

WAR'S DARK TRAIL in the BALKANS

MAKING RAPID STRIDES

Canada Improving in Every Way —Agriculturally, Commercially and Financially.

The reports coming to hand every day from all branches of industry in Canada speak highly of the constructive ability of that country.

Recently the managing directors of the Canadian Credit Men's Association gave out the statement that business in Western Canada was good. In every branch it is better than in 1913, and everyone will remember that in that year business was excellent. He says:

"The beauty of it is the way in which payments are coming in. Merchants all over the West are taking their cash discounts. Such a transformation I never saw.

"From the records in the office I knew it was getting better. We clear here every retail merchant in the country every three months, and we are therefore in the closest touch and have intimate knowledge of the way trade is going and how payments are being made. Conditions at the present moment are better than I had dreamed it was possible that they should be.

"The statements which we are receiving with reference to the standing of country merchants indicates that there will be very few failures this fall. It is quite remarkable. Men who have been behind for years and in the hole are actually paying spot cash for everything, and taking their cash discounts. Banks and loan companies this fall will have more money than they know what to do with.

"This is about the condition of trade, and I am glad to say there is no exaggeration in what I have said. The business of the prairie provinces is in splendid condition."

Crop reports are also good. From all parts comes the word that the crop conditions were never better, and the situation at the time of writing is that there will be fully as great a yield as in 1915, when the average of wheat over the entire country was upwards of 30 bushels per acre. The harvest therefore will be a heavy one—and, following the magnificent harvest of last year, the farmers of Western Canada will all be in splendid shape. Old indebtednesses, much of which followed them from their old homes, are being wiped out, improvements are now being planned, and additional acres added to their present holdings.

During the past year there was a large increase in the land sales both by the Canadian Pacific and Canadian Northern land companies, as well as by private individuals. A great many of the purchases were made by farmers who thus secured adjoining quarters or halves, the best evidence probably that could be had of the value of Western Canada land when those who know the country best are adding to their holdings. A number of outsiders have also been purchasers, but very little land has changed hands for speculative purposes.

An evidence of the prosperity of the country is found in the fact that such a large number of farmers are purchasing automobiles.

Alleged hard times in Manitoba have not dampened the ardor of motorists or prospective ones. The automobile license department reported a few days since that there are 1,600 more private owners of cars in the province this year than last. The number of licenses issued this year was 10,400, as against 8,800 last year. At an average cost of \$1,000 each the newly purchased cars represent a total outlay of \$16,000,000, while the total number of cars in the province are worth approximately \$10,000,000. The new cars are of modern types.

Many people, for some unexplained reason, have feared and continue to fear that this country will experience a period of industrial and business dullness after the war. There seems to be no justification for such a speculation.

On the contrary, there are sound reasons for belief in the prediction of Mr. Kingman Nott Robins, vice president of the Farm Mortgage Bankers' Association of America, who, in the Monetary Times, declares that Canada will experience her greatest proportionate development in production immediately after the conclusion of the war. The country will certainly have exceptionally favorable commercial conditions to take advantage of.

There will be the great need of Europe in the work of reconstruction.

Meaning Business.

"The American girl means business." The speaker was Miss Alberta Hill, the courageous and popular New York suffragette. She went on:

"She's quite right, too. I know an American girl whose two weeks at the show a pale young man in a blazer tried to monopolize.

"What is the meaning of platonic affection," he asked her, one evening on the board walk.

"Its usual meaning," she answered, "is that the chap who talks about it is either too poor or too stingy to get married."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Personal Endeavors.

"My face is my fortune," said the girl with the dazzling complexion.

"Permit me," replied Mr. Dustin Stax, "to extend the compliments of a self-made man to a self-made woman."

Some females imagine that they are as pretty as pictures because they're painted.

and along with this, the natural tendency of the allies to trade among themselves, and perhaps special trading privileges. Mr. Robins points out that the greatest development in the United States followed the costly and destructive civil war.

