

# BALKAN CRISIS PROVOKED BY POWERS' GREED NATIONS NOT IN ACCORD

**Alliance to Press Reforms Upon the Porte Crippled  
by Inability of Christian Governments to Agree  
—Quarrel Among Themselves Over Loot and  
Self-Interest—Peace of the World Imperiled.**

Marquis of Argenson, Louis XV.'s great minister, wrote: "The first great change that will take place in Europe will probably be the conquest of Turkey. This empire grows weaker because of its bad government, and because it is impossible that this government should become better, and quite sure that it will grow worse."



Map of the Disturbed Region.

They are rising in the Ottoman empire. Every day a feather falls from the wings of the Turkish eagle."

So it seemed to this far-sighted man several centuries ago, but to-day there is only one fact of the Balkan situation upon which all sane westerners agree, and that is the growing strength of the Turkish military resources, writes Stephen Bonsal in the Philadelphia Ledger. That is a formidable body of trained and fanatical men, some 300,000 strong, that tramples the Christian peasants of Macedonia under foot, and, after looking the situation over, the intervening powers of Christianity have not fallen on this rugged host, but have fallen out among themselves on a question of railway concessions.

### Thirst for Advantage.

The czar of holy Russia and Emperor Joseph, who was called to rule the holy Roman empire, are exchanging letters, which, while the diplomatic forms are still observed, recall the wordy wars of railway kings. The alliance or entente between the powers which was to press reforms upon the porte that would make it possible for the Christian subjects of the porte to live in peace and yet live Christian lives, has been disrupted by the greed of gain and the thirst for political advantage experienced by the powers, which have in the last decade plumed themselves upon exercising a mandate in Macedonia which they had received from outraged humanity.

It is a pitiful end of the reform decade, and the best that can be said of the situation is that to-day the Christian peasants are not much worse off than they were before, and that those who have survived their hard experiences are probably much wiser than they were when they began their political schooling under such august patronage. Taking the optimistic view, the Turkish soldier is not always a brute and the Turkish official not always a thief. Looking backward now, the more than decimated peasantry of the Macedonian highlands doubtless recall the pleasant days of the uprising, the days when they had not heard of a Pan-Slav or a Pan-Hellenic propaganda, when they didn't know whether they were Servians, Roumanians, Bulgarians or Greeks, and didn't much care.

### The Railway Row.

The railway row is clearly a pretext for and not the cause of the split in the joint Macedonian policy of Russia and Austria. Russia has not even the remotest intention of building a railway from the Danube to the Adriatic.

and if she had the intention, she has not the money. This road would cost millions, and goes through a difficult and what railway men call a very "lean" country. It would never pay; that is, not within the ken of the present generation, and could only serve a political purpose which Russia will be unable to pursue for many years to come.

On the other hand, Austria has the right to build her railway, or rather the gaps in the present system. It is a right that was granted by an article of the Berlin treaty, and it has not lapsed simply because the Austrian government has allowed the matter to lie in abeyance for so many years. The other rumored Austrian project of building a road from her Bosnian-Herzegovina system to the Adriatic, and then down the coast to Montenegro, and ultimately to Greece, is a sound idea, and one that would pay for itself handsomely, at least so far as Cattaro, and probably there is no idea of pushing the road much further in the immediate future.

### Ready for Roads.

Under the fostering care of Herr von Kallay, the provinces of Bosnia, Herzegovina, and in a measure, too, Dalmatia have flourished under Austrian rule and development. They are

ready for railways, and many more of them. Ten years ago the complaint of little Serbia and the veto of Russia would, of course, have brought these projects to an untimely end, but to-day the balance of power in the near east has changed as greatly as it has in the far east, and the protests are more likely to fall to the ground than are the projected railways.

The story of the so-called reforms in Macedonia is a sad and a sordid one. Officially, at least, all Christendom "with a long pull and a pull altogether," has been unequal to the task of making the "sick man of Europe" sit up, or of bringing the "unspeakable Turk" to book. In England alone of all the great powers interested, and, indeed, morally responsible for the horrors of daily and hourly occurrence in the luckless vilayets, is there any appreciation of the dreadful situation. Almost weekly the Macedonian committee, of which Lord Newton and Mr. Gurney are the most active members, publish statistics setting forth as plainly as cold figures can make them, that the present laissez faire policy of the powers has only served to reproduce a tableau of what in the iron age the world must have been.

