

# IN THE LIMELIGHT

## TELLS OF RUSSIAN SOCIALISM

Henry N. Hall has made a close study of conditions existing in Russia since the revolution. In a recent interview he said:

"To understand the Russian revolution and the situation which has developed over there in the army—the Russian collapse, as some newspapers call it—you must study the underlying causes, or rather, I should say, their underlying cause. For the overthrow of the czar on the one hand and on the other the refusal of many of Russia's bravest and best soldiers to fight any more are both due to one and the same thing: Class-struggle socialism. Let me see if I can make it clear."

"Abraham Cahan, the editor of the Jewish Daily Forward—the man who teaches socialism to the great East side—was telling me of the upheaval in Russia, the land of his birth, and explaining to me the why's and wherefore's of the apparently contradictory events which have happened in quick succession on the eastern front. I listened intently as he went on:

"As a technical term of scientific socialism the words 'class struggle' mean more than the mere struggle between capital and labor. You might as well talk the Talmud to a Sunday school child as to try to get people here to understand the Russian situation if they have no knowledge of what 'class struggle' means in socialism. The doctrine of 'class struggle' which all of us socialists preach has undergone some important modifications, and this is where the trouble comes in. It is the weak spot of our movement. Anyway, it has been too weak to stand the strain of the present world war. It is the line along which our vessel has been cracked by the great conflict. To put it in plain English, the war has split the Socialist party in several of the belligerent countries, Russia among them. If in the new-born democracy this split has assumed graver forms than it has elsewhere these are due to the extraordinary conditions with which that country has been surrounded by the war on the one hand and the revolution on the other."



Succession on the eastern front. I

# What's Been Happening In Turkey



ABRAM I. ELKUS

As related by Ambassador Elkus, the American representative at Constantinople, to a newspaper correspondent



ST. SOPHIA MOSQUE AT CONSTANTINOPLE (Built 1400 Years Ago)

By HENRY N. HALL, in the New York World.

**A**BRAM I. ELKUS, ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States to the Sublime Porte, is the only man in this country today who by first-hand knowledge can tell of things as they are in the land of the Turk. Stricken with the dreaded typhus, he lay at the point of death when, obeying the mandate of Germany, the imperial Ottoman government broke off diplomatic relations with the United States. Mr. Elkus' personality had so impressed the Turks that the sultan's government insisted upon his remaining in Constantinople until his health was thoroughly restored and he could, without danger of a relapse, undertake the long and arduous journey to America. Mr. Elkus continued the excellent impression created by his predecessor, the Hon. Henry Morgenthau, and by his efficiency and kindness had done more than make himself popular in Turkey; he has made the United States popular. Without any diplomatic training, the plain American lawyer who until then had been distinguished only by his philanthropy made an excellent record in an extremely difficult diplomatic post, and while engaged upon an errand of mercy, visiting a Red Cross soup kitchen, contracted the infection which so nearly cost him his life.

Armenia was uppermost in my thoughts as I talked with Ambassador Elkus. Peaceful, industrious, intelligent Armenia, an intellectual people, clever in practical affairs and of lofty idealism. When Turkey entered the war there were two million Armenians, but the atrocities of 1915 and 1916 very greatly reduced their number. Systematic butchery and wholesale slaughter of these people by the Turks makes this one of the most terrible crimes in the history of mankind.

Why has Germany allowed these things to be done? The atrocities committed by the Turks in Armenia are perhaps no worse than those of which the Germans themselves have been guilty in Belgium and France, but there is something peculiarly horrible in the cold-blooded extermination of a brave and cultured people. What interest had Germany in allowing this thing to be done? The only explanation that can be offered is that Germany wanted the Armenians exterminated because it suited the purposes of her commercial greed.

The Armenians are the tanners, the molders, the blacksmiths, the tailors, the carpenters, the jewelers, the weavers, the shoemakers, the clerks, the pharmacists, the doctors, the lawyers of Asia Minor and of the Turkish empire. They are at heart a conservative people and for hundreds of years their trade has been done with France and England. They do not take kindly to German goods. Therefore Germany closed her eyes while Turkey was exterminating them. The presence of the Armenian was a menace, or at least threatened to retard the Pan-German development of Mittel-Europa.

