

CONSTANTINOPLE OF GLORIOUS HISTORY

With the Turks Defeated it would Be a City of Big Enterprises Says American Diplomat

"On to Constantinople!" is the cry of the Balkan allies, who have entered on a war to the death against Turkey, their ancient foe. And well might this great city be the bone of contention of nations. For the blight of the "unspeakable Turk" has checked, for more than four centuries, the progress of what should be the first and fairest city of Europe—or of the world.

Constantinople, of glorious history, situated in the finest climate in the world, in the best strategic position of any city of Europe or Asia, which might dominate the commerce and the naval armaments of two continents, languishes in the hands of barbarians.

The day the Turk leaves Constantinople there will be more opportunities for big enterprises than in any city the sun shines on.

The Western promoter who comes here has his mouth water at everything he sees. In no place on earth are there so many neglected opportunities, yet there is no use trying to accomplish anything under the barbarous Turkish rule.

Like Cat Chasing Its Tail.

There is one railroad running out of Constantinople which might be valuable property, but as the people who built it were paid a subsidy of so much a mile they made the road twist about like a cat chasing its tail, until it is about three times as long as necessary, and just so much more expensive for freight and passengers.

Constantinople, with its suburbs, which are really an integral part of it, is about two-thirds as large as Chicago. But it resembles Chicago in almost nothing except its opportunities. Both cities are at the centre of great land surfaces and contiguous to inland seas.

There are some people who predict that 100 years after the Turk has retired from Europe Constantinople will be the first city in the world.

What the City Lacks.

The possibilities of Constantinople are chiefly found in a list of things she has not got. To begin with electricity was an almost unknown force in Turkey when I was there a few years ago. There were a few telegraph lines, but the censorship was so severe that nobody used them unless they could not help it. There was no telephone whatever, and only two buildings in the whole of Turkey had electric light.

There were no electric cars, and for the matter of that not a decent road for any vehicle. The streets are so rough that the usual way of conveying goods is by pack trains of horses and mules.

Once a year the Sultan goes to a particular mosque, and a street leading from the Yildiz Kiosk to the mosque is then paved and put in fine condition.

The city is divided in almost two equal parts by the Golden Horn, a narrow inlet from the Bosphorus. Over this are two narrow bridges built 50 years ago which have now become so rickety that they threaten collapse at any moment. The roadway is of rough planks which are usually not even nailed down.

The Sultan collects toll for every person and every vehicle which crosses the bridge, and this way takes in about \$1,500 a day for each bridge, but still there is never money enough to even nail down a plank.

In the foreign quarter there are a few fairly good stores, but the great bulk of trading is conducted from tiny little shops which are not much more than holes in the street walls.

Yet the people are not especially poor, and the trade of the city reaches a very large total.

Arrested Developments.

The Turk presents a curious spectacle of arrested racial development. Except for a few trimmings supplied him against his will by foreigners, he is just where he was in the year 1,000. He absolutely lacks modern capacity for business, whether in his own affairs or in the management of his country. Economically he is a child half way back to the stone age. Were he not a first class fighting man he would have been crowded out of Europe a century ago. No better monument could be found to his general inefficiency than this city of Constantinople.

Almost every article of daily use comes from English and German

manufacturers. The bazars of Stamboul, Turkish name for the city of Constantinople, are full of foreign pots, kettles, cloth and furniture. Rugs are about the only article still made in the Ottoman empire.

The only fine buildings in the city, except a few built by foreigners, are mosques and palaces. That anything should be well built for merely commercial reasons is beyond Turkish comprehension. It is equally remote from his ideas that his government should be run on business lines. He gets revenue by extortion, office by bribery and removes his opponents by imprisonment or assassination.

Human Bodies in the Bosphorus. The first thing which strikes a stranger as a little uncanny is the extreme number of human bodies which are found in the Bosphorus. They bob up repeatedly and disappear again, and nobody pays much attention to them. A city of more than a million people has its share of murders and suicides, but these would hardly account for the entire number.

Officials who are suspected of treason or something of that sort have a way of mysteriously disappearing via the old and simple process of trying a man up in a sack and throwing him in the Bosphorus.

Constantinople was founded in the year 330 A.D. by the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, and was built on the foundations of the ancient city of Byzantium.

It has been besieged 30 times, but captured only three times—by the Venetians and Crusaders in 1203 and 1204, and by Mohammed II, leader of the Turkish invaders, in 1453.

From the fall of the Roman empire in the west until its capture by the Turks, Constantinople was the capital of the eastern empire, and the stronghold of learning and Christianity in the east.

"Constantinople" means "City of Constantine."

The Turkish name of the city is Istanbul, or Stambul—a corruption of the modern Greek phrase, "es tam bolin," meaning "to the city." The Turks always heard Greeks talking of going "to town," and oddly adopted "to town" as the name of the place.

