Balkans – General 1913.

1. Article: "The Peril of Armenia" by Lucy Cavendish.
2. Letter to NB fr. Malcolm Mitchell re.
3. ——— fr. E.B. re. clinical help. etc. Relief Fund office.
4. Telegram from Moore. re ₤, blankets etc. flour.
5. Report fr. Miss MacQueen at Monastir. for relief
6. Brothers Buxton arr. in Rom – clipping.
7. Clipping re. Bkn War relief fund.
8. " re Service for Palmer Newbolt
9. " re. devastated Bkn. land.
10. " s. re. Buxton + the "ideal war"
11. appeal fr. "Commission Epirotes".
12. clippings re. Buxton + his Bkn. exper.
13. " re. Ys. Tk. etc.
14. " re. Buxton's return fr. Bkns.
15. telegram to NB fr. Moore
16. Hubert Noel to N.B. re. a fr. Spring Rice, an apptmt. etc.
17. C.C. Minoff to N.B. re. Sueshoff's reply.
18. N.B. to Sueshoff (?) re. doctors. etc.
19. P.M. on Balkans, quoted
20. review of N.B's "With the Bulg. Staff". "The Globe"
21. "The Present Position of the Armenian People".
22. clipping re. Buxton w. Bulg. staff.
23. Arthur Symonds (of Br. Armenia Cte.) re. a scrap memo re Turkey
24. Another memo. (re. invasion of Thrace) to Grey.

re Turkish menace of war.

See Mr. of Bull Cabinet etc.

25. Clipping to Times fr. N.B. et al. re. distress in Blkns.
26. NB on punishing the Turks. cf Item 24
27. Clipping "women can't fight!" – by H.W.N. (Hubert Noel?). Henry Nevinson?
28. Clipping re. future of Turkey etcetera res.
29. Commons report on India Budget.
30. Clipping re. loans to Balkan States + Turkish outrages.
31. " re. liberal for. affairs group.
32. " re. "Education and nationalism in India".
33. " cf. Commons report on situation in Balkans. (2 pieces Aubrey H.
34. " re. distress in Balkns.
35. " re. the Turks and Adrianople.
36. " of Roden B. on Bulgns.
37. " re. causes of 2nd Blkn. war.
38. " re. "our diplcy in the Bknns. – Crawford Price.
39. " re. Russia + Armenia.
40. " re. 2nd Blkn. war – Rumanian + Servian claims.
41. " re. Turks + Armenians.
42. " re. 2ne B.W. – Causes of Bulgn disasters.
43. Rev. H. Buxton in Kurdistan.
44. Dr. Eden Paul on the Armenian question. 1913.
45. 3 pp. on armenian reforms
46. Macedonian Relief Fund report. (H.C. Dent & Bradbell – Sims
47. an address re. Bulgn etc.
48. account of relief money.
49. ~~"The Distressful Peninsula" by Francis Gerard.~~
50. letter re. state of affairs in Blkns. (Sir Lewis
51. Mr. Buxtons reflections on the New Ottoman Admin.

Item 33. Aubrey Herbert self- styled Turcophil.
Item 46. Sims of Gks especially in 2nd war.
Item 37. the stolid calm of Sofia at time of victories of first war " contrasted curiously c. the highflown exuberance of Belgfade , the gushing hysterics of Bukarest & the Pindaric magniloquence of Athens " .

Item 23 for members of Br-Armenian C.

BALKAN WAR RELIEF FUND.

8-1.13.

Dear Mr. Buxton,

I do not think you need have any anxiety as to the efficiency of the office. I am here all Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday, & – until Mr. Morrell's suggestion matures – I have a thoroughly capable typist-secretary. On Tuesday I am here from 9.30 to 10.30, & again from 5.15 if necessary. On Thursday I look in at 9.30, & return from East London between 5.15 and 6.15. On these two

days Captain Atkinson will attend in order to supervise the secretary's work, to answer simple letters, & to be at your disposal if you require him. He is not ideal, I am afraid, but he solves the difficulty of communication with you or the other officers.

At the same time, if you would prefer to have a reconstruction, & could get a man to take my place altogether, I do think it would be better. I fear that my inability to give every day, – which would not have mattered so much for the

BALKAN WAR RELIEF FUND.

Balkan Committee — is a source of inconvenience in connexion with the Fund.

Please do not think I am asking to be released. I had not, as you know, expected that the work would last so long, but I am quite willing to go on to the end, unless you are doubtful as to the efficiency of the present arrangement.

Yours sincerely,

J Malcolm Mitchell

BALKAN WAR RELIEF FUND.

