, but only the Germans. This story had pleased the Turks and increased their desire to desert.

A Greek deserter, who was released from prison at Smyrna, at the beginning of June to join the army, states that a notice was published in the Smyrna papers offering a pardon to all deserters in the mountains if they would give themselves up and rejoin the Army.

#### GREEKS AND ENGLISH IN SMYRNA.

Informant says that Greek subjects in Smyrna are not mobilized, but are boycotted in every way. They are not allowed to sell goods publicly, they can only make short local railway journeys, and often have their property requisitioned. Ottoman Greeks are forced into the Army whether they have paid bedel (military exemption tax) or not. The English in Smyrna are not molested.

#### ATTITUDE OF TURKISH PRESS.

The "Lloyd Ottoman," of June 2nd, replies to a storm of criticism directed against it on account of the anti-Christian articles it had recently published (*see* Summary No. 11.). The newspaper protests against its "assured respect for all religious convictions" being doubted. "Gilded youth, however, often oversteps the bounds of stereotyped conventionalism. It would be a pity to cut its wings."

#### TURKISH VIOLATION OF THE RED CROSS.

The following is an extract from the diary of a German Warrant Officer of the 1st Coy., 702nd Battn., captured in the unsuccessful attack on Abu Tellul, of July 14th;—

"Müllerberg (*i.e.*, Moggridge C.4.S.26.27), April 10th, 1918.

The Turks shamelessly plundered the English dead, who were lying out in front of us. Still more dead have been discovered from the stench and must be buried. We buried over 100 dead in the stretch of "No Man's Land" some 200 metres wide. The English Medical and Red Cross Companies fetched in the others. As we were collecting the wounded under cover of the white flag, and were about to carry them in, English Red Cross people put in an appearance. Turkish artillery fired on them. The English were decent enough not to pay back ill for ill."

#### BRITISH AND FRENCH IN BEIRUT.

The "Journal de Beirut," of June 6th, publishes a Police notice to the effect that British and French subjects, with the exception of those between 17 and 50 years of age, who wish to be repatriated should get themselves registered by the Police. The Newspaper remarks that up-to-date only a small proportion of those interested had presented themselves.

### ECONOMIC.

#### A.—PALESTINE FRONT.

##### NAZARETH.

A Christian refugee who left Nazareth about a month ago, states that the condition of the inhabitants is very bad and that they are starving. Most of the male population are living with the Arabs as they are afraid of being taken as soldiers by the Turks. This year's crop is very good but the peasants, being aware that any surplus will be taken by the Turks, have only sown enough for their personal use.

Prices at Nazareth were:—

Bread $\frac{1}{2}$ (barley $\frac{1}{2}$ wheat)	...	PT. 15 (silver) per rotol ( $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.).
Wheat	... ..	" 20 " " "
Oil	... ..	" 35 " " "
Rice	... ..	unobtainable.
Meat	... ..	very scarce.

The exchange was £T.1 (paper) = P.T. 20-25 (silver).

#### RATIONS.

The following notes on the economic situation among Turkish and German troops have been compiled from information collected by the Economic Section:—

The new harvest, which was reaped in Syria and East of Jordan in May, has done much to improve the starvation diet prevalent during the previous few months. Food, however, is often of poor quality. There are complaints about the bread. Lack of variety is inevitable, but troops both east and west of Jordan now receive regular rations. The shortage or temporary breakdown of transport, as for instance when mules are stampeded on account of our shell fire, sometimes causes difficulties.

In certain parts of the line, particularly (1) round Bidieh (098.S.7.b.) where the cisterns are dry and water has to be brought five or six miles, (2) astride the Beisan road in the Jordan Valley. (3) between the foothills of the Jordan and Turmus Aya (099.J.35.c.), where the Wadi Samieh (113.Q.29.35) is exposed to our shell fire, the lack of water has caused and is still causing hardship.

A careful study of the rations in all units on this front, shows that the average rations among the Turkish troops both East and West of Jordan are :—

From 1 lb. to 1½ lb. of bread, usually made of wheat, barley and maize mixed, per day.

In the morning—Bulgur or flour soup.

At noon—Olives, raisins or figs (a handful).

In the evening—Bulgur or flour soup, containing oil or pieces of meat.

The allowance of soup is quoted as "half a mess-tin lid," which would be equivalent to about a breakfast cup full. Vegetables are added when possible.

Troops supplement the daily fare with such fruit and vegetables as the country produces. Units near the Jordan have added to their diet fish, which they bomb.

Special parties used to go out and gather crops between the lines, but as casualties were incurred, this practice was stopped by firing the crops.

Sickness was caused by men roasting and eating the barley before it was ripe.

It must be remembered that the Turkish soldier is not accustomed to eating meat more than once a week, and the food he is receiving on this front, though plain is satisfying. On the other hand, the Turk, who usually drinks a good deal of water feels thirst more than an Englishman. Turkish officers are better fed than men, and troops in the front line fare better than those on the lines of communication.

The average Turkish rations, though greatly improved since April, fall far below the standard of German rations. The Germans are extremely well fed and speak scornfully of the rations issued to the Turks. A German officer recently captured said "You cannot expect the Turks to do much on the rations they get."

From papers found on the Medical Officer of the 218th Field Hospital, attached to the 703rd German Regt., who was captured at ES SALT on March 24th, the following appears to have been issued as rations to German troops about that date :—

Bread ... ..	750 grammes.	Onions ... ..	25 grammes.
or biscuits ... ..	400 "	Pepper ... ..	1-2/5 "
Meat ... ..	374 "	Potatoes ... ..	1500 "
Fat... ..	65 "	Macaroni ... ..	200 "
Bully Beef ... ..	200 "	Carrots ... ..	1200 "
Beans, Peas, etc....	250 "	Cabbage ... ..	1200 "
Dried Vegetables...	60 "	Sanerkrout ... ..	450 "
Tinned Vegetables.	150 "	Dried Fruit... ..	125 "
Tea ... ..	3 "	Carraway seed ... ..	2 "
Soap ... ..	10 "	Sugar ... ..	17 "
Salt ... ..	25 "	Wood ... ..	1000 "

[NOTE.—The large quantities of vegetables were no doubt an occasional issue.]

German officers get the following additional rations per month :—

Coffee ... ..	300 grammes	Sugar ... ..	3000 grammes.
Paraffin ... ..	5000 "	Dried Vegetables...	14000 "
Soap ... ..	2000 "	Fat ... ..	4000 "
Meat ... ..	8000 "	Bread ... ..	4 small loaves a day.

A special tropical allowance is also made to German troops.

Officers receive 7 marks a day allowance in cash and an extra ration, which is 6 times larger than that given to the men, who are dissatisfied and say that "all ranks receive the same in France."

#### B.—EAST OF JORDAN.

##### MADEBA.

The following notes from a captured document show the estimated amount of wheat and barley which the VIIIth Army Corps expected to secure from villages in the Madeba district, from the tithe and the requisition by purchase of two further amounts equivalent to the tithe :—

	WHEAT.	BARLEY.
Hesban ... ..	60 tons.	9½ tons.
Vasil Hesban ... ..	26½ "	13½ "
Herafsin ... ..	14 "	2 "
Amarma ... ..	5 "	1½ "
Maskah ... ..	6 "	1 "
	111½ tons.	27½ tons.

##### MAAN.

It is reported that the rate of exchange about July 28th at Maan was £T.1 (paper) =32 P.T. (coin).

#### C.—NORTHERN SYRIA.

##### DAMASCUS.

In "El Sharq," of May 9th, tenders are requested for the erection of store houses at Deir Ali (15 miles S. of Damascus on the railway), El Ghazale (12 miles S.E. of Damascus) and other places, each to contain half a million kilos of grain.

An Arab refugee states that a German, named Meissner Pasha, had been appointed to regulate the distribution of food, and the Germans had taken over the Railway Administration from Damascus to Deraa.

[NOTE.—Meissner Pasha is the well-known German engineer who built the Hejaz Railway.]

Informant said that crops this year have been excellent and are considered to have been the best for the last 20 years. Wheat, peas, and leather were being exported to Germany. Trains arrived at Damascus with troops and war material, and returned laden with these products.

An agent reports that the Germans are running three jam factories in Damascus. The fruit used is mostly apricots from the Hauran and Damascus itself. The jam is sent northwards, and is said to be exported to Europe. A large number of fruit trees are being felled for use as fuel.

According to an informant, who left Damascus about June 25, a committee had been formed in Damascus to oppose the German purchase of grain and foodstuffs. The Germans, however, were still buying grain in the Hauran, and meat in Damascus; the latter is tinned in Damascus for transport to Germany.

The "Journal de Beirut" states, that on June 27th there was a great fall in the price of wheat at Damascus, a rotol (5½ lbs.) being sold for 10 P.T. (gold).

#### BEIRUT.

An agent reports that the rate of exchange at Beirut, on June 15th, was £T. 1 (paper) = 19-20 P.T. (coin). It is said that the Germans are using false mejidiehs, which only cost P.T. 4 to manufacture, to pay for the extensive purchases they are making.

The "Journal de Beirut" announced, June 27th, that at Beirut, violent fluctuations, due to speculation, were taking place in the prices of cereals, as follows:—

June 25th	Kantar of 200 okes of wheat	= £T. 80	(paper).
" 26th	" " " "	= £T. 150	"
" 27th	" " " "	= £T. 90	"

On the 2nd July, the "Journal de Beirut" announced that the price of flour was falling at Beirut, and the rotol of 5½ lbs. was selling at 100 P.T. paper.