Mr. Robins, in an address before the Bondmen's Club of Chicago, expressed the opinion of a far-thinking mind and the review of an experience of the last of his numerous trips through the Canadian West. When he said he regarded the spirit of the Canadian people, as he found it, the most admirable and encouraging feature of the entire situation. They are facing the sacrifices of war courageously and with calm confidence as to the result, and in similar spirit they face the economic future, confident, but expecting to solve their problems only by dint of hard and intelligent effort.

An important part of Mr. Robins' address, which invites earnest attention, is that in which he refers to the land situation, and when his remarks are quoted they carry with them the impression gained by one who has given the question the careful thought of a man experienced in economic questions, and specially those relating to soil and its production. He is quoted as saying:

"Agricultural Canada was never so prosperous, and immigration of agricultural population both during and after the war seems a logical expectation, finding support in an increasing immigration at present from the United States, in spite of numerous canards spread broadcast throughout the United States to discourage emigration to Canada. The lands of Western Canada, however, as long as they are as at present the most advantageous for the settler of any on the continent, must continue to attract, despite misrepresentation, and on the increase of its agricultural and other primarily productive population depends the economic future of Canada. All other problems are secondary to this, and the large interests of Canada, recognizing this fact, are preparing to secure and hold this population both during and after the war. They are content to let city development and other secondary phases and superstructure follow in natural course. This recognition of the true basis of economic development is an encouraging augury for the future."

"The war has brought the United States and Canada nearer together economically than ever before. The total investment of United States capital in Canada doubtless exceeds \$1,000,000,000, of which \$300,000,000 has been invested since the war began. Except for Great Britain, Canada is the United States' best customer. Our exports to all of South America in the last three years were less than a third of our exports to Canada in the same period, although Canada has been rigidly reducing her imports since the war began. Even France, a good customer of the United States, bought \$70,000,000 less than Canada during 1913, 1914 and 1915. And yet Canada's purchasing power is in the first stages of development only. It has been estimated that the United States can support a population of 600,000,000. Using the same basis of calculation in reference to natural resources, Canada can support a population of 400,000,000.

"Canada is potentially the most populous, and, in primary production, at least, the richest unit of the British empire, and it behooves us in the United States to know our Canada."

The social conditions throughout Western Canada are everything that could be desired. Schools have been established in all districts where there may be ten or twelve children of school age, and these are largely maintained by liberal government grants. A fund for this purpose is raised from the revenue derived from the sale of school land, one-eighth of all lands being set aside as school lands. All the higher branches of education are cared for, there being high schools at all important centers, and colleges and universities in the principal cities.

The different religious denominations prevail, each having its separate church, and religious services are held in every hamlet and village, and in far-off settlements the pastor finds an attentive congregation. The rural telephone is one of the great modern conveniences that brings the farm home nearer to the market.

It is not saying too much to state that in matters of social importance, in the most remote settlements they carry with them the same influence as is to be found in the most prosperous farming districts of any of the states of the Union.—Advertisement.

Honor Roll.

"Has your college produced any distinguished men?"

"Has it? Say, don't you ever read the papers? Didn't you hear of Lefty Jones, the famous southpaw; or Kangaroo Klein, the best shortstop in either league; or Biff Borroughs, the fence buster? And I could name a dozen more who have made good in the game. Have you ever produced any distinguished men? Why, Spaulding's Baseball Guide is full of them."

There Are Others.

"It is very strange that no one has ever been able to find Captain Kidd's treasure."

