

CURRENT TOPICS

THE SITUATION IN TURKEY IS VERY grave. According to a writer in the New York Sun, most of the four hundred persons killed during the disturbances in Salonica, following the dynamite explosions, were Bulgarians and Macedonians who were shot down by Turkish soldiers. The Sun writer says: "There seems to be reason to believe that the blowing up of buildings throughout the city was the work of the Bulgarian revolutionary committee, its purpose being to provoke the soldiery to savage measures of retaliation. The statement is constantly repeated from the best sources that most of the disorders in Macedonia can be traced to the sinister ingenuity of the revolutionists. They seem to be acting on the theory that relief from the rule of the Turk can be had only by creating such a situation that Russia and Austria will be forced to intervene. To further their cause they are desperate enough to sacrifice their own people, to shed the blood of the innocents, if good may come of it. The Turks are nothing loath to revenge themselves, and the Porte seizes the opportunity to appeal to the powers to restrain the revolutionary committee, and to plead that it is impossible to carry on reforms while the country is rent with disorders."

THE HURRYING OF A STRONG NAVAL fleet by Italy to Salonica is regarded by the writer in the Sun as ominous, because the Italians have a fair understanding of the Turkish character. Order has been restored temporarily, but the slightest demonstration on the part of the Bulgarian population may precipitate a collision of soldiers who if they get out of hand will take a fearful vengeance on the Christians. The Sun writer says that "massacre under cover of the exercise of police authority is not a novelty in Turkey. The danger is that the dynamite outrages in Salonica may be repeated in Uskub and Monastir, and even in Constantinople, and that the wrath of the Turk may blaze into relentless retaliation that will render him blind to the consequences. That the authorities are doing their utmost to preserve order is not to be doubted for a moment. On one side we see the allies conscientiously trying to restrain the Bulgarian anarchists, and on the other the Porte standing behind the Turkish soldiers and the Christian population and pleading for forbearance. Neither the sultan, who has promised reforms and realizes that his European throne is in danger, nor the czar and his ally, Francis Joseph, want war. Both sides are moving heaven and earth to avoid it, but at the present time a conflict between Turkey and Bulgaria seems almost unavoidable."

THE BRIEF IN THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY case on behalf of the United States was prepared by Former Secretary of State John W. Foster. The United States government depends almost entirely on the interpretation of the treaty between Great Britain and Russia in 1825 in which treaty the boundary between the American possessions of those two governments was defined. A writer in the Sioux City Journal, commenting on Mr. Foster's brief, says: "Back in 1821 the czar of Russia issued an imperial ukase laying claim to exclusive jurisdiction on the high seas for 100 miles from the coast of Alaska, and forbidding the vessels of any other power to land on the coast or trade with the natives. Great Britain, then, as now, the leading maritime power, entered an emphatic protest to this high handed proceeding, and Russia presently prepared to climb down the pole. To save the face of Russia, the two nations entered upon the negotiation of a treaty, ostensibly to define the boundaries between their possessions, but actually to provide for Russia's recession from her ridiculous assumption of jurisdiction over the high sea. This phase of the matter was well understood at the time, and ex-Secretary Foster has been able to quote the words of the British minister for foreign affairs in calling attention to the main purpose. Abandoning her claim to the high sea, Russia devoted her attention to securing exclusive control of the ports along the coast. Great Britain did not resist Russia's demands in this direction. Great Britain did not think very highly of the commercial possibilities of the territory affected, and contented herself with push-

ing Russia's southern line as far north as possible."

AS A RESULT OF THESE DIFFERENCES the treaty between Great Britain and Russia was concluded in 1825, and this treaty provided that except where a mountain range formed a natural water shed defining the boundary, between the British and Russian territory, the boundary should be accepted as lying thirty miles in from the coast, making the Russian territory constitute a strip along the coast mainland following the convolutions of the various inlets or arms of the sea. The Journal writer says: "Mr. Foster claims to be able to show that the British negotiations at the time were ready to make the strip 100 miles wide if Russia had insisted, but as Russia's acknowledged purpose was to control access only to the coast Great Britain was able to make a better bargain. Not only in the language of the treaty, but in the motives the nations had in mind does the United States find confirmation of its interpretation of the meaning of the treaty. What Great Britain wanted was to induce Russia to abandon her claim to sea jurisdiction and exclusive trading privileges. In order to do this she was willing to concede Russia's claim to the coast. That Great Britain in the treaty actually did relinquish all rights along coast territory is shown by the treaty itself, which provides that British vessels plying along the coast must be provided with a special license to enable them to enter the Russian ports. The British diplomats dickered for a while about the latter provision, but finally conceded it, thereby conceding the point which it is now trying to enforce against the United States."

IT IS POINTED OUT BY THIS SAME AUTHORITY that for seventy years the Russian and British map makers alike defined the Alaskan boundary in accord with the treaty stipulations. It was only after the opening of the Canadian gold fields in the interior that Canada saw the advantage of gaining access to the coast and advanced the new theory that under the treaty of 1825 the Canadians were entitled to access to tidewater. Against this belated claim is the logic of the treaty, that of the motives leading up to the treaty and the record of the negotiations, and finally the long period during which Russia's interpretation of the treaty, later taken up by the United States, remained undisputed.