A pitiful story of distress has been sent to Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., by Mr. Wilkie Young, Relief Agent for the Balkan War Relief Fund, who gives an account of a preliminary tour undertaken with a view to the distribution of any funds placed at his disposal. So far, he says, as he has been able to ascertain, the greatest distress is to be found along some 300 miles covered by the invading columns—from Haskovo to Gumuljina, from Chipilari to Xanthi, and from Tumrush to Drama. In some cases entire villages have been practically annihilated, in others walls are standing, but the houses are roofless, and the inhabitants, having lost all they possessed, have taken refuge in villages removed from the line of march. They have nothing to eat and (needless to say) nothing to sow for the coming year. It is necessary to traverse this district from end to end along the routes referred to in order to ascertain its condition, which varies considerably in different localities. In some villages, for instance, only women and children are left; others have lost all their animals; and both these categories have consequently no means of sending down to the towns for supplies, even if money were placed in their hands. To these, therefore, help must be brought in kind. Other localities, within reach of supplies, can fend for themselves if given the wherewithal to buy. Again, the means of subsistence vary in different regions, and wheat or wheat-flour are not necessary or even acceptable to mountaineers whose diet from time immemorial is rye-bread or maize-bread or "mamaliga."

Mr. Young, expressing his disappointment that only £1,000 is at present available, says that for a large part of the Gumuljina district now is the time of most urgent need, for in a fortnight, it is only too likely, the passes will be closed by snow, and many villages will be inaccessible. Approximately every £ sterling should suffice to keep 100 adults for one day in this district.

Count Anguissola, formerly major domo to he ex-Queen Maria Sofia of Naples, and the bbe Tedeschi, formerly almoner to the ex-Queen, are the principals, says the Central News, a curious Court action which is shortly to be eard at Naples.

The litigants were leaders of the Bourbon arty seeking the re-establishment of the ex-Queen on the throne of Naples, and to further his purpose the Abbe founded a newspaper for hich capital was found by subscriptions of ,000 lire each from the members of the party.

With his subscription Count Anguissola forarded to the Abbe a letter making accusations f thefts of money belonging to the ex-Queen. is upon this letter that a suit and a counterit have been entered.

It is understood that the witnesses to be alled include a number of members of the noility and high ecclesiastical dignitaries.

CHINA AND THIBET.

BALKAN DISTRESS.

£50,000 WANTED FOR HOMES IN DEVASTATED LAND.

To the Editor *Daily Chronicle.*

Sir,—In view of the reports of famine and starvation which reach us daily from the regions affected by the war in the Balkan Peninsula, will you allow us to make a further appeal to the generosity of your readers for help and relief?

The situation is one of altogether exceptional emergency. The whole country has been devastated. Houses and villages are destroyed. The heads of families and the young men have been serving in the war, and many of them killed or wounded. There are thus thousands of helpless and innocent people—Moslems and Christians alike, old men, women, and children—who are left utterly homeless and destitute. Some remain in the neighbourhood of their villages, others have fled as refugees to Constantinople, Salonica, or elsewhere. Unless they can receive some prompt relief, to tide them through the winter months, they must inevitably die of exposure and starvation. Many, indeed, are already dying.

The organisations connected with the Lord Mayor's fund are now fully established. Agents have been carefully selected and appointed to take charge of the various districts. Flour and blankets are being distributed, and H.M. Consul at Philippopolis is himself giving valuable aid in supervising the relief. At Constantinople, Lady Lowther's fund, working through committees of the British residents, is taking charge of large numbers of refugees, especially women and children, and is fully organised for more extended operations, if only money is available.

But our resources are now practically exhausted. It is estimated that £50,000 more at least, is wanted to deal even with the most pressing needs. If help is sent at once, not only will life be saved, but the recovery of these regions from the ravages of war will be immeasurably promoted. It is a time, as we have said, of emergency. The sufferers cannot help themselves. It is for this reason that we ask from sympathisers in Great Britain a generous response to our appeal.

It might be supposed that the restoration of peace, which we trust may not be long delayed, would put an end to the urgent need for assistance. This unfortunately is not the case. The severest months of the Balkan winter still remain, and will bring even more bitter distress. A long period must elapse before houses can be rebuilt and the means of livelihood re-established. Refugees must in many cases find a new home. The energies and resources of the Governments concerned are fully occupied and even exhausted by more vital demands. We urge, therefore, that there is le work to be done by all those whose hearts are touched by the appeal of suffering humanity, whatever be their sympathies in this unhappy conflict.

Contributions, which will be acknowledged from time to time in the Press, may be sent to the Turko-Balkan Relief Fund, Mansion House, London.

DAVID BURNETT, Lord Mayor.

Mansion House, London, E.C.
January 17, 1913.