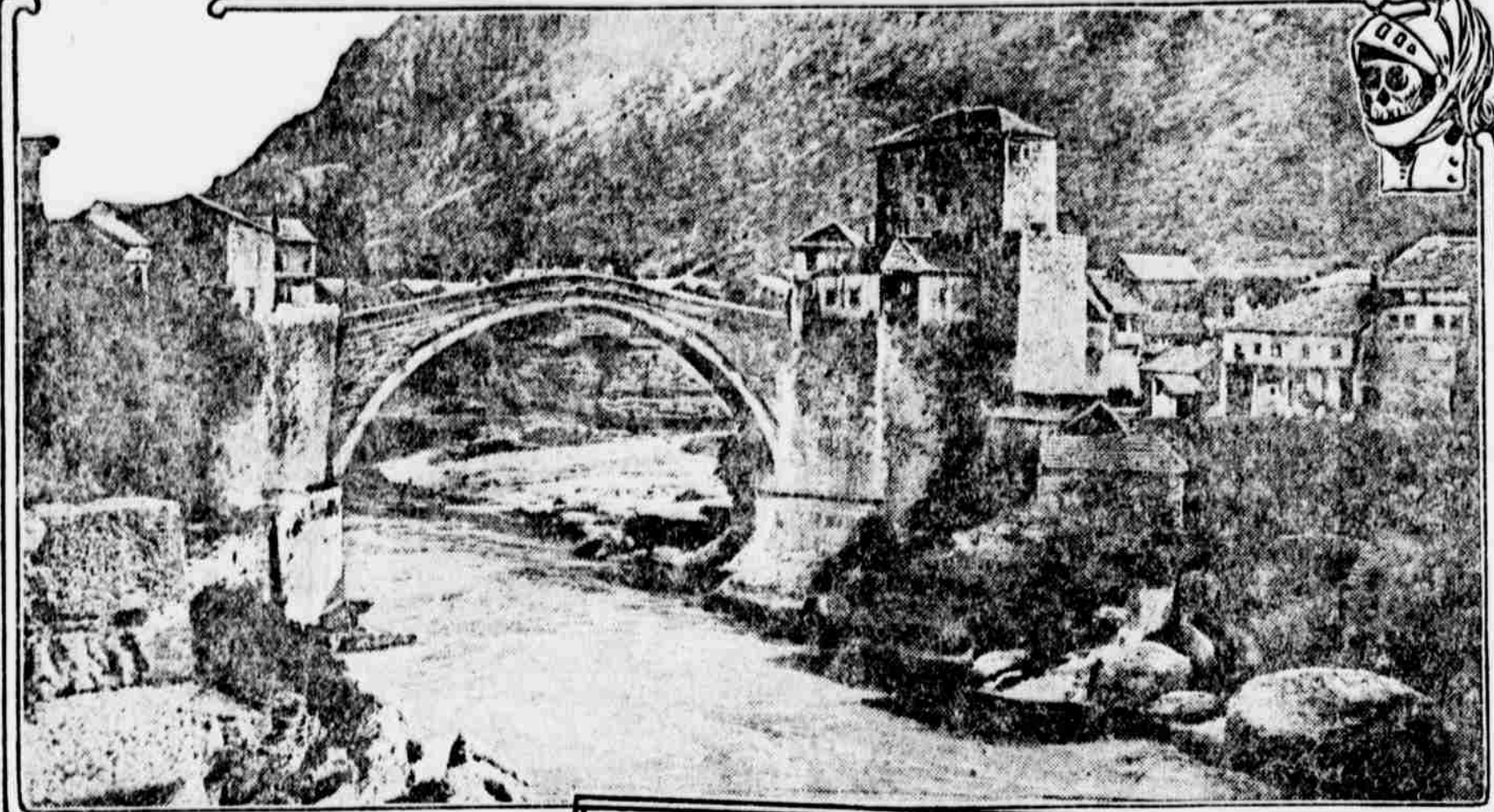
"Oh, well, Captain Kidd isn't the only man who has put his money into real estate and couldn't get it out."

Ladylike.

"She's ladylike."

"Yes, indeed. Even her own brothers have never heard her swear."

The leap year maid who hesitates may win by losing.