#### D.—GENERAL.

##### SUBSTITUTES.

The following information regarding substitutes used in what is known as "new bread" in Turkey, is supplied by three Armenian prisoners of war, one of them being a Medical Officer:—

The ground bark of poplar trees has been mixed with the flour in the manufacture of "new bread" to supply the lack of calories, since May, 1916, at Constantinople, Smyrna, and in the Vilayets of Brussa, Angora, and Konia. At Damascus and Aleppo, where this substitute was not used, bread was of rather better quality.

The new bread contains roughly 25% durra, 25-30% wheat and barley, and the remainder is made up of substitutes.

When maize is issued to the troops, they have strict orders to return the corn cobs, which are ground and used in the "new bread." Wild berries, dried and ground, are also used.

Fifteen to twenty truck loads of a whitish substance, which looked like saw-dust, and which prisoners asserted was a flour substitute, used to arrive at Constantinople from Austria every month.

Many deaths are said to have occurred at Constantinople, owing to the use of this bread.

#### SMYRNA.

A Greek deserter, who was released from prison in Smyrna, at the beginning of June, to join the Army, gives the following prices in Smyrna early in June, the rate of exchange being then £T. 1 paper = 22½ P.T. gold.

Cheese	...	...	100 P.T. (paper)	per oke.
Meat	...	...	40 P.T.	" " "
White bread	...	...	16 P.T.	" " "
Black bread	...	...	10 P.T.	" " "
Dried figs	...	...	40 P.T.	" " "

Tea, coffee, sugar, rice and macaroni were only obtainable at exorbitant rates, *e.g.*, coffee cost £T. 5 (paper) per oke.

#### KONIA.

A Greek prisoner of war, captured on July 15th, states that he used to belong to an Agricultural Battalion, composed of unfit men, with its headquarters at Konia. This Battalion was responsible for the cultivation of land which had never been sown before in that district near the railway. Up to March 22nd, when prisoner deserted from his unit, they had sown about 72 square kilometres with wheat and were just going to sow barley. Irrigation of these crops from the Egerdir-Konia Canal was looked after by Germans.

## MOSUL.

It is reported that the G.O.C. VIth Army has made urgent demands for food, as the famine in Mosul was causing numerous desertions. A man and woman of Mosul are said to have been hanged for murdering 20 children and selling the flesh for food. The Vali and other officials are reported to have abandoned their posts.

[NOTE.—It has previously been reported that the harvest prospects at Mosul were not good.]

**FINANCIAL.**

The Turkish Ministry of Finance has been authorised to add a sum of £T.5,000,000 to its Budget Credits, to be applied to the development of Occupied Territory in the Caucasus.

**SANITARY.**

It was reported at the end of June that new hospitals are in contemplation at Homs and Haifa. An informant from Zahle told agent that the sick in the hospital there are dying in large numbers owing to the lack of drugs, food and proper care. On the other hand the Germans camped in their tents in the Bekaa lack nothing and "live like tourists."

An Arab refugee who left Damascus about June 25th states that the rumour that there was cholera in the town is untrue.

The following is an extract from the diary of a German Warrant Officer of the 1st Coy., 702nd Battn., captured in the unsuccessful attack on Abu Tellul, of July 14th:—

"Near Constantinople, Nov. 23rd, 1917.

A great many men have been lost to the Expedition through venereal disease. It is reported that for several hundred men in the Brigade, there will be no permission to go into Constantinople, except in company of an Officer; individual men will not be allowed to go. The conditions in the hospital are serious as regards venereal disease. Every warning all knowledge is forgotten by the men as soon as they get to Galata. They run after every woman, and it is nearly always followed by contagion."

Attachment:—Review of Turkish Home Affairs from January to June, 1918.

**NOTE.**

All map reference by co-ordinates are to the 1:40,000 series.

**SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL.**

**ATTACHMENT TO POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY,**

**No. 12, 15th August, 1918.**

**REVIEW OF TURKISH HOME AFFAIRS. JANUARY to JUNE, 1918.**

An attempt has been made in the last two Attachments to make clear the main issues of Turkish Foreign Politics and to point out the effect of recent events abroad on the minds of the Ottoman Government and that limited circle which alone can be regarded as having a direct influence on the future policy of the Empire. It would have been futile to search among the Turkish masses for opinions having any real bearing on the situation, such as the citizens of other belligerent powers have expressed. Public opinion, as we know it, regarding the broader issues of the war, does not exist in Turkey. Nevertheless, in spite of the general ignorance and apathy, there are manifestations of popular feeling, which even such an oligarchic institution as the present Ottoman Government cannot altogether neglect. Where his livelihood and very existence are threatened by the material result of a long and disastrous war, every peasant can appreciate the personal interests which he has at stake, and by his attitude, if not by his action, can hinder or facilitate the task and plans of his rulers.

Since the beginning of the war, the blockade and the inability of the Central Powers to supply Turkey's needs caused a rapid deterioration of agriculture and industry throughout the Empire, until by the winter of 1917, the Government were faced with a critical situation. The distress of the people was exceedingly great. The harvest of 1917 had not been up to the average and was rapidly being exhausted. The shortage of labour and animals, together with the lack of seed, corn and manures, seriously handicapped the work of the farmer. War conditions in general and the absence of an efficient organization whereby their effect might have been counteracted, caused prices to rise higher than in any other belligerent country. In many cases the almost incredible increase of the cost of commodities has been given a fictitious significance, because the quotations have been made in paper money, which had sunk to less than a fifth of its face value; nevertheless, it would have been difficult to obtain even articles of native production for payments in coin at less than four times the pre-war rates.

Yet, in spite of the enormously increased cost of living, and although he produced less than in normal times, the burden of the peasant was more than doubled. The tithe, which is collected in kind and used to amount to 12½% of the crops, had been doubled as a war measure, and an additional 12½% had been requisitioned by the army at low prices and paid for in depreciated paper money at face value. An effort had been made, it is true, to improve the system of collection. In 1917, on the grounds of its being economically unsound, the Government had abolished tax-farming throughout the Empire, except in the Vilayets of Syria and Mosul, where the new scheme only comes into force this year. A new Government Department was created, which employed a staff of 39,000 officials in 1917, a number, which it is said, will have to be increased to 60,000 in 1918.

This is an extremely important measure, and in theory should lead to the abolition of those innumerable abuses for which the tax farmer has been notorious since the earliest days. But, however admirable the scheme may appear on paper, there is nothing to show that in practice there has been any noticeable improvement. The receipts have, indeed, been increased, but this is principally due to the rise in the value of the crops, and merely means, as Javid Bey, the Minister of Finance was honest enough to admit in his Budget speech, that the Government was making a profit out of the distress of the people. Instead of private speculators, the extortioners are now Government Officials and if the unofficial middleman has been eliminated, the result has been rather an improvement in theory than in practice.

The oppression of dishonest officials was doubly hard to bear in these unsettled times. Not only did the fluctuations of prices and the rate of exchange give them greater opportunities than usual for speculation and malversation, but especially in the districts close to theatres of war, the needs of the army were made the pretext for extortions far exceeding the usual limit. Not infrequently, the farmer, far from being able to keep sufficient for his own needs, found himself unable to meet the demands of the tax gatherer and requisitioning officer, and many cases occurred of his being obliged to go out and buy grain in the market in order to satisfy their rapacity.

It is not surprising that under such conditions, famine threatened the inhabitants of even the most fertile districts. The reports of distress in Syria may have been exaggerated, but there is no doubt that thousands of people died of starvation. The Lebanon suffered most severely, owing to the special efforts made by the Turks, in surrounding it with a military cordon, to crush the independent spirit to which an autonomous government had given birth. Only in the Hauran, where, out of political considerations, the Turks refrained from taking measures of such severity, was there anything like a reasonable state of prosperity. Other parts of the Empire were comparatively well off only when they lay too far from the war zones and main lines of communication to be seriously molested, and in the capital itself, the impossibility of traffic by sea, the lack of transport by land and the cornering of foodstuffs, caused endless suffering to all who could not pay the resultant exorbitant prices.

As a rule, the condition of the people has little or no effect on the policy of the Turkish Government, but the winter prospects at the end of 1917 were so gloomy that even the Committee of Union and Progress felt its position endangered by the discontent its methods had aroused. The widespread feeling in favour of peace was very different to the war-weariness to which we are accustomed in Western countries. Even among the Turks there was little patriotic sentiment to inspire the common man; there were no high ideals for which he was prepared to go on enduring danger and privation.

The habit of unquestioning obedience to authority, the dislike and fear of Russia, the hostile feeling for the subject races of the Empire, which has been fostered by the Young Turk leaders, and to some extent the spirit of Moslem fanaticism—these are the influences which have carried the Turkish people through nearly four years of war. But the limits of human endurance have been very nearly reached; such enthusiasm as ever existed for such a war as this has long since evaporated, and there remains a dull persistent craving in the mind of the great voiceless majority to see the end of their sufferings on almost any terms.

If such were the sentiments of the dominant Turkish element, how much less must the other nationalities of the Empire have felt disposed to continue the struggle on behalf of masters who have done so little to deserve their loyalty and gratitude. With the exception of Kurds and Circassians, who are, on the whole, loyal to the Turks because they are allowed to indulge their predatory instincts at the expense of their non-Turkish neighbours, the sympathies of the subject races have been almost entirely with the enemies of Turkey. Pan-Turanianism combined with Pan-Islamism may provide good material for propaganda abroad, but they cannot be expected to appeal either to Arab Moslems or to Eastern Christians within the Empire.