The appeal is also signed by Sir Francis C. Lascelles, the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, Sir Henry Babington-Smith, representing Lady Lowther's Fund; Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, Mr. Philip Morrell, Mr. Noel Buxton, representing the Balkan War Relief Fund; and the Bishop of London, Lord Haversham, Mr. Bertram Christian, representing Macedonian Relief Fund.

ial figures. The majority remains at and is given correctly in the printed ers; but by the accidental omission of John Lonsdale, only 256 names are ted, instead of 257.

here is also an omission of a name from Home Rule list in the earlier division on Balfour's motion of rejection, but this n does not alter the total figures, which correctly given as 368 to 258—majority n 110—although only 367 names appear he former list and 257 in the latter.

RIES NO FRIENDS OF FARMERS.

RL OF DURHAM FEARS LAND REFORM AND TARIFFS.

sing farmers to "put not their trust icians," the Earl of Durham, who is l peer and the owner of 30,000 acres attacked in turn yesterday Mr. orge's proposed land reforms (not ed) and the new Tory plan of rm for rich manufacturers, to the the long-deluded farmer.

was proposing the toast of the rotection Association at the in Darlington. He said there ndlords, less good, and bad. ation made bad landlords, and nt landowners and tenant farmers combine in protecting themselves arassing and vexatious legislation. you candidly (he went on) I cannot faith in either party. (Cheers.) a strong party man I think I el quite uneasy, for I should never m one week to another when that r party was going to change what d to call its convictions. (Laughr politicians—I wish I could say smen, but we have so few of them—ys changing their minds and alter- r policies, and I recommend that we consider our own interests and inoliticians that we also may change es. Sometimes you will have to vote t, and sometimes Radical; but I can you, from personal experience, that a very easy thing to do. (Laughter eers.)

l Grey told them at Newcastle that y companies, like Governments, were ble to pressure. I am not going to ything about railway companies, exhat, although I am a Free Trader, I gret that foreign produce has more rable rates than home produce. With d to Governments, Lord Grey was right.

TTACK ON MR. LLOYD-GEORGE

Cutting from

The Morning Advertiser.

Date of Issue: 20/6/13.

"AN IDEAL WAR."

LECTURE BY MR. N. BUXTON.

Mr. Noel Buxton yesterday related to a meeting of men in Whitefield's Tabernacle some of his experiences in the Balkan War. Mr. Noel Buxton, who is chairman of the Balkan Committee, described the Balkan War as an ideal one. He said if any war could be devised which could justify the arguments used for war the late struggle in the Near East would be that war.—(Cheers.) Two millions of the fellow-countrymen of the nations who waged the war lived in an unrelieved abominable tyranny. If Englishmen saw their wives and families living under such conditions they would be right in joining in any attempt to throw off the tyranny by force.—(Cheers.) There had been continued attempts to throw off the Turkish yoke, though they had previously failed dismally. The war provided a case in which they not only had a just cause, but had the finest probability that could ever present itself of succeeding, and they had succeeded.—(Cheers.)

Illustrating the Bulgarians' contempt of death, he said that a band of 15 insurgents were surrounded in a farm-house by the Turks, and stubbornly defended themselves until their supply of cartridges was nearly exhausted. Then, as the result of a consultation, the chief of the band shot each man in turn and killed himself with the last cartridge. It was the character and stubbornness, of which such incidents gave evidence, that had now brought them their reward. When at last they came to war they entered the struggle in an ideal state of mind for war—a perfectly deliberate intention of effecting liberation at any cost. They were in no light-hearted mood. There was no noise and shouting in the streets—merely a flower stuck in the muzzles of their rifles.

Practically every man in the country was still in the field of war, and the women, girls, and little boys were doing the farm work, and carrying the stuff to and from the fields, for all the farm carts were at the front. Little boys were now keeping the doors at the Home Office and the Foreign Office, and in the streets women were scavenging instead of men. He had never found anything so magnificent to take part in as the movement of the headquarters of the Bulgarian Army, to which his brother and himself were attached, when the Bulgarians crossed the frontier into Turkey, and when they took possession of Kirk Kilisse, which was captured from the Turks.

Battles Rare Incidents.

"That was the central act, the dramatic act, in the confirmation of the freedom which they had granted to that miserable land," Mr. Buxton declared. "That was something to enjoy, and if you wanted to feel the thrill of war and consider what a splendid thing it was—all the sacrifices being made, the mighty movement going on, the out-door life of simple existence—you could not find a more perfect chance of admiring war than we had there."