DOES WAR MEAN HIGHER WHEAT?

Western Europe Would Be Cut off From Important Source of Supply

If the Balkan war continues to be confined to the parties now implicated, no serious impairment of wheat supplies through the Dardanelles is anticipated, and thus the market situation of western Europe will suffer no material change. Nevertheless, that grave apprehension is entertained generally in financial circles that further complications will follow was made manifest by the slump in the stock markets here and in the Bourses of Europe last week-end. The London correspondent of The New York Evening Post reports that over there the situation is considered grave.

In case of further complications, the Balkan war presents a new and important factor in the world's grain market, for all grain markets are becoming one now. Situated by itself in southeastern Europe between the Black and Adriatic Seas, the peninsula, including all the States now at war, is exceedingly fertile, the production of wheat alone ranging from 150,000,000 to 200,000,000 bushels a year, or almost as much as Canada produces at the present time. Of this Roumania yields from fifty million to sixty million bushels, Bulgaria and eastern Roumania about sixty million bushels; Serbia, fourteen million; Turkey, fifty-eight million, and Greece, ten million.

The importance of these States in the markets of Western Europe is indicated by the fact that from them about 75,000,000 bushels of wheat are exported every year. In case the Dardanelles were closed a large percentage of this wheat would be cut off from the market, not to speak of what would come via the Black Sea from Hungary and southern Russia. With heavy surplus crops in other parts of the world, western Europe would probably only suffer by having to pay high rates. It would come hardest on England, Liverpool being by far the heaviest importer of wheat in the world. Last year exports of corn from the Danube were 70,376,000 bushels.

CANADIAN GOLD IN DEMAND

Even Ottawa Mint Wants It, and Has Coined Much Since April 1st

Ottawa, Oct. 18.—Since April 1st last the Royal Mint has enriched Canadian currency by minting eight hundred thousand dollars' worth of Canadian gold coin in denominations of five and ten dollars. There is a steady but not as yet very large demand for the new gold pieces, and the output is now averaging about \$150,000 per month. The banks as a rule are not very sympathetic towards the popularization of a Canadian gold coinage. They prefer to keep their own notes in circulation, as being easier to handle and at the same time more profitable to them. The gold coin issues of the Mint, as well as the silver and bronze coin issues, depend largely on the demands of the banks as transmitted to the Finance Department through the Receiver-General's offices throughout the Dominion.

Could Replace American Specie. There is at present a very large amount of American gold coinage in circulation in Canada and some tens of millions' worth of the American gold pieces are held in the Federal Treasury here as security for the bank and Federal note issues. There seems to be no reason why a portion at least of this specie should not be replaced by Canadian coinage.

Need of Refinery.

The gold minted here so far comes principally from the Yukon and Nova Scotia. Porcupine gold has been forwarded for mining purposes, but it has not been accepted because not sufficiently refined to be handled at the refinery at the Mint here.

The establishment of an adequate refinery for the Porcupine camp would enable the gold output to be handled here instead of being exported to the American refineries. An evidence of the increasing use of Canadian gold coins is the fact that many companies, especially in Montreal, are now using them to pay directors' fees at board meetings, when formerly American gold pieces of English sovereigns were used.

Twenty Million Coins This Year.

The Ottawa Mint has a capacity of about 100,000 coins per day, and this year the output promises to run nearly twenty million coins, aggregating in value nearly three million dollars. The issue of one-cent and five-cent pieces will probably run well over five million dollars each, with ten-cent pieces nearly as much. The record issue of one-cent pieces was made during the first week in June when 210,000 were minted. Last week 100,000 one-cent pieces, 33,000 twenty-five cent pieces, 87,000 ten-cent pieces, and 101,000 five-cent pieces were coined.

According to the last annual report of the Ottawa Mint, the total value of coins issued to the Dominion of Canada is over sixteen million dollars.

The silver coin issued since the adoption of the dollar currency in 1858 averages in value \$1.95 per head, and the bronze coin nearly 12 cents per head. At present the annual issue averages nearly 20 cents per head in silver coins and 16 cents per head in bronze coins.

Bridge Construction Delays Railway

The completion of the railroad branch to Elk Lake is going to be seriously delayed by the delay in connection with the construction of the bridge over the Montreal River. Several times the water has invaded the caisson built to enclose the concrete piers and rendered useless the work already done. The steel will be to the river probably about the end of the present month but it will certainly be nearly the end of the year before trains can run into Elk Lake.

SHE CHANGED OFTEN.

"Henry, here's a hair on your coat!"
"Yes, dear, it's one of yours."
"But it's a blonde hair, and my hair is black."
"I know, dear, but you must remember I haven't worn this coat before in a month."

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