### Sympathy for the United States.

There is throughout the Levant and the Balkans a real and deep-rooted sympathy for the United States. The leading Bulgarian statesmen are graduates of American schools and colleges. The Turkish government has taken a graduate of the American College for Girls in Constantinople and placed her in charge of the organization of Turkish schools in Syria. It is especially among the middle and the lower classes that the United States is genuinely popular. Emigrants who have returned, tourists who have traveled, all agree that America stands for democratic principles—that is, for liberty and equality of opportunity for all, rich and poor alike, without class distinctions. The present grand vizier of Turkey started in life as a telegraph messenger boy in Adrianople.

Turkey broke off diplomatic relations with the United States two weeks after the declaration of war with Germany. The exact date was April 20. Ambassador Elkus was informed by a prominent member of the Turkish government that the pressure exerted by Germany upon the Sublime Porte to break off relations with America was daily growing stronger. It is significant that the note announcing the rupture of relations was dated Friday, which is the Turkish Sabbath. Yet on the day when all public offices are closed, the Turkish cabinet held a meeting and the note was drafted, signed and dispatched. To everyone in Constantinople this denoted that the utmost pressure had been brought to bear upon the sultan's government by his Teutonic ally.

When the war broke out there was only \$4,000,000 worth of paper money in Turkey. Everything was paid for in hard cash, and gold and silver were the currency almost exclusively used in the daily transactions of the people. Everything was on a cash basis. There is in Turkey today—after 33 months of war—more than \$350,000,000 of paper money, the authorized emissions having reached a total of nearly 90,000,000 pounds.

The poor in Turkey find it hard to keep themselves alive. The only reason many of them do manage to live in the cities is because the government allows each inhabitant half a pound of bread a day, for which the recipient has to pay two cents. Somehow or other they all manage to get their two cents a day. Then there are soup kitchens run by the American Red Cross, the Turkish Red Crescent, the Jewish Charities commission, the Greek Patriarch, and other societies. Some soup kitchens give food free; others sell at cost price.

There are now no dogs in the streets of Constantinople. Time was when they acted as scavengers, but now there is no surplus left around to eat. The people save their last crust. There are no bones. The dogs were not shot or used for military service, they were sent off to a semi-desert island in the sea of Marmora and have undisputed sway of its barren shores.

The government makes free distribution of beans, cheese and olives to the families of soldiers, but this support is doled out in dribbles. Destitute families among the civilian population also get supplies free from some of the charitable organizations, but before the war one never heard of men and women dropping dead from starvation in the streets. Even now it is comparatively rare, but deaths from malnutrition and lack of resistance to even mild diseases are not uncommon. People weakened by lack of food fall easy prey to ailments which in normal times would not be serious.

The aspect of Constantinople has changed considerably since the outbreak of the war. Curiously enough, it has immensely improved, and from a cause which is entirely unrelated to war or political conditions. It happened that during the first year of the war an unusually capable and honest man was mayor of Constantinople—Djemil Pasha, the foremost surgeon in Turkey. He went to work on the city as if it had been a diseased human being and performed surgery on the streets. He cut out and removed unhealthy slums and widened and relaid streets; he paved streets and cleaned streets and made parks and open breathing places. He got the telephone system completed and the street car system electrified. In 1915 he resigned because of trouble with the government and went to Switzerland, where he had been educated. Later he made his peace with the powers that be and is now back in Constantinople.

### Germany Dominates Turkey.

How far Germany seeks to dominate Turkey, not only in military but also in civil matters, may best be shown by the fact that Berlin insisted, as part of the recent treaty with the Sublime Porte, upon the reorganization of the court system and the abolition of the religious tribunals. This means a profound modification of the Mohammedan political and civic system along German lines.

The U. S. S. Scorpion is interned in Constantinople for the duration of the war. There are only three officers and sixty men on board. Permission for shore leave under proper restrictions is not denied by the Turkish authorities.

The wonder of wonders in Constantinople is that women workers are beginning to be seen. Woman's first step toward emancipation through work in Turkey was brought about by an American invention—the telephone. "Hello girls" were first employed. Then the city got permission to use women as street sweepers—if they could sweep the houses, why couldn't they sweep the streets? Then the post office went short of men and a few women were used as letter sorters. There are also Turkish women employed as hospital nurses and in the soup kitchen.