The war Mr. Buxton described as an immense movement, requiring extraordinary skill to organise, with an occasional battle. The real business of the war was forethought and organisation. It was a matter of organising railways, of bringing immense convoys of farm carts, sometimes miles long, for the main difficulty of war was to feed the men. The battles were the rare incidents of the immense national effort, but it was only of the battles that people in distant countries read. In this country they heard plenty of what happened, and he was bound to say they read a good deal that did not happen. —(Laughter.) But he thought the papers did justice to what there was to say about the actual battles and the extraordinary courage and ardour of sacrifice that characterised the Bulgarian private soldier.

The Turks lost because they had not the same character and thought devoted to the preparation for battle. As a result of the war the blight that lay on the Balkan lands was blown away, and in future it would be a place where a family could live at peace. The Balkan mother would sing to her child without fear, and girls would be able to play without anxiety as they had never done before. "But all this might have been attained," he said, "without war. All this sacrifice was perfectly avoidable if the civilised world had been really civilised.—(Cheers.) The great Powers of Europe can do what they like. They can impose terms with the policeman's truncheon, and I hope the time is not far distant when they will do so."—(Cheers.)

Perhaps the mildest evil of war was the loss of life, enormous as it was, in a war like that. In graphic terms Mr. Buxton described the scenes in the trenches at Kirk Kilisse after the Turks had fled. He had seen small children shot with the bullet of the regular soldier of the Turkish army. In the villages which had been burnt many people had been shot by the Turkish regulars and irregulars, and perhaps about 50,000 women and children were left without the means of subsistence. His brother had just returned after endeavouring to relieve them as far as means would allow.

All the factories in Bulgaria, Servia, and Greece were closed, and in Philippopolis a mother had hanged herself in order to secure sympathy and aid for her children. As an evidence of the demoralising indifference which was one of the results of war, Mr. Buxton stated that a convoy of Bulgarian hospital workers passed through a Greek village where many of the women and children had been horribly wounded without the thought occurring to them that they might stop and attend to the sufferers.

"The real product of war—which in this case might have been avoided by the action of the civilised world," concluded Mr. Buxton—"is the crippled, the widow, the destitute, and the hungry child, and the injured sense of righteousness and sympathy which grows very familiar with the misery and cruelty of war."

ESTAB. 1794.

The
Morning Advertiser

ONE PENNY.

127, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.

of gold to Argentina and other quarters early next week. The New York exchange on London, however, has further moved in favour of London, and this action is likely to assist negotiations for the engagement of a fair amount of gold in New York for Buenos Ayres. Towards the close the principal discount houses quoted two months' drafts 4⅝ to 4 11-16 per cent., three months 4⅝ per cent., four months 4 7-16 to 4½ per cent., and six months 4¾ per cent. Fine trade paper was again arranged at 5 per cent. for three, four, and six months dates. The Paris cheque closed ½ better at 25.19, and the Berlin cheque fell ½ to 20.46.

On the Stock Exchange the tone was firm although there was very little business passing with the close of the week, and scarcely any change in prices. Home Railways were quiet in the Foreign Government and International bonds, but American were firm at above the parity level, though the close showed some decline, while Canadian Pacifics were easier after ruling higher at the outset. In Foreign Railways San Paulos were lower, with Mexican irregular. Mines were steady, and in the Miscellaneous group P. and O. Deferreds and Marconis recovered. In the absence of any rumours to the contrary, hopes continued of a peaceful settlement of the political deadlock. The gilt-edged market was firm apart from Irish Guaranteed, and Consols closed 1-16 better at 74 15-16 75 1-16 for money and 75 1-16 3-16 for account.

Firm at the opening on the election of M. Poincaré as President, the Paris Bourse showed indecision, and prices eased off to the close. French Rentes, after being 89.47 (with 89.60 at Lyons) declined, and closed finally at 89.26, or 11c. lower. Pending Turkey's reply to the Powers Foreign Government stocks were undecided. Rio Tintos fell 10f., with South African quiet and irregular, and De Beers 1½ lower, but Central Mining 2f. better. Suez Canal rose 70f. Russian Industrials showed some animation, Lianosoff rising nearly 20f., but Baku fell 5f. At Berlin the doubts raised as to maintenance of present trade conditions led to some selling, but later a belief that the Powers' Note to the Porte may lead to the conclusion of peace induced some "bear" covering and a better tendency, especially in Mines and Navigation issues. The Foreign-market on this side showed little movement. Peruvian weakened and Japanese lost ¼ to ½, as the level of prices was thought high. Russian 1906 rose ¼, and Chinese Gold 1896 ¾, with 1 in Chilian 1895 Bonds.

British Rails, in the absence of business, were little affected and generally steady. Metropolitan and Brighton Deferred were offered at a decline of ¼, while Chatham Ordinary was firmer, and Great Eastern rallied ¼. Mersey Preference rose 1, but Midland and Lancashire and Yorkshire Debenture stocks lost ¼ each.