Centuries of mis-government culminating in the ruthless executions of the Arab leaders by Jemal Pasha in 1915 have not been forgotten, and the Moslems of Syria have been watching the British advance in Mesopotamia and Palestine, and the successes of the Sherifian forces in the Hejaz with evident sympathy. They seem practically unanimous in desiring the abolition of Turkish rule, whatever form of Government may be set up in its place. The attempts of the Turkish Government to retain their hold on the Hejaz by such devices as the appointment of Sherif Ali Haidar as Grand Sherif of Mecca; and the despatch of the disreputable Young Turk Sheikh ul Islam, Musa Kiazim on a peace mission to the Hejaz have proved abortive. The prospect of being besieged in Medina by King Hussein's army and the sight of a British aeroplane flying over that city appear to have discouraged Sherif Haidar Ali, and he was last heard of in the Lebanon, waiting on events. Musa Kiazim and the members of his mission got as far south as Deraa, but were reported early in June to have been turned back from there, as the Hejaz Railway was not safe beyond that point from British and Sherifian attacks. The more northern Bedouin tribes, who still remain perforce under Turkish influence, have been a constant drain upon the scanty gold supply of Turkey, and according to all reports they are quite prepared to change their allegiance with a change of paymaster. As for the Druses, the Turkish authorities have endeavoured to keep them in good humour by occasional banquets to their Chiefs at Damascus and the lavish distribution of decorations, but their dislike of Turkish rule is as strong as ever, and they too appear to be only awaiting the moment when it will become safe to declare themselves.

The Armenians of Turkey have little cause to desire the prolongation of the war, or a successful issue for Turkey. Wholesale butchery has been confined to the territory recently recovered from Russia, but throughout the Empire the lot of the survivors of the massacres of 1915 has been most miserable. In Northern Syria, many are reported to have died of starvation or disease, while others have been forced to abjure their religion, and all of military age have been conscripted and enrolled for the most part in Labour Corps. In the face of such treatment Talaat Pasha is said to have had the effrontery to offer the Armenians a promise of amnesty, if the Armenian Patriarch would issue a written admission that the chastisement of the Armenians was merited, and had been provoked by their rebellious attitude.

The Greeks have similarly been made to feel the heavy hand of their oppressors. They have not been massacred like the Armenians, but during the period under review they have been subjected to a galling persecution at the hands of their Moslem neighbours. Some districts of North-Western Asia Minor had already been partially de-populated by the flight of some inhabitants to the islands of the Archipelago, and the deportation of others to the interior. Commercial business has been largely taken out of their hands in favour of Turkish and Jewish competitors, and what was an industrious and flourishing community is rapidly being brought to ruin. To crown their misfortunes the Turkish Government is now reported to have abolished the time honoured privileges and jurisdiction of the Oecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, whereby the rights and interests of the Greek Orthodox Community have been in some measure safeguarded ever since the Turkish conquest of Constantinople.

From the above, it may be concluded that, whereas the docile Turkish people, who are the backbone of the Empire's fighting power, are exhausted and war-weary, and continue to follow their leaders chiefly from force of habit, the non-Turkish elements, both Moslem and Christian, are profoundly disaffected, and are only restrained from open rebellion by fear of consequences.

The situation has been certainly of the Government's own making. Corruption and dishonesty extended to the highest quarters. Ministers themselves were accused of amassing huge fortunes by illegal methods. They were surrounded by hordes of officials and profiteers who certainly benefitted largely from abnormal conditions. These, and the Officers of the Army who were members of the Committee of Union and Progress, constituted the majority of their supporters. It is difficult to imagine that they had many

other sympathizers, yet there was no organized opposition party as we should understand it. The authority of the Committee of Union and Progress was in practice unchallenged and unchecked. Discontented members of the same organization, however, were heard of from time to time, who, from reasons of personal jealousy or ambition attempted to form groups within the party, for the purpose of embarrassing the Government and placing a higher price upon their services. Rivalry between Talaat and Enver was the constant cause of quarrels between the two Ministers, which, in spite of equally frequent reconciliations, gave rise to periodic rumours of a Cabinet crisis. Jemal, who is generally credited with jealousy of Enver, and is said to have become more anti-German since he was replaced by Liman von Sanders as Commander-in-Chief in Syria, was persistently reported to have formed a party of his own, but as he was made Acting Minister of the Interior while Talaat was away at Brest-Litovsk and continued to be Minister of Marine, it cannot be supposed that the split is very deep. Such personal dissensions cannot be taken as symptomatic of the general unrest which was, and still is, seething beneath the surface. The mouths of really moderate and sensible men were effectually closed, and in the absence of any means whereby the voice of a genuine majority of the people could make itself heard and obeyed, the existing Government stood its ground.

The Treaties of Brest-Litovsk with the Ukraine and with Russia, together with the cessation of hostilities in Roumania, were of inestimable value to the Government in reviving its prestige. The hopes of the people were roused. They naturally supposed and were led to believe that wheat in abundance would immediately pour into the country from Southern Russia. Prices began to fall and the value of paper money to rise. But apart from some isolated cargoes of wheat, no substantial relief arrived. Traffic it is true was opened in January along the Black Sea coast to Eregli, Samsun and Trebizond. Coal, tobacco and dried fruits began to arrive fairly regularly at Constantinople, and trade began to show some signs of revival. The fresh imports however were insufficient to affect more than the population of the capital. The amount of tonnage in Turkish ports was small, and it was not until the German advance along the northern shores of the Black Sea released the shipping at Odessa, Sevastopol and Nicolaieff, that anything like a sufficient number of vessels could be gathered together for any serious trading to be attempted. In addition, the Black Sea was only slowly made safe for navigation, and the danger from mines no less than from the uncertain attitude of the Russian fleet kept the rates of insurance very high.

Meanwhile the spring was passing, and the hopes of immediate alleviation died down. The Germans did not reach Odessa till early April, and it was the beginning of May before they occupied the Ports of the Crimea and the Sea of Azoff. The plentiful stocks of corn which they had expected to seize in the Ukraine were found not to exist, and the disorder prevailing in Southern Russia made even the coming harvest a doubtful asset to rely upon. Prices in Turkey rose once more, not only because of the failure of supplies to arrive, but also because a large proportion of those foodstuffs which the resumption of coastal trade had brought in was immediately exported to Germany. The economic situation was as serious as ever, and the only hope lay in the resources of the country itself.

These resources might have sufficed if carefully husbanded. Well devised measures for the development of agriculture, and for the control and distribution of the foodstuffs resulting from increased production, might have rendered Turkey independent of foreign sources of supply, as far as the mere necessities of life were concerned, if only she could have counted on the services of a capable and honest administrative staff.

But there were no such foundations upon which to build, and the Government was perforce obliged to adopt a series of ill-considered devices, unconnected with any well defined principles of internal policy or political economy, and dependent for their results on a corrupt and incompetent executive. They were, however, favoured by the promise of an abundant harvest, and in spite of the reduced area which had been sown in Asia Minor and in Syria, it was hoped that there would be sufficient to feed both the army and the civil population. The control and distribution of food supplies was, however, more than the defective Government machinery could cope with, and the present outlook appears to be as black as ever.

While Parliament and the Committee leaders were wrangling over the measures to be adopted, general discontent in no way subsided. Too much importance should not be given to the frequent reports of the growth of opposition because, whether it be Essad Pasha or Shukri Bey, Fethi Bey or Ahmed Riza Bey, who is credited with taking a lead in opposition, their activities are nearly always traceable to personal jealousy, or to differences on points of detail rather than of principle, and invariably stop short of action. The persistence with which such tales are circulated points to the strength of the popular wish that they were true, but it is to be feared that the motive power has yet to be found to make a change of Government an accomplished fact.

Even in these circumstances, however, the pressure on the Cabinet was sufficiently strong for self-protective measures to be necessary. To stop the spread of discontent among their own supporters, the Committee leaders were obliged to increase the pay and separation allowance of army officers, and to grant sums of money to Army and Civil pensioners with which to set up business in the towns. The depredations of the profiteers had also reached such a pitch that the Government was compelled to take some action to reduce these scandals.

The new Food Control Law, which was the result of this agitation, came into force at the beginning of April. Its very laudable aims were to suppress undue profits on foodstuffs, to improve methods of transport and to introduce a uniform system in the collection of tithe and requisitions. It did none of these things. The resistance of vested interests to any reforms was reflected in the Government's disinclination to accept the proposed creation of an Advisory Council, to act as a check upon the General Directorate of Food Supply.

The Law was voted, and, in deference to the wishes of the Government's critics the Advisory Council was established, but the results have been, to say the least, disappointing. In fact, although by its provisions the people became subject to an increased burden of requisition, it has not succeeded in bringing about any general fall of prices or other countervailing advantages.

The Government's efforts to organize the country for the prosecution of the war have been no more successful in finance than in economics. The estimates of Revenue have been increased by additional taxation, but an attempt to raise money by means of a voluntary internal loan has proved a complete failure. In spite of a strong propaganda campaign, carried on in the press, holding out every inducement to subscribe, in spite of the attraction of receiving interest in gold which was vividly depicted on large posters in the streets of Constantinople, in spite of lectures and cinematograph exhibitions showing scenes of the rush to obtain the bonds, and pictures of the gold being coined at the Mint, neither the allusions to transmutation of paper into gold, nor the persuasiveness of officials in the provinces, nor the security offered by German support sufficed.

Javid Bey's optimism, which had estimated the yield of the loan at from £T.30,000,000 to £T.40,000,000 proved quite unjustified. When the last subscription lists closed on June 30th, the total sum subscribed amounted to only £T.14,000,000, and before the end of the month, the Minister of Finance was treading the well-worn path to Berlin in search of financial help.