Although Turkey is virtually dominated by Germany in military matters, the Turks do not love the Germans. In the estimation of the gentle Turk, the German lacks tact and delicacy. Teutonic ability, energy, initiative and capacity are admired and genuinely respected, but the Turk and the German do not mix any more than oil and water. Yet Germans are everywhere in Turkey, and are almost falling over themselves in Constantinople. There are German officers, German military experts, German civil advisers, German educators—for Germany is paying particular attention to the education of the rising generation of young Turks. Even the Germans put in a military officer as adviser to the Turkish police headquarters. The Turks somewhat resented that.

The Turkish police system is about the best organized thing they have in Turkey. Here the Oriental love of intrigue can give itself full play, and as for astuteness and "finesse," the Turkish secret service is not to be beat. It has more weird and curious devices, more strange and secret methods than the mathematical mind of German efficiency ever dreamed of.

The legal limit for Mohammedans is four wives. As a matter of fact, most of them get along with one. There are, of course, some old-fashioned reactionaries who insist upon their legal matrimonial complement, and a few poor men who want a servant and cannot afford one. These marry

a second wife, who becomes the household drudge for her keep only. But polygamy in Turkey is fast disappearing in the best classes, as the educated Turkish woman of today will not marry a man who already has one or more wives, nor will she consent to share her husband afterward.

Of course Turks still refer to their harem, but when they do so they rarely if ever mean what the American understands by the word. Harem means womanfolk, and a Turk speaking of his harem includes his mother and sisters and his cousins and his aunts as well as his wife or wives. The part of the house set aside for their use is called the harem, and far from being furnished with Oriental luxuriance, as most people imagine, it is not infrequently contains Grand Rapids furniture, uncomfortable chairs, pianos, phonographs and the other appurtenances of an average American flat.

There are a number of theaters in Constantinople, or structures that go by that delusive name, but one rarely sees anything even approaching a decent show. The moving picture houses are legion, and when the staff of the American embassy left Constantinople they were showing, in weekly installments, a wonder film called "Mysteries of New York," which is said to have cost a million dollars. Every title and "cut-in" bore the added remark, "Captured in Roumania." French films, however, are rarely seen, sometimes a few Italian ones, but usually the "Mester" films "made in Germany" are shown. There is, of course, a weekly war film, but invariably the Austrian war films are more popular than the German. Nothing but victories are ever shown.

Constantinople has had little to fear from air raids, and the streets have remained brightly lighted at night. One unexpected effect of the war has been the rapid spread of the installation of electric light to all classes of buildings, despite the exorbitant cost of wiring and of electric light fixtures. The reason is that petroleum oil, formerly used for illuminating, now costs \$5 gold a gallon, and the high-proof gasoline cannot be had for love or money. All the fuel for automobiles is under military control.

### WHERE SOME NICKNAMES GIVEN WORLD'S FIGHTING MEN HAD ORIGIN

Will it be "Sammy's"? Probably not. The history of slang shows that nicknames of soldiers (or anything else) come from the soldiers themselves, or very often from the enemy. It apparently has occurred to nobody who writes letters to the newspapers that the American soldier has gone through several wars without any fixed slang name such as the English soldier's Tommy Atkins.

Most of the letters advocate the Sammy appellation. Who started it nobody knows. Probably the idea of Sammy after Uncle Sam broke out in eruption in several quarters at the same time. Word from France says that the men of the Pershing expedition do not like the idea. Sammy or any word ending in the affectionate diminutive to the American mind is unmanly. That is not so in England and British possessions. "Tommy Atkins" sprang, according to well-established reports, from a word written on a sample form of application to the British army. It represented the British "John Doe." And anyway Tommy applies only to the English soldier, usually a little fellow, and not to the big-boned colonials, Scotch "Kilties" or Irish Dragoons or Fusiliers.

With Sammy as a basis the letter writers next decided on Samson as a fitting name—less effeminate. "The Sons of Sam—Uncle Sam"—fine and manly, they argued. But Samsons didn't stick either. Then many advocated "Yanks" from Yankee, the old Civil War nickname for the Union troops. That, of course, did not appeal to the Southerners. Somebody wrote in that Yanks wouldn't do because Yankee came from an Indian word which meant coward. That isn't shown by Webster, who gives a dozen other theories about the origin of Yankee. Like all other slang words it comes from so far back that nobody's memory would serve in untangling the mystery.