PICTURESQUE BALKAN TOWN

David Starr Jordan, noted educator and pacifist, tells what frightfulness has been wrought by conflict in the little countries of Eastern Europe :: A grave problem still unsolved

(Courtesy American Museum Journal)

IT WAS my fortune, not long ago, with three good friends and two soldiers, to follow in a king's automobile along the trail of war. This was in Macedonia. The line of an army's march is not pleasant to look upon even though the people along it had not much to lose. The pinch of suffering is very real even if, as in the Balkans, folk have grown used to it. There are two path marks by which you may recognize the path of war in a land of farmers. The one is the charred village, with its whitewashed stone walls blackened by fire. The other is the presence here and there in the plowed fields of three poles fastened together at the top, and from the crotch a baby suspended just high enough to baffle inquisitive dogs or goats. Somewhere in the field, anywhere in the Balkan valleys in May, you will see one woman driving or leading a bullock or a buffalo, while another behind her holds the plow. The men are in the army—or else they were there.

The memory I shall longest hold of Montenegro is a picture taken by my guide, Antonio Reinwein, of this land of stony graves, of the resolute people of the limestone crags who have never done homage to the Turks nor to any other outside power. It will be remembered that all these Balkan folk were for years under the dominion of the Turk, and that none of them have been free for half a century. The Turk was most acceptable when he was asleep. When he was awake, he had his own ideas of "Union and Progress." Union meant uniformity. A nation should have one ruler, one flag, one religion, one language. Progress was his way of bringing about this condition. This was by massacre. And as the actual Turks were few in number, ruling over an empire of Slavs, Greeks, Italians, Jews, Armenians, Albanians, Kurds, Egyptians, Moors and Arabs, it demanded eternal vigilance to keep them all in a state of union and progress.

These people have had constantly before them the choice of revolt, conversion, assimilation, banishment and massacre. And at one time or another, some of each race have chosen each one of these, often two or three of them at once. Meanwhile, following the wicked lead of Bismarck and Disraeli, Europe has kept the Turk alive, because from financiers in each nation, the Ottoman sultan has borrowed considerable sums of money. Macedonia lies along the southern slopes of the Balkan peninsula. It is a fertile region crossed by chains of rounded mountains, with green valleys and swift streams, in physical conditions not unlike the south of France. It has 45,000 square miles of territory, is about as large as the state of Maine, with a population nearly two-thirds that of the city of New York, and before the war of liberation it had about 2,250,000 people. The majority of these were Bulgarian in blood and they were allowed to have their own churches and schools.

As to the campaigns which have desolated Macedonia in the last few years we need say only a word. The history of the two Balkan wars is given with accuracy and justice in the monumental report of the Balkan commission of the Carnegie endowment, a document of especial value in any study of the conditions preceding the "third Balkan war" which today has set the world in flames.

The first Balkan war was altruistic as far as any war can be. Its purpose was the relief of a distressed people, suffering for centuries from the laxities of Turkish rule, always incompetent and everywhere unscrupulous, and on the other hand continuously overrun by the outlaw patriots which kept the land in incessant turmoil.

The Balkan alliance was a Russian inspiration. It was planned by Hartwig, Russian minister at Belgrade, "the evil genius of the Balkans." It ended in the treaty of London, where the blind intermeddling of the powers, baffled by Austrian intrigue, agreed only on the kingdom of Albania, leaving the states to fight it out so far as Macedonia was concerned. This brought on the second Balkan war, in which Bulgarian diplomacy made all the mistakes it had a chance to make.

The treaty of Bucharest left Macedonia crossed



WOMEN SUFFER MOST

by artificial boundaries. The effect of intolerance, worst in Greece, had enough everywhere, was to drive out of each nation all who belonged to the wrong language or religion. I do not say race, for they are all of the same general stock, even the bulk of the "Turks" and Greeks. This has filled the region with refugees, men and women whose fault is that they lived on the wrong side of the boundaries made for them in the treaty of Bucharest.