Once again the dependence of Turkey on Germany was made manifest in this failure of purely native effort, and the consequent necessity of having recourse to the foreigner. This dependence has become an ever present source of anxiety to all influential Turks with genuine Nationalist sentiments, and in the actual contact between the two peoples has aroused growing resentment. In the theatres of war and especially in Syria, the overbearing manner and disorderly behaviour of the Germans has made them thoroughly unpopular with the Turkish soldiers. Some of the stories told of unseemly brawls between German privates and Turkish officers, as well as actual conflicts between armed parties of Germans and Turks in Constantinople are probably exaggerated, but the bad feeling which gives rise to them undoubtedly exists. The Germans do not conceal their contempt of the Turks, and the Turks are proud enough to resent being treated as a dependent race rather than as allies. The civil population also has its complaints. The quantities of olive oil, figs, raisins, and other produce which have been exported to Germany have kept the prices of these articles high. Although it has been officially denied, they believe that the Germans have been buying stocks of grain, far larger than anything required to feed the few troops they have in the country, at a time when every bushel was urgently required by the hungry population.

Such dealings of which they themselves have been made to feel the effect, have done much to embitter the relations between the Germans and the people of Turkey, but they are in reality the least far reaching examples of German aggression, against which the dissatisfied elements in the country are protesting. There was German capital in Turkey before the war, but now that English, French, and Italian competition has vanished, the way for economic penetration has been open and unopposed. German and Austro-Hungarian firms have recently obtained concessions all over the Empire. They are preparing to exploit the forests and hemp industry of Kastamouni, and to develop the mines of Smyrna, and they have obtained exclusive control of all the most important railways in the country.

The effect of these encroachments together with the decline of home production owing to the war has turned the attention of the Government towards the necessity of agricultural revival and nationalisation of industry. One reason given for this is, that those people in Turkey who have made fortunes out of the war now consider themselves sufficiently strong financially to do without foreign capital. Such Companies as the Imperial Ottoman Bank and the Tobacco Régie are attacked because they are all working in Turkey for the benefit of foreign capital. There is also a tendency to give purely Turkish enterprises preference over German and Austro-Hungarian competitors. As an example of the way in which this new policy is being carried out, may be mentioned the formation of an "Ottoman Society for the Re-organization and Progress of Agriculture," with the object of securing farms on long lease to be cultivated by modern methods. It provides for the establishment of schools of instruction, and for the hire of agricultural machinery to the peasants; it also aims at building factories for the manufacture of this machinery and of chemical manures. Such grandiose schemes are a measure of the ambitions which the Turks are seeking to realize. It is hardly necessary to say that their fulfilment is impossible under present conditions, and that even after the war, they can never be carried out without foreign capital and management.

It would be well if the Turks were confining themselves to agricultural development, but they have gone beyond this in their projects for industrialization, and their hopes of using the raw material which the country produces for manufacturing goods within the Empire itself. In this connection it is noteworthy that the Germans themselves are beginning to doubt the economic advantages of the Turkish alliance. This feeling cannot be better illustrated than in the words of a recent article in the "Augsburger Postzeitung." "German relations with Turkey" it says "are of a political rather than of an economic nature. On this very account an artificial economic interest has been created by heavy investments of capital. Turkey will always be of small importance as a buyer of foreign products. The balance of trade is always against her. The only hope is for Turkey to maintain her character as an agricultural state. Yet instead of remedying the evils due to her primitive agricultural methods and undeveloped communications, she has suddenly turned her attention to manufactures, completely ignoring all economic laws and

attempting to create a fictitious industrialism, in pursuit of the one idea of being no longer dependent on foreign countries." The abolition of the Capitulations, and the recent conventions between Turkey and the Central Powers on matters concerning legal and economic relations, have necessitated the inauguration of a number of internal reforms. The new Tariff of 1916, and the law for the promotion of industries, give the clue to the Turkish Government's policy of "industrialism by direct Government action and the favourable development of home industries by a protective tariff." But before any such realization of economic independence can be attained, a long period of quiet, peaceful development is necessary, while economic conditions in Turkey are in process of being modernized. One of the objects of German control is to secure the direction of this movement, but she will have to fight for it, as all Turkey is not united to support her claims, and as soon as the war is over the market will be open for allied competition.

The strength of Germany's present hold over Turkey is manifested at every turn. It was through Germany that the peace of Brest-Litovsk was brought about. It raised great expectations which have so far come to nothing. The situation of the people has temporarily improved because the new harvest is now on the market, but an even worse crisis than that of last year is to be expected this winter, unless relief is obtained from outside. But Germany has so far been unable to obtain even a part of her own requirements from Southern Russia, and there is still Austria to be thought of, before Turkey can expect to receive anything from this quarter.

There are already signs to show that she is profoundly dissatisfied. The growth of discontent is largely due to the critical situation created by the lack of food. Criticism is directed against members of the existing Government, but through them it is also designed to strike at their German supporters. Germany is indirectly the cause of starvation at home; she is also obstructing Turkish expansion in the Caucasus and elsewhere. Financially the debt to Germany is heavy. The failure of the Internal Loan has shown that Turkey is incapable of raising money for the prosecution of the war from among her own people. She depends on Germany for funds, and the longer she goes on with the war the more heavily will she be obliged to mortgage her resources. She has little prospect of repaying her debts. Her only assets are her agricultural and natural wealth, and in return for military help, which has not prevented the loss of whole provinces, she is to become Germany's economic and political slave. There are a few patriots in Turkey who have long foreseen all this, and the number of their adherents is growing every day. Even the Ottoman people are beginning to realize who is responsible for their misfortunes. Already the conviction is increasing that life under present conditions is becoming unbearable. The morale of the Army is being undermined and desertions are continually on the increase. Many of these deserters have taken refuge in the mountains of Aidin, where, in company with outlaws and brigands they are creating a centre of resistance to authority. It is almost pathetic to watch the eagerness with which every item of news is distorted, if possible, to indicate prospects of a speedy peace. The accession of a new Sultan with anti-Committee tendencies, an event which might have passed almost unnoticed, seeing that he is no longer more than a political and religious figure-head, has given rise to tales of the Government's fall and of a break with Germany. It will be a bad day for the Committee of Union and Progress and the Germans in Turkey when winter sets in and the peasant starves again. Then, if ever, will come the time when the popular outcry will swell in the ears of those who are responsible for their misfortunes, and the words of those who are protesting against the present régime may be translated into strong and decisive action, if only they can find a leader.

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

**SECRET.**



**No. 13.**

## **POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

*August 31, 1918.*

### **ENEMY TERRITORY.**

#### **POLITICAL.**

##### **A.—FOREIGN POLITICS.**

###### **CAUCASUS.**

The "Hilal" of June 26 reproduces an interview between a representative of the "Tanine" and Ahmed Jevdet Bey, Secretary to the Azerbaijan Delegation in Constantinople.

Ahmed Jevdet said that the boundaries had been roughly defined at the Batum conference, but would be definitely fixed during the coming discussions at Constantinople. Turkey has been given the Sanjaks of Alexandropol and Ahaljik with the railway running between them, and parts of the districts of Echmiadin, Nakhichevan and Surmenek.

(NOTE.—Thus giving the Turks control of the railway from Alexandropol to Tabriz.)

According to the preliminary agreement, the area of Azerbaijan is to be 90,000 square kilometres with a population of 4,000,000, of whom 3,500,000 are Turco-Tartars and 400,000 Armenians. Georgia is to have an area of 70,000 square kilometres with a population of 3,000,000, and Armenia an area of 11,000 square kilometres with a population of 1,000,000.

(NOTE.—The area of Armenia in a Kasvin telegram to Boghos Nubar Pasha quoted in Summary No. 12, page 1, is given as 12,000 square kilometres.)

Ahmed Jevdet stated that Azerbaijan had a trained military force, that the Armenians had about a division and the Georgians about two divisions. These were, however, not up to full strength.

It was intended that the Capital of Azerbaijan should be Baku, but as the Bolsheviks were now in occupation of the town the seat of Government was at Guenj.

The National Assembly of Azerbaijan had dissolved after forming a cabinet of twelve members. The elections for the Constituent Assembly would begin in six months time. This body will definitely fix the form of Government.

It is reported from Constantinople that in the "plébiscite" taken in the districts of Batum, Kars and Ardahan in accordance with the treaty of Brest Litovsk, 83,000 votes were cast in favour of, and only 2,000 against union with Turkey.

(NOTE.—In view of the existing Turkish occupation, these figures are of no value whatever as an indication of the population's sentiments. The population in 1915 was about 600,000, of whom at least 200,000 were Armenians.)

The "Hilal" of June 20 states that schools are to be opened as soon as possible in the occupied territories of Batum, Kars, and Ardahan to compete with existing Russian schools. The language used will be Turkish and the staffs will be sent from Constantinople.

The "Lloyd Ottoman" of July 6 announces that Caucasian Moslems resident in Constantinople have formed a society for the social and intellectual developments of Moslem Turks in the Caucasus, so as to strengthen the bonds uniting them to Turkey and the Khalifate.

The Damascus Arabic newspaper "El Ikbal" of July 22 announces the arrival at Damascus of eight members of the delegation from North Azerbaijan, and five members of the delegation from Cis-Caucasia, who are in Turkey for the purpose of attending the conference on Caucasian affairs at Constantinople.

##### **RUSSIAN MOSLEM SOCIALISTS.**

A Moscow message, received in Amsterdam on July 25, *via* Berlin, states that a conference of Turkish socialists has been held in Moscow, its object being to organize energetic agitation amongst the proletariat in Turkey for the downfall of the Turkish bourgeoisie and the capitalists.