Advices from Wall-street reported more activity, support being forthcoming on any fall, while the oversold account induced operators for the fall to cover. Here the American-market was firm at above the parity level, and the close showed only slight decline, with Illinois, Missouris, and Atchisons as exceptions rather better. Canada Pacifics, despite an increase of 647,000 dols. in the traffic, fell ¾, while Grand Trunk junior issues were firmer. In Foreign Lines Central Argentine rallied ½, and Leopoldina ¼. Mexican (Vera Cruz and National) issues were about steady, with a further recovery in Mexico N.W. Bonds, although the Ordinary stock fell 1. Dorado Extension shares and B.A. Western Extension lost ¼ and ⅛ respectively.

Brewery securities presented no change, with very little doing, while Bank shares were also

Balfour

3, QUEENSBERRY PLACE,
S.W.

6. II. 1913

Dear Mr. Buxton,

Mr. Gueshoff's reply on the subject of the doctors has come. He asks us to convey to you his very sincere thanks for the generous offer, but adds that, in the opinion of the competent authorities, no need for medical help is at present

felt. Remembering the record of these same authorities during the earlier stages of the war, I would not have attached any special importance to their opinion. Mais c'est le Gouvernement qui décide! I only hope they will have no reason to regret this decision.

Thanking you once more for the kind, interest she has continued to take in the well-being of our soldiers, I am, dear Mr. Buxton,

Yours sincerely

C. C. Meincoff

REPORT from MISS MACQUEEN, Monastir, dated Jan 15th. 1913

Systematic destruction of the Moslem villages has been carried out in the Zazas of Monastir, Perlipe, Kialer, Florina, Kirchivo Sworsvitz, Kastoria, Gorcha, Serfidge, Kojani, Elasona, Nasilitch Grevena, - and considerable destruction in the Dibra district. The Christians have suffered severely in the Sworovitz and Kolonia districts.

In most cases the Moslem villages have been entirely destroyed and the majority of the surviving inhabitants have congregated in Monastir where there must be at least 6,000 persons in danger of starvation, and in urgent need of fuel and clothing. Relief will probably be required for at least three months.

The Government is not at present giving any help. The Municipal Authorities are collecting a small sum and have decided to give bread to a certain number of refugees for ten days!. Bread, and in some cases, beans, and vegetables, are being distributed from four centres - British, American, French, Austrian, but from 3,000 to 4,000 people are said still to be in need of food.

I am working in conjunction with the British Consul and am arranging to distribute bread to 2,000 people at a cost of about £10. a day.

The houses are very overcrowded, in one case, one room I visited was said to be lived in by 32 people. There were 20 present when I went there. As far as possible I am trying to visit all the refugees in their own houses, but it is difficult to find them. There does not seem to be an epidemic or any considerable amount of sickness at present, but there are some bad cases which certainly require attention. Yesterday I

saw a man and woman very ill, lying in a dark room apparently with no one to care for them. The man looked as if he were dying of enteric fever. Judging from the filthy and insanitary condition of the town an outbreak of fever may be expected. We have a scheme for cleansing the place which, if the authorities will partially adopt it, may, happily, combined with the fine mountain air, ward off an epidemic of enteric fever.

The only really satisfactory form which relief work in the villages could assume would be in the way of furnishing oxen and seed, corn and agricultural instruments or the money to buy them. Such work would need immense funds, far greater than in 1903, and would perhaps be questionable economy as it is pretty generally felt that the majority of the Moslem refugees will emigrate. At present, it would in many cases, be unsafe for them to return to their villages - Those villages in the neighbourhood of Monastir which I have already visited have no Turkish houses left, they are all completely burnt or destroyed. We hope to get the authorities here to give permission for the refugees to go out under guard to fetch some of the wood which remains, for fuel

The American missionary at Sorcha (Koritza) writes that the suffering is great in that district and asks that I should go and organise relief work there. He says that some forty to sixty villages have been destroyed between Gorcha and Florina. I should like as soon as possible to make a tour including Resua, Ocrida, Gorcha, Kolonia, Kastoria, and Sworovitz, etc., and would be very glad to know if funds will allow of distribution centres being established at three or four places as may be required.

House of Commons,

July 29th, 1913.

Sir,

THE INVASION OF THRACE.

The violation of the Turkish frontier, in spite of warnings by the Prime Minister, Sir Edward Grey, and all the Powers, involves a task for Sir Edward Grey in which expressions of opinion by Members of the House of Commons will be of value in strengthening his hands.

We hope you will kindly indicate your willingness to sign the enclosed at the earliest possible moment.

Yours faithfully,

NOEL BUXTON.

ARTHUE PONSONBY.

CECIL BECK.

House of Commons,

July 30th, 1913.