### England Hampered.

The English humanitarians are hampered in their work by the undeniable fact that through the action of the earl of Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury at the Berlin congress, when they thwarted Ignatieff's plan of a greater Bulgaria, including a free Macedonia, England is primarily responsible for the present status of affairs. They are further hampered by the presence in Constantinople of an incompetent ambassador, who has given undeniable proofs of his want of capacity in such important posts as he has occupied in Sofia, in Peking and in St. Petersburg.

The first whisper of reform—in what we call Macedonia—came in virtue of the accord of 1879 between Austria and Russia, and their recognition by other European states as the powers most directly concerned. The advice of the powers was accepted gracefully—it always is—by the sultan, and with the purpose of forestalling any possible drastic action the sultan himself drew up a program of reforms, and appointed that adroit diplomatist and profound student of human nature, Hussein Hilmi Pasha, inspector general of the disturbed provinces.

### Drawing Up Programs.

The moment Hilmi Pasha arrived at Salonica to assume his herculean task the late Count Lamsdorff, the Russian minister for foreign affairs, set out for a visit to the capitals of the Balkan

peninsula. He visited Sofia and Belgrade, and advised the Servians as well as the Bulgarians to cultivate the more peaceful and above all more lawabiding methods in their Macedonian propaganda.

Count Lamsdorff then proceeded to Vienna, where he had many conferences with Count Goluchowski, the Austro-Hungarian minister of foreign affairs. Together they drew up another program of reforms, which was, of course, immediately accepted by the porte in February, 1903. The details of the proposed reforms are unimportant here and now. They never passed beyond the paper stage. The integrity of the sultan's dominions and his unimpaired sovereignty were safeguarded by them, and in their proposals the powers remained well within the limits of policy defined by that important article 23 of the treaty of Berlin.

### A Bloody Insurrection.

The result of the application of these paper reforms did not remain in doubt for more than a week. Instead of the pacification and a peace approaching that of paradise, which the bureaucratic Russian count prophesied would descend upon the blood-drenched land, came the most bloody and formidable insurrection that the rebellion-ridden country had ever seen. It required 300,000 of the best troops of the Ottoman forces to uphold Turkish authority, and even with this tremendous display of force, the Turks made but little headway against the insurrection until the fall, when many of the Bulgarian bands, yielding rather before the onset of winter than of the Turks, withdrew across the frontier.

To bolster up their shattered prestige in the Balkans, in consequence of the summer's bloody work, the czar of Russia and the emperor of Austria met at Muerzsteg in October. As a result of this imperial conference the intervention of Europe in Macedonian affairs became for the first time direct, but the results of the new course fell far short of expectations, in the first place because of the wonderful ability of Hilmi Pasha to checkmate every move made by the agents of the powers, and in the second because of the well-nigh insuperable difficulty that was experienced in bringing the agents of the powers to act with unanimity or even in good faith.

### Buffers—on Paper.

However, at least, the Muerzsteg program created two organs of control, or buffers between the Turkish authorities and the Christian peasants of Macedonia. Two civil agents, one Mons. Demerik, a Russian, and the other Herr von Muller, an Austrian,

be easily converted into cash. Others were given brilliant decorations and honeyed speeches. It was quite noticeable that many of the foreign officers soon began to exhibit very little interest in the people whom they were sent to protect. "A vermin-stricken, mangy lot," is the way one of the officers was reported to have described the Christian peasants at a concert in Yildiz Kiosk, and shortly afterward his wife appeared with a diamond tiara, which Pera gossips averred she had never been seen to wear before.

### Making No Progress.

So much time was taken in negotiation and discussions, and, above all, in entertainments, that few of the foreign officers reached their respective posts until the fall of 1905. The French were sent to Seres, the English to Drama, the Austrians to Uskub, the Italians to Monastir and the Russians to Salonica. The Germans held back even at this early date in the reform era. They only sent one officer, and he was instructed to refuse to enter the disturbed districts. He contented himself with teaching Turkish recruits the goose-step in the barracks yards of Salonica.