##### **B.—HOME POLITICS.**

###### **THE SULTAN AND THE GOVERNMENT.**

The following information has been obtained from well informed persons who left Constantinople about the middle of July.

The principal question of interest was the accession of the new Sultan. He is credited with pro-Entente feelings and seems to have shown a tendency to assert himself.

It appears that the Sultan did not confirm the Ministry in office until certain conditions which he imposed had been accepted. These were :—

- (1) The suppression of the "state of siege" in so far as all non-military matters are concerned.
- (2) Freedom of the Political Press.
- (3) A general amnesty to all offenders except those condemned for holding intelligence with the enemy.

This amnesty to include all persons condemned for actions against the Young Turk Government and all those condemned to penal servitude who have undergone two-thirds of their sentence.

- (4) The discharge of Kemal Bey (the Minister of Food) and of Topal Ismail Hakki Pasha (the Quartermaster-General).

(NOTE.—Although it is known that a Ministry of National Economy has been under consideration for some months, this is the first news of a Minister of Food having been appointed. It is possible that the Director-General of Food Supplies, who works under the Minister of War, is meant. It has already been reported from other sources that Ismail Hakki Pasha had been transferred to the post of Under-Secretary at the War Office.)

It is said that after eight days' deliberation, Talaat informed the Sultan that these conditions had been accepted, whereupon the present Cabinet was confirmed in office.

It is reported that the Committee of Union and Progress have had further difficulty with the new Sultan, because, after changing the Staff of his Civil Household, he expressed his intention of doing the same with his Military Household as well. The Committee objected to this.

The new Sultan appears to have decided views on the food question, as in addition to demanding the dismissal of the Food Minister, he is said to have made some very strong references to the present situation in his Proclamation on his Accession, and to have stated that measures were to be taken to improve it.

On the whole, the new Sultan seems to have made a good impression outside inner Government circles. He has shown signs of independence, and is considered a power to be reckoned with. He is, however, still a doubtful quantity, as although the various parties within the Committee are all seeking his favour, he has not yet granted it to any particular one of them.

(NOTE.—This is the first reliable information which has been received about the new Sultan, and it is interesting to compare it with the rumours which from time to time have been reported as being current in Syria and in the Army. The differences between the Sultan and the Committee have evidently attracted public attention, and the resulting rumours are indicative of the course which the popular mind would like events to take. The fact that the Sultan is showing signs of independence must be causing some anxiety to the Cabinet, who will, no doubt, do their best to make him a mere figurehead like his predecessor.)

The Cabinet, as confirmed by the Sultan, was as follows :—

Talaat Pasha—Grand Vizier and Minister of the Interior.

(NOTE.—The appointment of Ismail Bey Jambolat as Minister of the Interior is confirmed in the "Journal de Beirut" of July 23. The Ministry of the Interior is, next to that of War and the Grand Vizieriat, the most important post in the Cabinet. This event will not detract from Talaat's power. The probable significance of the change is simply that Talaat has found it impossible to control two such important offices as he previously held single-handed and has entrusted one of them to Jambolat who is one of his creatures. Talaat was acting as Minister of Finance in the absence of Javid Bey at Berlin.)

Musa Kiazim Effendi—Sheikh ul Islam and Minister *ad interim* of "Evkaf" (religious endowments).

Enver Pasha—Minister of War and Vice-Generalissimo.

(NOTE.—It has been reported that Enver's title of Vice-Generalissimo has been changed to Chief of the Imperial General Staff.)

Jemal Pasha—Minister of Marine.

(NOTE.—An intelligent officer prisoner of war states that Jemal has now gone to Berlin as Ambassador in place of Hakki Pasha who died recently. In view of Jemal's well-known anti-German sentiments, this appointment may be taken as an attempt to convert him to German views by placing him in entirely Teutonic surroundings, or at least to remove a dangerous rival to Enver from Constantinople.)

Ahmed Nessimi Bey—Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Halil Bey—Minister of Justice and President of the Council of State.

(NOTE.—In the absence of Nessimi, as for instance when the Brest-Litovsk negotiations were proceeding, it is usually Halil who is acting Minister of Foreign Affairs.)

Javid Bey—Minister of Finance.

Ali Munif Bey—Minister of Public Works, and *ad interim* Minister of Education.

(NOTE.—It has been reported that Dr. Nazim has now been appointed to fill the vacant post of Minister of Education. He is the notorious member of the Committee of Union and Progress who has taken such a prominent part in schemes for Turco-German propaganda in Persia, the Caucasus, Afghanistan and Central Asia. His appointment is significant of the momentary ascendancy of the extreme Pan-Turkish party which he represents.)

Mustafa Sherif Bey—Minister of Commerce and Agriculture.

Hussein Halim Bey—Minister of Posts and Telegraphs.

#### PAN-TURKISH AMBITIONS.

The extent to which the ambitions of the Pan-Turkish Party have been excited may be judged by the following statements made about June 25 by an ex-Minister who had just been on a visit to Berlin :—

He stated that the Turkish Government had decided not to abandon any of its claims against Bulgaria, who was unwilling to make any concession unless she were promised Salonika as compensation.

As regards the Black Sea, he argued that as Turkey was the only Power which, at the present time, possessed more than half the coast, she must insist on its being under her military control. That is to say, a Turkish fleet must dominate this sea.

He pointed out that Turkey had afforded more help to Germany than anyone, and that she was largely responsible for the breakdown of Russia, owing to her defence of the Dardanelles. "We know that Germany wishes to manage some of the small States which have sprung up owing to the Russian Revolution, but this is no reason why we should be sacrificed." The question of the Caucasus, he said, was most important. "On this depends our national life, we must have a common frontier with our brethren in Turkestan and direct communication between Batum and Persia."

He then talked of impending steps to be taken to free Occupied Ottoman Territory with the help promised by Turkey's Allies. The evacuation of such territory must in any case be the first condition of peace. By this, he said, he meant not only Palestine and Mesopotamia, but also Egypt, Tripoli, and all those territories in the Mediterranean which were Turkish before the Russo-Turkish War. France must also grant the independence of Algeria and Morocco; "these countries will, however, we are quite sure, free themselves very shortly."

He was evidently much impressed by the evidence of military strength which the Germans had been careful to show him, and thought the war would last some time yet. In this war he saw the re-birth of Turkey, but stated that it meant "either Turkey's ruin, or complete deliverance." In bombastic and exaggerated terms he painted an unconvincing picture of Turkey's prosperity. "Our economic life," he said, "is expanding to such an extent, that in a few years our financial situation will be absolutely brilliant."

As regards the Government, he states that the only differences of opinion were on military affairs, but that every time a difficulty arose, it was submitted to arbitration by the Committee of Union and Progress, "which now contains a Committee for this special purpose."

(NOTE.—This last statement is extremely interesting. It explains how it is that Enver and Talaat are constantly quarrelling, but always manage to arrive at some agreement: it also shows that neither Enver, Talaat, nor any other member of the Government is strong enough to be independent of the control of the inner ring of the Committee of Union and Progress.)

#### THE SYRIAN VALIS.

Turkish newspapers confirm the rumoured resignation of Bedri Bey, Vali of Aleppo. His successor is Atif Bey, formerly Vali of Kastamuni.

The successor of Tahsin Bey as Vali of Damascus is Rafet Bey, formerly Vali of Mamuret el Aziz (Kharput). He took over his new functions about the middle of July.

Mumtaz Bey has been appointed Mutessarif of the Lebanon in place of Ismail Hakki Bey, who has been confirmed as the successor of Azmi Bey, Vali of Beirut.

#### C.—ARAB MOVEMENT.

##### EAST OF JORDAN.

Refugees recently arrived from Madeba report the following :—

(1) That the Shawabkeh (area roughly Kafr Abdullah 142.Q.9 to Akwe 127.Y.4) have forcibly resisted the Turks who were attempting to commandeer their cattle. In this they were assisted by their neighbours and allies on the north-east, the Ajarmeh.

(2) That hitherto the inhabitants of Madeba, with the support of the Belkaa, have always been able to cope with the Beni Sakhr (Sghour), but that these two now seem to be thinking of combining to wipe out the Madeba Christians, who cannot find enough fighting men to resist them successfully. The leaders of the combination seem to be Hatman Ibn Zebed of the Sghour, who usually lives at Jellul (about four miles east of Madeba), and Abul Ghanem of the Belkaa, who lives about the same distance west of Madeba. A Mukhtar of Madeba, named Khalif el Khouri, states that the Turks are not taking any interest in this movement. He suggests that the best means of stopping it would be to drop warnings to these sheikhs from an aeroplane, saying that a day of reckoning would come. Sheikh Abu Sitta of the Awazim is against the attack, from fear of future reprisals from us.

##### NABLUS.

An Arab refugee, who left Nablus on August 2 after residing there eight months, was specially interrogated with regard to the population of the town. During March two reports were received by us, one stating that, at the end of February the inhabitants were given five days' notice to clear out, and the other stated that all German archives had been removed to Damascus and that all Armenians had been deported. A third report, dated June 1 stated that many Government Departments had been sent north, and that although the Mayor and his staff remained, only guards and police were left in the town. Refugees now state that the population of Nablus still remains as it was before the war, and that in addition, most of the inhabitants from evacuated villages near the front line were also living in the town.

Informant states that the inhabitants of Nablus are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the British, the reason being that many inhabitants of Nablus have crossed the lines and returned after selling a quantity of tobacco which they take with them. These people say that the inhabitants of occupied territory are very pleased with the new Administration, especially as there is no shortage of food or clothing and that sugar only costs P.T. 35 per rotl. and wheat P.T. 10 per rotl.