In the Civil War the Northerners were "Yankees" or "Yanks," meaning properly in the States a New Englander, but a word applied abroad to all Americans. The Southerners were "Rebs," from rebels, or "Johnny Rebs." It is apparent that each got his name from the enemy. So in the Mexican war the only slang name the American soldiers had was "gringo," also given to him by the enemy. "Gringo" means nothing in Spanish. The Australian and New Zealand soldiers of the British army have been dubbed "Anzac," a combination of the initial letters of Australian and New Zealand army corps. The Scotch retain their name of "kilties," of course, from the kilts they wear. The German soldiers are said to call them "the ladies of hell," but that was too long a title to remain, although it probably pleased the "kilties."

There has been much discussion about "boche," the name for the German soldiers, and "pölu," the French soldier. "Boche" is French slang, and its birth is clothed in mystery almost always surrounding a slang word. It means a most despicable sort of person and is an insult.

In that connection the American army already has its slang term for an infantryman. It is used commonly in the army, but generally unknown to the civilian. The term is "doughboy." Since "doughboy" long has been an American infantryman the United States army already has an explicit slang term as the French army has in "pölu." "Doughboy" is in Webster as meaning an infantryman in the United States.

Probably "doughboy," by reason of its use and popularity in the American army, will become the general word for the American soldier before the war is over. "Gringo" also may become common usage, for the American soldiers have seen so much service in and near Spanish speaking countries that they often refer to themselves in fun as "gringos."—New York Herald.

### GUARDS HEALTH OF SOLDIERS



In perfect physical trim that the surgeon general has found it necessary to issue this health order.

Surgeon General Blue is convinced that such edible nicknacks as "hot dogs, peanuts, lemonade and ice cream cones" should be accurately set down on the public menus as "trash" and he will, therefore, strictly segregate any of the ubiquitous "pop and peanut" men who might hover about the various cantonments many miles from their objectives.

Soldiers, as a rule, have pronounced "sweet tooth" and, as a consequence, delight in spending their loose change about stands which fly popular colored advertising pennants and are armored with tin soft drink emblems.

These same soldiers, also Surgeon General Blue maintains, generally have more or less stomach trouble from their careless diet and are many times temporarily incapacitated from their routine of duties. And it is with the object in view of keeping "the boys"

in perfect physical trim that the surgeon general has found it necessary to issue this health order.

It is presumed that the "pop and peanut" edict will eventually reach those camps adjacent to the District. At the present time, however, its jurisdiction ends on the borders of those cantonments situated in and near Anliston, Ga.

### ACTING CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF

Maj. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, assistant chief of general staff, was born in Pennsylvania, December 31, 1853, and appointed to the Military academy from that state in 1871. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the First artillery on June 10, 1875. He has been acting chief of the general staff because of the absence of Gen. Hugh L. Scott, military head of the American commission to Russia.

As chief of the general staff, General Bliss is military adviser to the secretary of war, and it is his job to plan and see that the administration's plans for the participation of the forces of the United States in the great war are executed.

Before being assigned to his present post, General Bliss came into prominence while military governor of Mindanao, one of the islands in the Philippine group, where he successfully subdued the rebellious tribes. He was succeeded at that post by Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing, now a major general and in France at the head of the first American army to participate in the war against Prussianism.



### EXPERT IN AVIATION WORK



He served up to the time that the American troops were withdrawn from Mexico.

Maj. Benjamin D. Foulois, Jr., military aviator, can justly be called the original "bird-man" of the army. When attending the signal school in 1907 and 1908 flying, which had never been seen in the United States, was his hobby and his graduating address was on that subject, and men here who heard that address state that each of his predictions have come about with but little variation from his prognostications.

He has been on aviation duty from its beginning in the United States army. In July, 1909, he operated the government dirigible at Fort Myer, St. Joseph, Mo., and Omaha, January, 1910, to July, 1911, he operated the first army airplanes at San Antonio and engaged in reconnaissance duty on the Mexican border in 1911, after which he was relieved from aviation service until 1915, when he was ordered to the Mexican border, where

When the United States entered the war against Germany, Major Foulois was brought to Washington and placed in charge of the organization, training and supplying of the new aerial forces of the United States army.