Passing down the long highway which leads over 200 miles from Sofia to Samokov and Dubliza in old Bulgaria, then across the border of Macedonia, down the Struma river past Dzumala to Petritch, we found everywhere the Bulgarian refugees from the Saloniki district in Greek Macedonia. These have been roughly estimated at 50,000 in number. Some of these have been given farms or houses abandoned in Macedonia by Turks who followed the Turkish army away. Others received farms left by Greeks when the Greek army went back after the treaty of Bucharest. The government grants each person some fourpence a day. Some find work, but after the war there are few employers. The cost of living has doubled, the means of living has fallen. At Petritch, near the present boundary of Greece, there were hundreds of these waiting about on the stone sidewalks day by day. They were waiting for the powers to revise the treaty of Bucharest and give them back their homes in the region above Saloniki. Some local journal had said that this revision was coming soon. It was my duty to assure them that it would never come. The phrase in Sofia, "Europe exists no more," is the truth so far as Balkan affairs are concerned.

The reason for that is clearer now. Europe was paralyzed by the great terror which has since come on it in an unthinkable catastrophe. There were some in the "concert of powers," who were striving to bring on this catastrophe. The "war of steel and gold" was about to give place to real war, which would end, they hoped, in speedy victory and world power. It has not ended in that way. It has not yet ended at all. But those who most looked forward to war were the ones who had least conception of its certain consequences.

In the whole length of the Struma valley in western Macedonia, towns have been burned in whole or part by the Greek army which pursued the Bulgarians as far as the old border of Bulgaria. In Greek Macedonia, at the hands of some one or all of the three successive armies—Turkish, Bulgarian and Greek—most of the towns between Saloniki and Drama have suffered the same fate. Each of these towns has now its share of Greek refugees from Turkish Thrace. These have been estimated by Greek authorities as numbering 300,000. They have come by railway from Adrianople in box cars belonging to the Greek government.

These cars are left at the various stations, a dozen or more at each. In these the people keep their bedding and their scanty effects. The government of Greece allows them two or three sous a day, with rice which they cook on fires of thistles and other weeds.

In a Turkish journal, vigorous complaint was made against the Albanian refugees in Thrace as more "proficient with the Mauser than with the plow, and skillful only as cattle thieves." A plea was made for bringing back the Bulgarian farmers as far more desirable neighbors. "The Bulgarians are now our friends."

In the larger towns, as Saloniki and Kilkush, the refugees are ranged in tent cities, ten thousand or more in one encampment. There were perhaps 60,000 Greek refugees a little more than a year ago along the road from Drama to Saloniki.

When I was at Saloniki the Turks were leaving in great numbers: 212,000 took steamer passage for Stamboul in one month. Saloniki (Thessalonike), beautifully situated, in full face of Mount Olympus and with a noble harbor, should be one of the great cities of the world. In the aftermath of the second Balkan war it lost half its population. It is no better off today than in the times when St. Paul called out for help in Macedonia. Harsh and often terribly brutal operations in Serbia and Greece result from the unchecked operations of the military element. The soldier, as such, considers neither economic conditions nor the soul of man. It was claimed that the two wise ministers Pashitch in Belgrade and Venizelos in Athens were both opposed to the policy of repression. Both would, if they could, have proclaimed religious linguistic tolerance in those parts of Macedonia turned over to them by the treaty of Bucharest. But the fact of victory, and especially victory over their sister state, Bulgaria, intoxicates the military, and fills the mob with the "east wind." In such times the civil authority cannot hold its own against the military.

Bulgaria recognized better the value of tolerance. A Greek church and school stand undisturbed in Sofia. In the Bulgarian national assembly there are about a dozen Turkish deputies, representing Thrace. These Turks, supporters all of the king, hold the balance of power against the combined democrats and socialists, the group opposed to all war. The spirit of hate is still very strong among the people of Bulgaria. They hate Roumania, as the robber-state who has done them the most harm. They hate Greece.

There can never be settled quiet in the East until the "Balkans belong to the Balkans," until civil authority everywhere dominates the military and until customs unions and other unions cause these people to realize that one fate befalls them all and that the welfare of each state is bound up in that of its neighbor.