To the Right Hon. Sir Edward Grey, Bart, K.G., M.P.,

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Sir,

We, the undersigned, desire to express our conviction that the action of Turkey, in violating the frontier fixed by the Treaty of London, constitutes an affront which the Powers cannot allow to remain unremedied, and we tender our support to any proposal which you, as recognised leader of the Concert, may make for the coercion of Turkey by the Powers acting through one or more mandatories. We recognise

(1) that the frontier was fixed under the auspices of the Powers, who had also appointed experts to delimit it;

(2) that the Allies were forced by pressure from the Concert to withdraw their frontier from the strong position opposite Chatalja, and that the Turks have thus been able to overrun Thrace, and so bring further deplorable suffering upon that province;

(3) that the strife among the Allies, which led the Turks to advance, resulted from the creation by the Concert of an Albanian State;

(4) that, deeply regrettable as are the reported outrages by troops of the Allies, they are the legacy of Turkish misrule, the cessation of which has in every liberated State produced public order;

(5) that it is the function of Great Britain, not only on account of the leadership she has so honourably maintained since the War began, but also on account of her support of Turkey in 1878, to make energetic proposals to the other members of the Concert.

Yours faithfully,

ARMENIAN REFORMS.

An international Conference was held at Paris on November 30th, 1913, at the offices of the Comité de l'Asie Française, to discuss the present aspect of the Question of Armenian Reforms. The President of the Armenian Section of the Committee, General de Lacroix, presided, and was supported by M.Emile Senart, president of the Committee itself. England was represented by Mr. ANEURIN WILLIAMS, J.P., Mr. T.P.O'CONNOR,M.P., Mr. A.F.WHYTE, M.P., and the Rev. HAROLD BUXTON; Germany by Dr. LEPSIUS and Dr. ROHRBACH; Italy by Duc d'Andria Carafa, Member of the Senate; Russia by M. MILIOUKOFF, leader of the constitutional democratic party in the Duma, and M.JEAN PAVLOVSKY; Switzerland by M.LEOPOLD FABRE and M. CLAPAREDE; Austria by Dr.ANTON HERMANN and M.JOHAN PRUNKUL. After addresses by the President, by H.E. Boghos Nubar Pasha, M.Milioukoff, Mr. Harold Buxton and Mr.Aneurin Williams, and short speeches by other delegates the following resolution was unanimously passed:-

"The Delegates of Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Great Britain and Ireland, Italy, Russia and Sweden -

Considering that the requests for financial help addressed by Turkey to the Powers provide the latter with the simplest and least dangerous means, in fact with an opportunity which may never occur again, to obtain at last from the Ottoman Government the realisation of Armenian reforms;

Considering that these reforms are of pressing interest to the Powers and to Turkey itself;

That by these reforms alone the disorders threatening Armenia can be avoided, which would be certain to call forth interventions by which the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, its very existence and even international peace itself would be seriously endangered;

That they in no way threaten the Ottoman sovereignty, as the Armenians do not and cannot entertain any wish for separation, showing themselves loyal subjects of the Empire, the more so as they would enjoy security and regularity of administration hitherto unknown, which benefits they would share with the other populations with which they are mixed in the vilayets of Armenia.

Considering that the interests of the holders of present and future Ottoman securities are identical in nature with those of Turkey and of the Powers;

That in consequence of the Balkan war, Turkey will be obliged to increase the burden of a budget already suffering from a chronic deficit, whose stability could not be ensured by a simple amelioration of the taxation of existing resources, but could only be established on a permanent basis by the creation of fresh resources resulting from economic progress being impossible without administrative reforms;

That, consequently, any Turkish Loan previous to the adoption of a project of reforms, would be granted in defiance of the interest of the holders of Ottoman securities and would threaten their security.

Considering that no scheme of Ottoman reforms could be taken seriously which does not aim at establishing in the most definite shape European administrative control;

That the failure of all attempts previously made by Turkey when left to her own resources has proved that this control can only be usefully exercised by European officials, whose powers and contracts would be guaranteed by the Powers;

That, failing a control thus ensured, any project of reforms would be more dangerous than beneficial, as is shown by the example of Macedonia, and could therefore not be taken into consideration by diplomats anxious to arrive at actual results and to avoid discrediting themselves by idle words;

That they in no way threaten the Ottoman sovereignty, as the Armenians do not and cannot entertain any wish for separation, showing themselves loyal subjects of the Empire, the more so as they would enjoy security and regularity of administration hitherto unknown, which benefits they would share with the other populations with which they are mixed in the vilayets of Armenia.