AN INTERESTING STORY COMES FROM Hartford, Conn., and relates to the finding of some money and its restoration with interest shortly afterwards. The story is told by the Hartford Courant in these words: "Three weeks ago A. Marwick, jr., sent one of his clerks to the Connecticut River Bank with a good-sized roll of money, including \$5 in silver quarters. On the way to the bank the clerk in some way lost the \$5 in silver and returned to tell Mr. Marwick of the fact. For a few days Mr. Marwick had hopes of seeing his money again, as his name was written plainly on the paper wrapped around it, but when two weeks went by without any signs of it he came to the conclusion that all Hartford was not honest. Thursday night Mr. Marwick received a queerly addressed envelope, and on opening it he found a new \$5 bill, twenty-five postage stamps of the 1-cent denomination, and a short letter. The letter was as follows: "Found by a dishonest man, a roll of silver quarters, containing \$5, near the Connecticut River Bank, and marked Marwick Drug Company. It was probably lost by a clerk." There was no signature or any explanation regarding the twenty-five 1-cent postage stamps. Mr. Marwick thinks they were no doubt sent as interest for keeping the money for three weeks. Any way he is well satisfied."

THE FAMOUS WASHINGTON ELM IN FRONT of the Wadsworth Athenaeum, in Hartford, Conn., was felled recently on account of the possibility of its being blown down in the spring storms. It was discovered that a cross section made in one of its limbs showed it to be partly hollow and revealed that this hollow space took the shape of the familiar profile bust of George Washington. Although some people are inclined

to doubt the veracity of this report, it is asserted by the people of that city that the specimen is really as described and has been viewed by many persons. It will be remembered that this elm was so called because General Washington and Rochambeau met under it in Hartford, and the tree has been regarded as a landmark in the city for over a century.

SOME DISCUSSION HAS RECENTLY BEEN held over the claim made by the German emperor that he was one of the youngest reigning monarchs of Europe. A Paris cablegram to the New York World says that Emperor William is in reality eighth in point of youth, and adds: "The king of Spain is seventeen years old, the queen of Holland twenty-two, the king of Servia twenty-six, the king of Italy thirty-three, the czar of Russia thirty-five this month, the king of Portugal thirty-nine, the prince of Bulgaria forty-two—all his juniors. William I. is forty-four years old. After him rank prince of Monaco, fifty-four; the king of Bavaria, fifty-five; the king of Greece, fifty-seven; the sultan of Turkey, sixty; the prince of Montenegro, sixty-one; the king of England, sixty-one; the king of Roumania, sixty-four; the king of Wurtemberg, sixty-five; the king of the Belgians, sixty-eight; the king of Saxony, seventy; Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, seventy-two; the king of Sweden, seventy-four, and the king of Denmark, eighty-five. To go outside of Europe, the sultan of Morocco, twenty-four; the khedive of Egypt, twenty-eight, and the emperor of China are younger than Emperor William, while the older monarchs are the king of Siam, forty-nine; the mikado of Japan, fifty; the shah of Persia, fifty; the emperor of Corea, fifty; the ameer of Afghanistan, fifty-eight, and the negus of Abyssinia, sixty."

ACCORDING TO A CORRESPONDENT OF the New York Tribune, the record for economy in municipal government is held by the town of White Pigeon, Mich., which makes the claim that it is run as cheaply as any town in this country. It is said that last year it cost the 800 inhabitants \$1,321 for expenses. The health department spent \$2.25 in addition to the health officer's salary of \$20; the police department appropriation was 50 cents; the fire department \$60. Two of the big items of expense were \$145 for ground mole bounties and \$126 for woodchuck scalps. The town should have economized in these, as such an outlay was very reckless.

SINCE IT BECAME FULLY ESTABLISHED that mosquitoes carry the germs of infectious diseases, scientists have been studying the manner in which many diseases are carried about. A correspondent of the Chicago Chronicle says that it has been discovered that the bubonic plague is carried from port to port by rats in ships and that a French investigator now finds that the disease is communicated from rat to rat by fleas and that promiscuous intercourse between healthy and infected rats or their cadavers never transmits the plague, while fleas conveyed the disease in eight tests out of nine. So medical officers are now giving assiduous attention to the health and comfort of the rats in their district.

AN ACCIDENT IN CARVING THE DATE ON a tombstone has caused a curious inscription to appear on a stone in the burying ground of Germantown, Pa. The story is told by the New York Tribune in this way: "An oddly carved tombstone marks the resting place, in Ax's Burying Ground, Germantown, Pa., of the remains of an old resident of that suburb. It bears the following inscription: 'In memory of Adam Shisler, who departed this life December 22, 1777, aged 969 years.' Every one in Germantown, however, believes that Master Shisler was not a Methuselah, and is confident that there must have been some mistake. And so there was. The explanation is that the stonemason marked the man's age 96, instead of 69, by an accident that might happen to any absent-minded person. To correct the error the '9' was filled with cement and another figure was cut after the '6.' Time and frost have loosened the cement,