

Capture of the Dardanelles Great Event of History, Says Prof. Scott

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It is to be doubted if any event since the invention of printing is of such supreme importance as that which announced the capture of the Dardanelles. History for thousands of years has somehow revolved around that short and narrow stream of water.

The first line of European literature tells how the Greeks spent ten years in getting control of the fortress which commanded the traffic passing through this channel. Persia was not defeated until Athens secured control of the entrance thereof and Athens owed her wealth to that control. When she lost it Athens ceased to be. The Turks made their first conquest in Eastern Europe by seizing the Dardanelles in 1356, and in 1453 they took Constantinople. The fall of Constantinople turned civilization to the west and blocked all overland traffic to the east, hence came about the discovery of America, for it was the purpose of Columbus to find a new route to India, since that to the east was closed.

A Great Disaster

The closing of the Dardanelles by the Turks in 1914, was the greatest disaster that came to the allies in this present war, for it cut them off from the supplies of Russia and in turn cut Russia off from the support of the allies. The closing of the Dardanelles has prolonged the war German intrigues, robbed her of essential supplies, and made her withdrawal inevitable. The closing of the Dardanelles has prolonged the war over two years and has been the greatest single factor in thwarting the allies.

The Dardanelles is a narrow stream, in places less than a mile wide, and about forty miles long, the entrance to which is about one hundred and seventy miles from Constantinople, that is about the distance from Chicago to Springfield, Ill. It lies on a line about due east of St. Louis, and is thus fifty miles south of Naples. The sole importance of the Dardanelles lies in the fact that it is the only connection between the Black sea and the outside world. Small as the Black sea may look on the map, yet it is twice as large as the combined areas of our five Great Lakes, Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario. The only way by which traffic originating on the Danube, the Dnieper, the Don, and scores of other rivers can find a market is by passing through the Dardanelles. In fact about one-half of

the best land of Europe and Asia Minor has no other outlet by water.

This area is the great wheat, oil, timber, wool and meat region of Europe, so that the power holding the Dardanelles has in its hand the feeding or starving of many nations. In this fact lies the reason for the preservation of Turkey, for the control of this waterway by any strong power meant its leadership in peace, and probable victory in war, hence England has felt its life depended on keeping Russia from this important and impregnable position. Russian control here meant loss of the Suez and the route to India, if Russia chose to assert her power.

A British Victory

The victory over the Turks has been a British victory, for it was the British who swept the Turks out of Bagdad and out of Aleppo, and now the British are in absolute control of the Dardanelles. The many articles of the armistice do not contain a single limitation to that power.

England is now the sole master of Gibraltar, Suez, and the Dardanelles, that is, she controls all the entrances of the Mediterranean sea, and this great body of water is now an English lake. It seems to me that the Dardanelles constitutes such a threat at the very heart of the British Empire that it is unlikely that it will pass form British hands except under absolute guarantees that it can never serve as a base for an attack on the route to India. I see no power to whom the Dardanelles can be delivered, for it has belonged to the Turks nearly six hundred years, and, as it will not be handed to them, there is no one else to put in a claim.

Article nineteenth of the Armistice contains the clause that all German civilians must leave Turkey in thirty days. This clause means the end of the German university of Stamboul, which was founded by the kaiser to serve as a refuge for German professors who had done his work in allied lands. Several had been in English universities and many were transferred from German universities as well. This university solemnly requested that the Nobel peace prize for 1914 be conferred on the kaiser.

Turkey Is Doomed

German scholars, officers, bankers and merchants had taken control of Turkey and now they must leave. The passing of the Dardanelles into British hands means the end of Turkey, also the loss to Germany of all she has invested there in wealth and in men, and this means that Germany is to be one of the second-rate nations of the future.