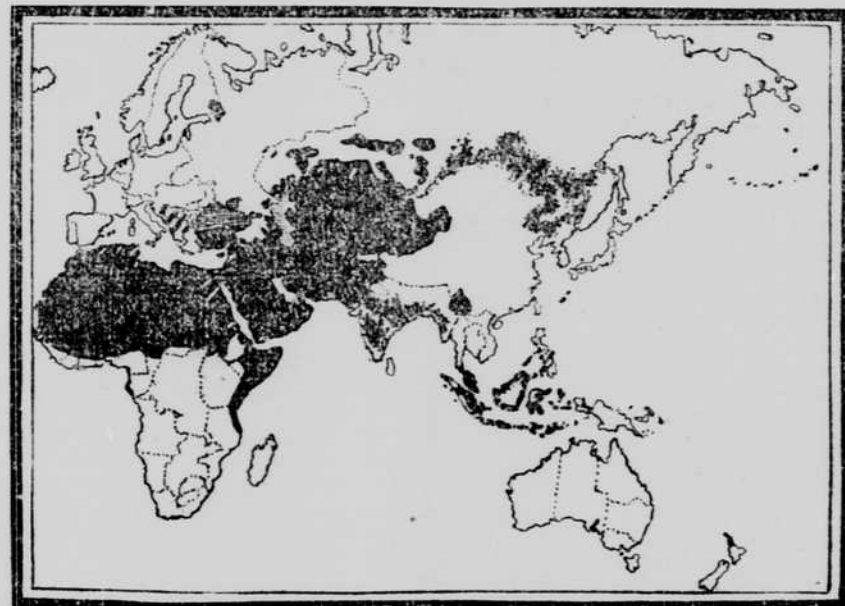
As it has well been said, every one of the powers wishes to modify the present situation, but, unhappily, it would appear that each one wished to modify it for its personal advantage, and, alas, profit. In a word the news from Macedonia is that the champions of Christendom have come to blows, not with the assassins of the sultan, who are seeking to destroy the remnants of the congregation that St. Paul loved, but among themselves over a sordid question of political loot.

### World's Peace Imperiled.

However, the statements made in the British parliament recently by government officials in regard to the Macedonian question go to show that there was something in the reports telegraphed some days ago about the possible disruption of the concert of the European powers and subsequent trouble in the near east. The secretary for foreign affairs said emphatically that if Macedonia continued to be neglected a catastrophe would follow.

It is, indeed, time that effective reform measures should be put in force in Macedonia for the good of the Christian inhabitants of the province.

A foreign general officer has been in charge of the Macedonian gendarmerie with other foreign officers under him, but supreme control has remained in the hands of Turkish officials. As long as that is the case real reform is out of the question. The British government, recognizing



World-Wide Distribution of the Moslem Faith.

At the present moment there is a great revival of Pan-Islamic feeling, which is the cause of many new and difficult problems wherever east and west come into contact. Moslems throughout the world followed the Russo-Japanese war with the greatest interest, and they are keenly alive to the problem of Turkey. A writer in the Times has pointed out that it is a mistake to believe that the awakening is due to a movement on the part of the Yildiz Kiosk. Its causes lie deeper, and Mohammedans are anxious to shake off the reproach that their religion is only for degenerate or conquered races. The distribution of Islamism is shown in black.

were authorized to and expected to control the action of the Turkish authorities. They were expected to shadow the inspector general, to indicate to him the reforms which they thought would prove helpful, and to listen attentively to the complaints of the Christian inhabitants. They were ordered and authorized to investigate all complaints that were brought to their attention, but unfortunately the investigation had always to be held in the presence of a Turkish functionary—in other words under circumstances where no Christian peasant, after 600 years of Turkish supremacy, would dare to tell the truth. Something more than moral support was required to make the slave of centuries stand up and defend himself.

In addition to the restraint of the civil agents, there were appointed a large number of foreign officers to serve with the Turkish constabulary. An Italian general was placed in command of the constabulary reorganization scheme, and to him were attached many of the foreign officers. The scheme proved ineffectual from the beginning. Instead of commanding the gendarmerie in the field, the sultan held, and imposed his view upon the powers, that the foreign officers were merely to act as instructors in schools for aspirant constables. Six months, a delay of tragic importance to the hunted Christian peasantry of the Macedonian highlands, was spent in discussing the question whether the European officers should wear Christian caps or the Turkish fez.