It is reported that about August 1 criers were sent out in Nablus proclaiming that the British had evacuated all males in occupied territory to Egypt, leaving only the women and old men whom they ill-treated. They informed the people that no wheat was to be found within the British lines, and that famine was imminent.

#### LEBANON.

"El Omnah", the organ of the Lebanese Colony in Egypt, which has just restarted publication, sets out to harmonize the divergent opinions obtaining as to the future of the Lebanon. An interesting summary is given of the programme of various Lebanese Societies.

##### (1) IN EGYPT :—

The "Lebanese Union" aims at the complete independence of the Lebanon within its natural limits under the guarantee of the Powers.

A new movement tends towards the formation of a Syrio-Lebanese Society, having for object the independence of Syria and the Lebanon under the control or protection of France.

##### (2) AT NEW YORK :—

The "Lebanese Renaissance Society" aims at the preservation of Lebanese independence, the re-establishment of its original boundaries and the restitution of its dependencies to include a seaport; the whole to be under French protection.

The Society "Al Arz Al Libanieh" demands absolute independence.

The "American Lebanese Union" demands independence under French control.

#### DAMASCUS.

An Arab refugee who left Damascus on July 24, and whose information may be taken as reliable, states that almost the only exceptions to the general dislike among Christians, Moslems, Jews and Druse at Damascus of the Turks is to be found among Moslem contractors for the Army, who are making huge profits.

Moslems hope that the Allies will capture Damascus, but would like the Sherif's Army to be the first to occupy the city.

People in Damascus have heard that the British had brought water into Jerusalem and that there was great commercial activity in Occupied Enemy Territory. It was said that the poor were being fed by the British, and that bread, rice, sugar, and other commodities were very cheap in Palestine. The British were also reported to be supporting the families of men who were serving in the Turkish Army.

The Turks, on the other hand, spread rumours that the British have hanged and ill-treated a number of prominent people in Jerusalem. Some of these stories were believed, and caused much anxiety to many people who have relatives there.

Informant states that Yusef Zia Bey, Secretary of the Vali of Damascus, who was also, at one time during the war, secretary to the Governor of Jerusalem, is very Anglophile. It was he who advised informant to try and get back to Jerusalem.

#### D.—DESERTION AND PROPAGANDA.

##### PALESTINE FRONT.

An intelligent Turkish sergeant who deserted on August 4, states that he heard of the contents of one of our propaganda leaflets describing the manner in which German troops in Turkey are treating the Turks, and obtaining command of the country. He is of opinion that if the men of his regiment could all see this pamphlet, they would desert to a man as they know the contents are true. He says that the first propaganda they found, describing the treatment of Turkish prisoners by the British, did not influence them as much as they thought it too far fetched.

Other prisoners corroborate the good effect produced by the leaflet on Turco-German relations, and most of them seem to think that illustrated propaganda would be even more effective.

(NOTE.—Illustrated propaganda showing the Turkish cow being milked by a German, Enver Pasha bowing before the Kaiser, emaciated Turkish soldiers before their capture and the improvement in their condition in our prisoners of war camps are now being distributed.)

An intelligent Arab refugee who came into our lines on the night of August 7-8 states that the Turkish troops are quite convinced that the Germans get the best food and treatment and are in fact "bleeding the Turks white." British propaganda leaflets dropped in the Hableh area (084.K.9.b) induced many men who could not desert into the British lines to escape north.

An educated and intelligent Turkish sergeant-major, who deserted on August 4, states that he would be willing to die for his country, but that he considered he had no country left. The Turk is now the slave of the German who takes everything for himself. How can a man have any patriotic feelings left? Neither he nor his three comrades who deserted with him ever intend to return to Turkey.

An intelligent Turk deserter, who came into our lines on August 11, states that propaganda was picked up by men in his division and handed round secretly. He never saw any himself but, after hearing of the contents, decided to desert, especially as his sergeant-major, three sergeants and the regimental adjutant had only recently deserted. He considered that if men with their brains went, it was time he went too.

A prisoner of war captured on August 14 states that about a month ago the following notice was sent down from Divisional Headquarters and published in regimental orders. Prisoner cannot read, but says that his sergeant-major read the order out to him. It stated that a Turk captured by the British some time ago and sent to a Prisoners' Labour Camp, succeeded in escaping and getting back to the Turkish lines. He told the Turkish staff that the British were giving medicine to Turkish prisoners which made them blind and were castrating them, and that this had been done to every Turk in the camp in which he had been interned. Men were therefore strongly advised not to desert.

An officer prisoner of war captured on August 17 states that the troops are told that all propaganda leaflets are printed on poisoned paper and are, therefore, dangerous to touch.

(NOTE.—The above and the story told in yesterday's bulletin which was said to emanate from an escaped prisoner, seems to show that the Turks are alarmed by the success of our propaganda, and are employing rather curious expedients in order to cope with it.)

#### HAMA.

The following is the story told by an Armenian who came into our lines on August 7 :—

He states that he had been hiding from military service in a Nuseiri village in the mountains about thirty miles west of Hama, where out of thirty families practically every man had deserted from the Turkish army at some time or other. About the middle of June his cousin, who was in the army, captured an Indian sergeant and was offered L.T. 10 or fifteen days' leave as a reward. The cousin took the leave and came to the village where informant was hiding. He told informant he would help him to escape to the British lines, and gave him an old uniform and cap with badges of rank removed, so that he might pass as his cousin's soldier servant. He then took him through Damascus and Amman to the 63rd Regiment, in the front line, where he was accepted as a soldier and whence he eventually made his escape.

In the particular village in which informant lived, deserters were quite safe, as each man paid P.T. 130 a year to the Turkish sergeant in command of the local gendarmerie. It is the same in all the villages round about. At one place, for instance, about thirty miles south-west of Hama there is a Greek village with a population of about 500. As the inhabitants are rich enough to bribe the recruiting officials, they have only produced one recruit since the beginning of the war.

#### BRUSSA.

The "Lloyd Ottoman" of June 26 quotes from a pessimistic article in the "Vakit" on the state of public security in the Vilayet of Brussa. Brigandage, it says, has increased to such an extent that no one dares hazard himself in the plain of Koca Bey, which is known as the "golden plain" because of its fertility. Bands amounting to 150 brigands, under their chiefs Shahin, Ali Bey, Daud and Eski Kadri, are said to have divided the neighbourhood into spheres of influence. Their depredations are continual. For instance, a band of seventy-five bandits besieged and sacked the township of Apolloniade. Notables from the villages have been carried off and held to ransom. The detachments sent in pursuit have done nothing, and the population which is defenceless, because it has been disarmed, has been obliged to come to an understanding with the insurgents. Complete disagreement exists among the authorities concerning the action to be taken.

(NOTE.—This confirms the statements of a Greek prisoner of war, who was recently serving in the Brussa Vilayet, which were reported in the Bulletin of July 30.)

#### E.—TURCO-GERMAN RELATIONS.

##### HAURAN.

It is reported that rumours of the German defeat in France have penetrated into the Hauran. The current topic of conversation in the district is the strained relationship between Turks and Germans, and the prospects of the new Sultan, who is described as pro-British, concluding peace.

##### CONSTANTINOPLE.

A Turkish prisoner of war states that when he was in Constantinople at the beginning of July he witnessed a great riot between Turkish and German troops in which civilians joined against the Germans.

(NOTE.—This incident is frequently alluded to by prisoners and appears to be founded on fact, though no reliable information is to hand as to the real nature and extent of the disturbance.)

An Englishman interned in Turkey, who was released in May, states that the distrust of Germany has very much increased, and even in high circles there is a fear that the Germans have got far too strong a hold over Turkey. Whereas the Turks were demanding German military assistance a few months ago, the tendency now seems to be to refuse rather than to invite the entry of German troops into the country. Constantinople is full of Germans of every description, and German soldiers are billeted in almost all the respectable streets.

##### CAUCASUS.

It is reported that about the end of June the "Goeben" was ordered to Batum. The Turks, on hearing of this and in view of the suspected German intrigues in the Caucasus, instructed their authorities at Batum to prevent the landing of any of the German crew. The Germans immediately communicated with their Government, and Enver was informed that unless these instructions were immediately cancelled the act would be considered as unfriendly to Germany. The Turks, thereupon, were obliged to give way.

#### F.—MISCELLANEOUS.

##### GERMANS IN PALESTINE.

The "Lokal-Anzeiger" of June 27 states that in the colonies of Haifa, Bethlehem and Waldheim, there are 650 German subjects. Of these, seventy-eight are doing military service, eight have been killed, and nineteen have won the Iron Cross. The devotion of the Haifa colony is especially emphasized by illustrations of their hospitality to the German troops. In February and March of this year they boiled 12,000 kilos. of orange marmalade and brewed 4,000 bottles of citron juice for them and in addition subscribed 600,000 marks to the eighth German War Loan. Forty-six German Americans and about a dozen German-Russians are said to have become naturalized Germans, many of whom have volunteered for service in the German Army.

#### ARMENIANS.

An Armenian refugee who came into our lines on August 4, and knows the district well, states that there are about 7,000 Armenians at Hama, whose relations with the Arabs are very friendly. There are about 250 Armenians living in the neighbouring villages working for the Arabs.

An Arab refugee whose information may be considered reliable, states that, since the accession of the new Sultan, the Armenians have been well treated, and are rapidly making a position for themselves in the commercial life of Damascus.

#### REPATRIATION OF SYRIANS.

Informant states that as a result of the general pardon granted by the Sultan to political prisoners and exiles, Syrians who were deported into the Interior were sent to Aleppo to be repatriated.