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That in consequence of the Balkan war, Turkey will be obliged to increase the burden of a budget already suffering from a chronic deficit, whose stability could not be ensured by a simple amelioration of the creation of existing resources, but could only be established on a permanent basis by the creation of fresh resources resulting from economic progress being impossible without administrative reforms;

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Considering that no scheme of Ottoman reforms could be taken seriously which does not aim at establishing in the most definite shape European administrative control;

That the failure of all attempts previously made by Turkey when left to her own resources has proved that this control can only be usefully exercised by European officials, whose powers and contracts would be guaranteed by the Powers;

That, failing a control thus ensured, any projects of reforms would be more dangerous than beneficial, as is shown by the example of Macedonia, and would therefore not be taken into consideration by diplomatic analysts to arrive at actual results and to avoid discredited themselves by idle words;

Considering that the scheme of administrative reforms for the six vilayets of Armenia recently adopted by the Embassies at Constantinople, in conformity with the rights and duties conferred on the Powers by Art. 61 of the Treaty of Berlin, corresponds to the interests and requirements above mentioned by clearly establishing European control;

?

Who knows

They therefore resolve that the Powers ought not to agree to any increase of the Ottoman custom duties or to the imposition of new taxes on foreigners in Turkey, or authorise the issue of any Ottoman Loan; in other words, that they should refuse to satisfy in any way whatever the financial needs of Turkey, before the Turkish Government has formally agreed to the scheme of reforms presented by the Embassies at Constantinople, which stipulates for control to be exercised by the Powers and the granting of executive powers to the European officials to be entrusted with the reorganisation of the administration of the vilayets of Armenia;

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The Delegates further declare their intention to urge the governments of their respective countries not to render themselves responsible - by giving their approval to them or in any other way - for reforms which, lacking the essential element of European control, could only lead to disastrous consequences."

Considering that the scheme of administrative reforms for the six vilayets of Armenia recently adopted by the Embassies at Constantinople, in conformity with the rights and duties conferred on the Powers by Art. 61 of the Treaty of Berlin, corresponds to the interests and requirements above mentioned by clearly establishing European control;

They therefore resolve that the Powers ought not to agree to any increase of the Ottoman custom duties or to the imposition of new taxes on foreigners in Turkey, or authorise the issue of any Ottoman loan; in other words, that they should refuse to satisfy in any way whatever the financial needs of Turkey, before the Turkish Government has formally agreed to the scheme of reforms presented by the Embassies at Constantinople, which stipulates for control to be exercised by the Powers and the granting of executive powers to the European officials to be entrusted with the reorganisation of the administration of the vilayets of Armenia;

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MACEDONIAN RELIEF FUND

REPORTS FROM AGENTS.

The Need for Help in Albania

By M. E. DURHAM.

Into the rights and wrongs of the various Balkan peoples it is now too late to enter. Race-hatred, religious-hatred and every cruel and primitive passion was let loose and for nearly a year did its worst. All that the humane can now do is to save some of the innocent victims.

In North Albania the misery dates from before the war. Two years almost ceaseless revolt against the Young Turks' attempt at forcible Ottomanization had, before the outbreak of war, already reduced large districts to the verge of starvation. The war found these districts burnt, plundered and ravaged and the people exhausted, and, in many cases, disarmed. Attacked at once by three armies—Greek, Servian and Montenegrin,—they were powerless to defend themselves.

The result is that many thousands have perished and that the survivors are left to face the winter destitute—many of them—of all but the rags they stand up in.

Heaps of blackened ruins are all that remains of once prosperous villages. Fruit trees, timber trees, and—worst of all—great olive gardens have been felled to provide fuel for the invading armies. Every beast driven off—every possession looted.

Red War.

And have you seen the owners, when the storm has passed, returning to their devastated homesteads? Circles of blacklash mark the sites of corn and hay-ricks. The women crouch in a corner of the blackened roofless walls and boil chopped grass and beech and dandelion leaves to feed the starving children. At night they crawl into miserable little kennels made of bent twigs and brushwood that do not keep out the rain. Among many such scenes I remember vividly a woman, with two children under an umbrella against the lee-side of a wall, in the snow, all the shelter they had. And others to whom even flour was useless—they had no pot of any kind in which to cook it, much less the means of making bread.

There are many hundreds of such, who must die this winter, slowly and miserably if help be not given. Quite innocent beings who do not even know what all the war was about.

I shall not easily forget a family, in the early days of the war, which had fled three months in the dead of the winter, from two armies, escaping first one, then the other. Of seven children, three had died of exposure. One little girl had got wet through crossing a river and had frozen in the night. The mother, dazed with misery, did not know how long she had been fleeing. "It seems," she said simply, "like all my life."