In the meanwhile the wily sultan was more than friendly. Those of the foreign officers who could be reached in that way were loaded with rich presents. Some of these presents were undeniably of a kind that could



THE SULTAN OF TURKEY.

ing that, raises the question whether the time has not come for the appointment of a Christian governor for Macedonia. The sultan may be expected to resist such an appointment, for he would see in it the prelude to the loss of the province. Turkish history has taught him that.

The secretary for foreign affairs says the concert of powers must either justify or stultify itself. That is, it must either demand further concessions of Turkey or split up. If it shall do the latter, then Turkey will be obliterated and the peace of Europe may be imperiled once more. Whether any power is prepared to side with Turkey and block reform in Macedonia remains to be seen. There have been rumors that one or another power would do this, but as yet nothing is certain.

# MILE ROCK LIGHT

STORY OF BUILDING OF THIS  
REMARKABLE STATION.

All Who Enter or Depart from the  
Harbor of San Francisco Mark  
It as One of the Sights of  
the Passage.

The story of the building of the famous Mile Rock lighthouse, which passengers always observe as they enter and depart from the harbor of San Francisco, is an interesting and in some respects a thrilling one—replete with human daring and danger.

This little station was completed and the light first displayed early in January, 1906. More than a year was consumed in the construction of the station. For the past half a century Mile Rock has been a constant menace to shipping. Every vessel entering or departing from the Golden Gate during darkness or heavy weather ran the gauntlet of danger.

Mile Rock stands just one mile from the south mainland, opposite the entrance to San Francisco harbor, and about three miles from the North Head. It was originally a mere pinnacle of sharp, ragged rocks, jutting just above the ocean's surface. At extreme low tide the points of the rock were only 14 feet above the sea. At high tide the rock was practically submerged, and during stormy weather was constantly waveswept.

To construct a light station on such a foundation was certainly a very difficult and perilous task—next to an engineering impossibility.

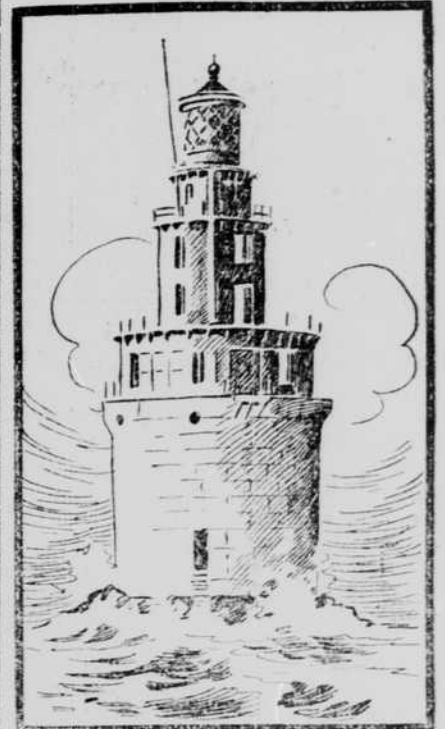
Congress appropriated \$100,000 for the work, but no contractor, after knowing all the difficulties and dangers of the work, liked to undertake such a task, and much delay followed before the contract was let. It was finally awarded James McMahon of San Francisco, who at once began operations.

No regular skilled workmen could be persuaded to engage in such hazardous work, and so finally Contractor McMahon had to hire raw seamen, for he could secure none others. These unskilled men were set to work under an experienced foreman, and gradually initiated into what was necessary. These "tars" had but little fear of the sea and its perils.

From the original shape of Mile Rock it was impossible to build up a perfectly round cylinder; but it was constructed in an elliptical form, 25 feet the narrow way and 40 feet the long way. The metal plates of which this huge cylinder was built were 2 1/2

by 5 feet in diameter and five-eighths of an inch in thickness. They were very strongly bolted with steel rivets. As rapidly as the cylinder was built upward all the interior space was filled with strongly reinforced concrete, very firmly tamped. This cylinder foundation was constructed 42 feet high—thus making a solid concrete mass 25x40x42 feet. More than 1,200 barrels of cement alone were used in building this foundation, and many tons of steel plates.