During the first three weeks of July communications were, however, almost completely suspended between Aleppo and the South on account of the cholera which was raging there. No civilians were allowed to travel, and troops arriving at Damascus were put into quarantine and disinfected. All postal services were stopped.

After this period civilian traffic was resumed and the Syrian exiles began to arrive at Damascus. They were very badly off, and many of them have been reduced to beggary.

#### JEWS.

From reports on the condition of the Jewish population of Northern Palestine, dating from the second half of April, it would appear that there was at that time a great deal of suffering and distress, which local relief committees had been unable to alleviate completely. The Damascus Relief Committee stated that it needed about £8,000 in gold monthly.

The "Journal de Beirut" of July 13 announces that the Hungarian Committee for the relief of Jews in Palestine has passed a vote of thanks to the Ottoman Government for the help which it has accorded to Jews in Palestine. At the same time the wish is expressed that Palestine will always continue to form an integral part of the Turkish Empire.

From Berlin the Jewish Correspondence Bureau learns that two members of the Chief Committee of the Zionist World Organization have arrived in Constantinople to confer with the Turkish Government regarding Palestine. It is expected in Berlin that the Turkish Government will make important concessions. The Chief Committee of the Hungarian Orthodox Jews has declined the Turkish invitation.

An Austrian Jewish organ states: "We are now faced with the fact that the Entente is doing ever more for us, and that the Central Powers promise us ever less. We Austrian Jews are thus led more and more into the temptation to abandon our neutrality and, in conflict with our duties as citizens of the State, to choose the side which supports our Jewish interests."

The "Hilal" of July 8 announces that the British Foreign Office has authorized the Zionist Organization in London to propose the exemption of Ottoman Jews from the regulations and restrictions applicable to enemy aliens.

#### AN INDIAN NATIONALIST PAPER IN TURKEY.

The "Hilal" of June 6 acknowledges the receipt of the fifth number of a review in English, entitled, "Brotherhood." It is published in Constantinople by Abdul Jabbar Hairi and Abdul Sattar Hairi Bey, and contains articles on Islam and the Indian question.

(NOTE.—The paper, "Brotherhood", is probably an English counterpart of the Urdu "Akhuwat" which is also published in Constantinople by the brothers Abdul Jabbar and Abdul Sattar. The "Akhuwat" is a scurrilous anti-British and pro-Turkish newspaper, the object of which is to cement Turkish and Indian sympathies and to create revolution in India. The brothers Abdul Jabbar and Abdul Sattar belong to a respectable family of Delhi, and their father is in receipt of a Government pension. They left India some years ago, and with the assistance of Abdul Aziz Shawish established at Beirut a Pan-Islamic, anti-European Academy in opposition to the American College. The brothers took part in the recent Stockholm Conference, where they joined with other Indian revolutionaries in representing the case against England's occupation of India.

They command no influence to speak of in India.)

#### JAPANESE INTERVENTION IN PALESTINE.

The "Neue Zürcher Nachrichten" of June 25 publishes the following in an article on Japanese intervention:—

"At the last Paris Conference Japan appears to have so far met the requests of her Allies as to declare herself ready also to intervene in non-Siberian territory; only, however, in Asia and in no case in Europe. This could only refer to the intervention of Japan in aid of Great Britain in Palestine. According to our information (which has yet to be confirmed) this offer has been accepted, though, to be sure, by Great Britain only with a sour grace."

### ECONOMIC.

#### A.—PALESTINE FRONT.

##### HARVEST.

A native of Jinsafut (098.P.31.e) captured in recent operations was farming at home as a civilian until the end of June.

He estimates the harvest round Jinsafut, which was gathered in June, at 15,000 rotls. of wheat, and 11,000 rotls. of Barley.

He states that the area under cultivation this year was half the area cultivated before the war. In the coming year, owing to the lack of seed, the area sown will be less than half of the area sown in the past year.

Prisoner says that no system of rationing is in force, and that the crops, after payment of tithes and requisitions, will barely meet the needs of the inhabitants.

#### ARMY SUPPLIES.

It is reported (August 6) that General Liman von Sanders recently discussed with the Valis of Beirut and Damascus the question of feeding and supplying the Army.

He asked them to forbid the export of cereals from the war zone, which ends at the Kazas of Sur (Tyre) and Merj Ayun.

Orders were given that no cereals should be exported from the Sanjak of Akka (Acre).

(NOTE.—The Sanjak of Akka includes the five Kazas of Akka, Safed, Haifa, Nazareth and Tiberias.

This statement is further evidence of the shortage of supplies north of our immediate front.)

#### WATER.

An Arab refugee states that in view of the shortage of water, the natives of Zawieh (084.N.21.) are buying water from the people of Bidieh (098.S.7.b.) at P.T. 3-4 (silver) per petroleum tin full.

#### PRICES.

The following are the most recent prices of cereals in enemy territory on the Palestine front. The prices are expressed in piastres silver per Syrian rotl. (5½ lbs.). Figures in brackets represent pence per lb.

WEST OF JORDAN.				Date.		Wheat.		Barley.		Doura.
						P.T.		P.T.		P.T.
Bidieh	...	...	...	Aug. 7	...	20 (6d.)	...	12 (5d.)	...	12½ (5d.)
Mesha	...	...	...	Aug. 10	...	20 (6d.)	...	12 (5d.)	...	—
Zawieh	...	...	...	Aug. 5	...	20 (6d.)	...	11 (4½d.)	...	10 (4d.)
Kalkilieh	...	...	...	Aug. 5	...	18 (7¼d.)	...	10-11 (4-4½d.)	...	11½-13 (4½-5½d.)
Tulkeram	...	...	...	June 25	...	17½ (7d.)	...	12 (5d.)	...	12½ (5d.)
Nablus	...	...	...	Aug. 2	...	30 (1/-)	...	20 (6d.)	...	—
Nazareth	...	...	...	Early July	...	20 (8d.)	...	—	...	—
Tiberias	...	...	...	Aug. 6	...	30 (1/-)	...	—	...	—
B.—EAST OF JORDAN.										
Amman	...	...	...	Aug. 5	...	12 (5d.)	...	4 (1¾d.)	...	—
Kerak	...	...	...	June 25	...	5 (2d.)	...	3½ (1½d.)	...	—
C.—NORTHERN SYRIA.										

#### HAURAN.

It is reported that, in the Hauran, the Government has collected only a small proportion of the cereals which it was agreed between the Civil Authorities and the Hauran Sheikhs that the district should supply. The Government is having great difficulty in collecting the required amount, and is not pressing the people much.

The Germans are said to have taken from the Hauran more than 4,000 tons of wheat and lentils. They have also bought crushed wheat, salt butter and apricot paste. Their purchases of molasses were so large that the price went up to P.T. 50 per oke.

In a report dated July 24, an agent states that about July 20 the Germans ceased all grain purchases in the Hauran.

#### DAMASCUS.

According to "El Ahram" of July 24 the price of bread at Damascus, with the arrival of the new crops on the market, fell to P.T. 50 paper per rotl.

German purchases, however, sent the price up.

A law allows German soldiers to despatch eight kilos of each sort of grain to their families by parcel post.

The price of bread quoted above justifies the prophecy of "El Ikbal", June 13 :—

"The price of wheat is going steadily down. One can see the day approaching when the poor will be able to feed their families."

It is reported that the following factories are working in Damascus (1) for medicated cotton wool (2) for vegetable preserves (3) for carriage building and repairing (4) for boot making (5) for arms repairing.

(NOTE.—This confirms information previously received.)

According to "El Shark" of July 17, the Municipal Authorities at Damascus have fixed the following ticket prices for bread :—

Best quality bread	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	P.T. 16½ per rotl.
Medium quality bread	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	" 14 "
Barley bread	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	" 10 "

#### BEIRUT.

"El Balagh" of July 19 gives the market price of bread at Beirut as P.T. 30-35 per rotl.

**SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL.**

**ATTACHMENT TO POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY,  
No. 13, 31st August, 1918.**

**THE RACES OF TURKEY.**

**PART I.**

In the absence of any accurate statistics of population in Turkey, it is impossible to do more than give a rough estimate of the numbers of the different races inhabiting the Empire. It is true that in every Vilayet offices exist at which births and deaths are supposed to be registered, and also that a periodical census of the population is taken. But owing to a variety of causes, the results obtained are always inaccurate and misleading. The weakness and the inefficiency of the Turkish Administrative machine are well known, and even if it were otherwise, the existence of large nomad and semi-nomad elements—Arab, Kurd, Yuruk, etc.—would render the task of numbering the people a difficult one. Even in settled districts, a strong objection to giving accurate returns of the members of a family exists in most classes of the community, due to the belief that a census must be the prelude to increased taxation or more rigorous conscription. There is also a deep-seated prejudice on the part of all Moslems against returning the real number of their women, and cases are not rare in which the census returns of a Caza in Anatolia or Kurdistan show only ten or twelve thousand females for fifty thousand males. It is proposed therefore only to attempt to give an estimate in round numbers of the races inhabiting that part of Turkey which, at the outbreak of war, possessed a more or less organized administration, and contributed taxes to the Exchequer and recruits to the Army, leaving out of account the whole of the Arabian Peninsula, as practically non-effective from the point of view of administration, finance and military power. This effective portion of the Ottoman Empire at the outbreak of war contained about 20,000,000 inhabitants, divided between the different races very roughly as follows:—

Turks	...	...	...	8,000,000.
Arabs	...	...	...	5,500,000.
Greeks	...	...	...	2,000,000.
Kurds	...	...	...	2,000,000.
Armenians	...	...	...	1,500,000.
Jews	...	...	...	500,000.
Circassians or other Caucasians	...	...	...	500,000.
				<hr/> 20,000,000. <hr/>

**THE TURKS.**

The "Osmanli" or Ottoman Turks as we call them, belong to one of the most widely distributed families of the human race, having its origin in the Steppes of Central Asia, whence they began to migrate southward and eastward at a very early date. Some of these migrations took the form of regular invasions by vast and well organized armies, under such great leaders as Jenghis Khan, Hulagu and Timur Lenk, who overran South Western Asia and much of Eastern Europe, and set up Turkish or Tatar States on the ruins of those which they had overthrown. The destruction of the Arab Caliphate of the Abbassides at Bagdad by Hulagu in 1258 A.D., had for one of its consequences the establishment of a Seljuk Turkish Kingdom, having its capital at Konia, and extending over the greater part of Asia Minor.