Thackwell Sees King George in Garden Surveying Potato Patch

Royalty in England makes sacrifices as well as the poor. It is not uncommon to see the king of England out in the front surveying his potato patch, and the Duke of Somerset has learned to carry a trunk with the ease of a Parmelee express driver, according to a letter received by friends from Chief Yeoman Rhys G. Thackwell, former north shore newspaper correspondent, who is now in the intelligence department with Admiral Sims' headquarters. The letter follows:

Sees King in Action

"Over here the royalty as well as the poor must make sacrifices for the defense of the realm. Here is an example: It had been a cold night and when I awoke early this morning there was a snap to the air which reminded me of football weather. I walked out into Victoria, down past the great house of parliament and up to Buckingham palace. Here I was surprised to see a potato patch on what in peace times had been a beautiful front lawn surrounded by the handiwork of master landscape gardeners. And from a window in the palace where King George and the First Lady take their meals and sleep, when they are not guests of the titled I noticed a man watching me as I surveyed his frost-bitten potato patch. That man, who was clad in a bath robe, evidently was the king himself; a guardsman told me that the king takes a personal pride in his potato patch and frequently putters around the garden alone.

Duke Hustles Trunk

"The Duke has set a worthy example, too, for upon returning to American headquarters who should I see hustling a heavy trunk into 35 Grosvenor square but the Duke of Somerset himself! He picked it from her Grace's car with all the ease of a Parmelee express driver and dashed across the sidewalk up into the building without hesitation. It never occurred to the duke to summon a porter for this small task; every one in England does such things for himself, if he is physically able. It is not an uncommon sight

to see young ladies of the best families wheeling baggage trucks about in the depots because the men who formerly did this work now are out in the field in active service.

Women Make Delivery

"The only delivery service is operated by women but the majority of British women now visit the markets with their big wicker baskets and carry home their purchases to decrease the cost. A regulation passed this week prohibits laundries from calling for and delivering parcels and now very few business men will deliver to their customers. The British housewife has a big problem in making out the family budget. I remember that the Evanston Woman's club set twenty per cent as the amount of the income which should be expended on food. I wonder whether that figure would apply over here. Bread costs 18 cents per loaf. Oranges and apples are 16 cents each. Eggs cost 12 cents each when bought in restaurants. Onions are 10 cents per pound. Hot house grapes are 80 cents per pound. Peaches are 25 cents each. Canteloupes sell for \$1 each. The potato still brings 2 cents per pound, though. Tea has not changed in price, either.

"To balance the increased cost of food, though, rents are extremely low."

In speaking of the little English boys, Chief Yeoman Thackwell says:

Most Boys Work

"Over in England the boys all work unless they come from wealthy families and their parents can afford to send them to schools. The little boys leave their shops or schools or homes when troops are passing down the road and they stand at the side and shake hands as the soldiers or sailors file by. They are cute little fellows, too. Some of the boys wear short knickerbocker trousers and stockings which come only to the knees, leaving a bare space of about three inches. They have great big caps instead of hats.

"Gimme an American penny," is the word which most of the little English or Scotch boys have as they

greet you and 'Good morning' is the word from little French boys."

ARE YOU BUYING CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Have you done your Christmas shopping yet?

It is the hope of the government that each person will do as little as he can make up his mind to, and to do that little early.

In the interest of conserving manpower, the merchants of America agreed with the government that they would not "increase their working force by reason of the holiday business over the average force employed by them throughout the year."

At the last meeting of the Council of National Defense that regulation was somewhat modified, so it now reads as follows:

"It was agreed that the announcement be changed to the extent of allowing the merchants to employ a force during November and December not in excess of the number employed at any time during November 1917, in case that number is in excess of the average force employed throughout the year."

So if you want good service in the stores, buy now.

STARS AND STRIPES TELLS HOW MEN "OVER THERE" FEEL

The Stars and Stripes, official newspaper of the A. E. F., prints the following message from the men at the front to us at home:

"It is not the support of a nation buying billions of dollars' worth of Liberty bonds, breaking bottles over the sterns of new ships, knitting socks or cheering us in the movies that brings home to us the magnitude of our trust.

"It is all fine, it is all too big for any one man of us to grasp. But we appreciate how great our trust is when we hear that the folks have had two pounds of sugar in six weeks, that the lady next door let her bread burn in the excitement of listening to our last letter, and that the lady next door to her is working in an office and keeping the children

in school while her husband is over here."

Another Class of Shoes An additional class of shoes, including all selling at less than \$3 a

pair was announced by the war industries board this week, thus making four classes instead of three. The other three classes are: Class A, \$9 to \$12; Class B, \$6 to \$8.95, and Class C, \$3 to \$5.95.

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