The concrete, while in a pliant state, settled all around the ragged points of



Mile Rock Lighthouse.

the rocks that jutted far upward inside the immense cylinder, and uniting with them thus formed an anchorage that was simply impregnable.

From the top of this massive foundation the gradually tapering superstructure rises 56 feet—making the total distance from the mean sea level to the light about 100 feet. The upper part of the station is of structural steel massively anchored into the concrete foundation.

It is a noteworthy fact that during all the time work was in progress on the station—over a year—not a life was lost, no person was even injured, and no sort of accident occurred to retard the construction. Considering the constant perils that beset the undertaking the record is a remarkable one.

# A MYSTERY SOLVED

WHEN ALEXANDER I. CZAR OF  
RUSSIA, DIED.

Legend That He Abdicated and Died  
Forty Years After His Sup-  
posed Death Has Been  
Disproved.

Certainty as to the death of Alexander I. has resulted from the finding of documents by the Grand Duke Nicholas which disprove the accuracy of the legend, common enough among



Chapel Erected Over the Tomb of the Hermit.

the Russian people, that the czar, instead of dying, really abdicated and retired from the world, and expired in the year 1861. The hermit Feodor Kozomitch, who had been identified as Alexander I., is now proved to have been the natural son of Paul I.

From such a source there now appears to be no reason to doubt the truth of this strange story, and a French journal recently gave currency to the following remarkable solution of the old mystery.

It must be recalled that the alleged death of the Emperor Alexander I. was at least mysterious. There was current a story that he had been dropped by the hand of an assassin. It was said also that he had succumbed to a bilious fever, called in Russia the Crimea fever. Whichever his death is viewed, it was mysterious. Alexander as ruler of Russia never was a happy man. He came to a throne which had been stained by the blood of his father, Paul I., and the murder of his parent made a deep impression upon him. At night while Paul was asleep in the Michaeloff palace, bold assassins, after killing the sentry at the door, rushed upon the sleeping czar, and, calling upon him to abdicate, strangled him brutally when he refused.

The murder of his father occurred in 1801 and Alexander sat on the throne until, in 1825, when his death

was officially announced, and what was supposed to be his body was borne on a bier to the tomb.

According to the legend, Alexander slipped away and caused to be published the proclamation of his death. He went to Siberia, according to the story, which appeared to be impregnable with the evidence of two servants at the court, a letter written by Alexander and by the remarkable likeness existing between the supposedly dead monarch and a hermit named Feodor Kozomitch, who for many years was an exile in Siberia.

Nothing in fiction is more strange than the tale of the effacement of Alexander I., and Tolstoy has given the popular version of it in one of his stories, for the legend is common enough in Russia, but ignored when not contradicted in official histories.

Among the documents which have lain unknown in the personal archives of the present czar are the journal of the Empress Elizabeth, widow of Alexander, who was with the emperor in his last moments, and the letters of the emperor's familiars, who attended him in his last hours; the death mask of the emperor, the certificate of the nine doctors describing the nature of his disease and the result of the autopsy. It is also maintained that, under the circumstances, it would have been impossible for a body to have been substituted for that of the emperor.

The solution of the mystery, then, had to be looked for in another direction. This now has been accomplished, and it is asserted that the circumstances surrounding the death of the natural son of Paul I. were peculiar. From midshipman he became an officer in the British navy and is said by one account to have died while his vessel was in the Antilles in 1794. Another account of his death relates that he was drowned at Cronstadt, and still another version states that he died in the Indies. The investigation has shown that, while apparently drowned, the young man was resuscitated and became the exile.

The Grand Duke Nicholas, in making his search, also found that the names Feodor and Kozma, or Kozma, which are the same as Feodor Kozomitch, occur with frequency in the family of Semen Velikii, under which name the son of Paul I. was known. In discovering the identity of Paul's natural son with this person, the grand duke believes he has settled a vexed question and set at rest for all time the curious legend. As the half brother of the Emperor Alexander, the hermit not unnaturally resembled him sufficiently for court retainers to recognize him and to give the impression that the czar was not dead, but living incognito as a holy man in Siberia.