The Ottoman Turks claim descent from a tribe coming probably from the Altai mountains, who wandered into Asia Minor at the end of the 13th century. In reward for military services rendered to the Seljuk Kings, they received grants of land in the North-Western provinces of Anatolia, and in two or three generations, under able and unscrupulous chiefs, they gradually absorbed the Seljuk Kingdom, and eventually made themselves masters of the remains of the Byzantine Empire in Asia and in Europe, and of the Serbian and Bulgarian Kingdoms. They reached their apogee in the 16th Century under the great Sultans Selim and Suliman. Since that period their history has been one of gradual decline and loss of territory to the neighbouring European Powers, or to their own revolted subjects. The Balkan war of 1912-1913 deprived them of almost all their remaining European possessions, and reduced the population of the Empire which can properly be called Turkish to the approximate figure given above, namely some eight million souls.

Of these, the great majority, probably over six millions, are to be found in the essentially Turkish provinces of Anatolia. The small remnant of Turkey in Europe and Constantinople contain over a million more, and the border districts of Armenia, Kurdistan and Northern Syria account for the remainder, who are chiefly townspeople, the descendants of Turkish officers, soldiers, and civilians, who took root permanently at the place of their employment.

It must not be supposed that all the Turks who claim to be "Osmanli" are a homogeneous race, descending from the Ottoman clan, or from their fore-runners in Asia Minor, the Seljuks. There is every reason to believe that these invaders assimilated large numbers of the original inhabitants of the country, Phrygians, Cappadocians, etc., who accepted Islam, adopted the Turkish language and customs and are now indistinguishable from the mass of Anatolian Turks, except to the ethnologist and philologist, who are able to discover survivals of type, customs and language, showing their non-Turkish origin. There are, of course, districts where the Turco-Tatar blood is comparatively unmixed, owing either to the extermination of the primitive inhabitants, or to the recent immigration of fresh nomad bands from Asia, or of refugee Crim Tatars, Noghai Tatars and Turcomans from Russia. A few of these have retained their nomadic and pastoral habits, but the majority have settled down to an agricultural life like the surrounding population.

The composite race which has resulted is distinguished by some remarkable qualities which rendered it the mainstay of the great Turkish Empire of the past, and have enabled the present rulers of Turkey to carry on for years an exhausting struggle, under conditions which would have crushed a richer, more populous and more highly organized state. These are, in the first place, unquestioning obedience to authority, great endurance of hardship and privation, a low nervous organization little prone to panic or demoralization and a certain natural and traditional aptitude for warfare, more especially in defensive operations.

The Turks of Constantinople, and of European Turkey differ very widely from the docile and sturdy peasantry of Anatolia. Many of them descend from Europeans, Slav, Greek or Albanian, who embraced Islam at the time of the Conquest, while the Turkish conquerors themselves, for centuries, stocked their harems with women seized from the conquered populations. They are fairer, more regular in feature, and of slighter build, while intellectually they are far superior to the Anatolian, partly owing to the large admixture of European blood, but also to closer contact with Western civilization and greater opportunities for education. Numerous refugees from the lost European provinces, as well as from Crete and the Greek Islands have been settled in Anatolia, principally in the north-western coastal districts, where they have taken the place of the Greeks, who have emigrated or been deported. Where they have settled among the Turks of the interior, they have brought with them a higher standard of living and improved methods of agriculture, including such special agricultural industries as the production of Attar of roses, silk culture, etc. But in other respects they have not proved a very desirable element, as they are in general unruly and turbulent, prone to fanaticism on account of the soreness engendered by their more or less forced emigration from the territories of the Balkan States, and inferior as military material to the hardy and patient Anatolians.

The majority of the governing class in Turkey is supplied by the Turks of Constantinople, with whom must be ranked the middle-class inhabitants of the larger Turkish cities, who are largely the descendants of military officers and civil officials. It must be remembered that in Turkey there is practically no hereditary aristocracy, excepting a few descendants of such of the old feudal landowners and Deré Beys, or "Lords of the Valleys," as escaped the severities of the reforming Sultan Mahmud in the early part of the 19th Century. Nor is there any "bourgeoisie," such as exists in European countries, owing to the non-existence of a commercial, industrial, or professional class among the Turks. The fact of being a Turk, and possessed of a certain standard of education is sufficient qualification for entering the Government Service as an officer or civil official, and this is the sole ambition of every Turk who can learn to read and write. Those who rise to high command or office form a pseudo-aristocracy of Beys and Pashas, while the others fill the less exalted posts of the Army and Civil Service, and with their families represent the middle-class of the Country, as well as the nearest approach which can be found in Turkey to an intelligent public opinion. Among them are to be found a small percentage of men who have been able to complete their studies abroad, and these, with the pick of the graduates of the Faculties of Law and Medicine of Constantinople, and of the Turkish Staff College and the Mulkieh School for the training of Civil Officials, constitute the intellectual élite of the Turkish people. Even here, the standard of knowledge is far from being a high one, for the Turk is, as a rule, intellectually indolent, and usually contents himself with a minimum of mental effort, pursuing his studies in a perfunctory manner until he has obtained the necessary qualification for Government employment, to which he considers that he has a right, as an educated member of the Ottoman Class. This object once attained, he seldom attempts to carry his education any further by private study or research, and it is consequently very rare to find a Turk possessing a high degree of technical, scientific or professional knowledge.

The common man, if a countryman, is a tiller of the soil, either as a small-holder, or as a "yaraji" working on a larger estate on the half-profit system, or as a simple labourer or shepherd. In the towns he is generally a small tradesman or artizan. Very few of the villagers receive any education at all, but in the towns the children of the lower classes can attend the primary schools, and receive some rudimentary instruction in reading, writing and the first rules of arithmetic, thus qualifying for employment in the lower grades of the Civil Service, or as policemen, gendarmes and non-commissioned officers in the Army, from which they may work their way up into the middle-class of Government officials and officers. As Turkey is an almost exclusively agricultural country, it is the countryman who produces almost all the revenue of the State, it is he who bears the chief burden of taxation and military service, and who chiefly suffers from the folly and incompetence of the rulers to whom he renders passive and uncomplaining obedience.

The very general sympathy for the Turkish people which is found among Englishmen is no doubt largely a tradition dating from the Crimean War, when Turkey fought in alliance with Great Britain and France, and our soldiers and sailors were able to appreciate the manly qualities of the Turkish rank and file, without having much opportunity of seeing the shortcomings of the governing classes. That sympathy is shared by most British residents in Turkey, but with those who know the country best it is confined to the Turkish peasantry and working class, and is only extended in exceptional cases to members of the ruling official caste. Individuals of the upper class frequently possess a great deal of natural dignity and charm of manner, and when these qualities are united, as they sometimes are, with a high moral character, integrity and a sense of duty, a type of governing Turk is occasionally found whom the European gladly recognizes as a worthy representative of his nation at its best. Unfortunately such cases are only too rare, and possession of the qualities above indicated has never made for advancement in the service of the State. Under the old régime, independence of character and sense of duty were a positive bar to promotion, and corrupt practices were winked at, provided that a due subservience was shown to the wishes of the Sultan and of the Palace Camarilla by which he was surrounded.

After the revolution of 1908, there was a brief period during which it was hoped that a higher standard of service to the State might be reached. But these hopes were quickly dashed when it was seen that the Liberalism and Constitutionalism of the Young Turk leaders was a mere mockery, and that power had passed into the hands of a small band of young Revolutionaries, of whom it might be said that, though some were actuated by genuine motives of patriotism according to their lights, the majority thought only of personal ambition and self-interest, while all were equally unscrupulous in their methods of government, and indifferent to the welfare of the governed.

Officials and officers quickly learned to obey these new masters with the same servility which they showed to Abdul Hamid, or failing to do so were replaced by the creatures of the Committee of Union and Progress, the secret Junta of which rules Turkey through its representatives in the Cabinet, Talaat and Enver. They have carried out with alacrity the inhuman policies of the Committee by the wholesale massacre of Armenians, executions of Arab leaders and deportations of Greeks, and have even made the ignorant masses the accomplices of their crimes, by arousing their dormant fanaticism, and giving free play to their predatory instincts and blood-lust at the expense of their Christian fellow subjects.

The deliverance of the people of Turkey from the yoke of such masters must not be expected from any spontaneous movement of the sufferers themselves. Revolutions in Turkey are not the result of popular uprisings, but of military "pronunciamentos," headed by malcontent officers when the ruling power in the State has lost its authority owing to military or political failure. When that point has been reached by the tyrants of the Committee, their downfall will take place at the hands of their own revolting officers, but the great mass of the people will know little or nothing of what is on foot, until they learn that a new government has been set up, to which they will then render the same blind obedience as to the predecessors, but without much hope of seeing their lot improved by the change, unless and until the whole rotten fabric of Turkish rule is demolished, and replaced by a radically reformed administration under some form of effective European control.

*To be continued.*

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