Women, haggard and wretched (who were used to live as well-to-do peasants), hammered incessantly at my gate. "The soldiers came. We were afraid. I took the children and ran to the mountains. My husband went to collect the cows. The soldiers surrounded the village. I saw it blazing. We only just escaped in time. The people left in it were burnt. My husband was killed. I am out on the highway with my five orphans. Give them bread, in God's Name."

"I cannot. The money is finished. No more is coming from England." A terrible scene follows. "I believed in God and you. You *must* give. They will die, I tell you. They will all die." She shows the skinny baby at her breasts which are half-dried by starvation. She throws herself at my feet—clasps my knees, with a terrible screech of despair. "If you won't give bread, take them and throw them in the river. I cannot see them die."

And this not in one case—but over and over again. Or an exhausted man, who until he had had food could not tell a coherent tale. He had tramped four days foodless in hope of help for his family.

THE FUND WAS EXHAUSTED. I gave all I could from my own pocket.

THE HOPELESSNESS OF DESPAIR.

Then came the crowning horror. Refugees began to pour in from the district, occupied by Servia and Montenegro. Thousands of them, streaming into free Albania. Almost all were Albanian. Some few were Bulgars.

In the early gray dawn they trailed in, footsore, exhausted, an army of misery. Except a bundle of gay-coloured bed-coverlets, most of them had saved nothing. Here and there a luckier family had a packhorse loaded high with pots, pans, and babies. On they came—one thousand, two—three. I watched with dumb dismay. This was at Elbassan. All turned to me to save them. I gave £13—all I had—and fled. And on the road and at Tirana I met hundreds more. Men silent with despair. Women carrying wailing babes and dragging an older child by the hand. "If you cannot help us we will starve here. We can never go back." Their lands indeed have, in many cases, already been bestowed as rewards upon the officers of the conquering armies.

I fled. Fled from misery I was powerless to relieve. And since I left I have heard that refugees are now pouring into Scutari as well at the rate of about 100 a day.

Such is the woe of the conquered. Horror and misery unimaginable. Not only money but volunteer helpers, who can stand roughing it, are needed most urgently.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

The Condition of Macedonia.

By H. N. BRAILSFORD.

The Carnegie Commission, of which I was a member, undertook its journey through the Balkans to report on the consequences of the War, and we naturally saw much which has a direct bearing on the work of relief. It is difficult to avoid language which sounds exaggerated in describing the misery of the country, or to think of its future without pessimism. On the Moslem population the accumulated hatreds of generations were everywhere let loose. They have emigrated in thousands, and many more will go. In Macedonia, however, their worst trials occurred, chiefly at the hands of the Bulgarians, in the Autumn of 1912, and those who still remain on their lands are not now in dire need. Of the Albanians I can say nothing at first hand, but it is common knowledge that in many districts they are in desperate want. A few Greek towns and villages were burned by the Bulgarians in the second war, notably Serres, Nigrita and Doxato, but these are the centres of a wealthy district, and for them the Greek Government has organised relief on an adequate scale. The people who are now in the most urgent need are Bulgarian victims of the second war.

In Need of Everything.

The Greek Army advanced from Kukush to Djumaia for a distance which measures nearly a hundred miles in a straight line, through a district mainly peopled by Bulgarian peasants. With few exceptions it burned every village in its path, and plundered what it did not burn. The list which I have is not complete, but it shows that nearly 160 villages have been burned in this campaign, comprising about 16,000 houses, with a population of about 90,000. Some of these villages were really small towns, like Kukush itself, which had nearly 13,000 inhabitants. The population, save in a few exceptional villages, fled in a body to Bulgaria, abandoning crops, cattle and household gear. I will not speak of the terrors and sufferings of the flight, nor yet of the excesses in which the Greek Army indulged where it came in touch with the peasants. For these things no relief is possible. What concerns us is that the people are gradually returning to the ruins of their villages in need of everything, and dependent on charity for the barest subsistence.

The Bulgarians of the Kingdom have done well both by public grants and private gifts. But Bulgaria itself has been brought near to ruin by the two wars, and she has to provide not only for these Macedonians, but also for the Bulgarians who fled from Thrace. It is a task beyond her resources. She has also on her hands thousands of exiles and fugitives who have fled to escape Greek and Servian coercion. She takes over new territories which are little better than deserts ravaged in two wars by each race in turn.

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Nor is the problem merely to re-establish peasants driven for a few months from their own lands and villages. Part of the territory which they devastated, the Kukush district, has fallen in the partition to the Greeks. They are, so far, totally ignoring the rights of the fugitive population, and are assigning their lands to others. We are back in the days of primitive conquest, and the people of the Kukush region, who are nearly all in Bulgaria, are now not only homeless but landless. They must somehow be provided for, and that problem also falls on the Bulgarian Government. It will probably try to do just enough to prevent these exiles from dying of starvation, but it is not in a position to do more.

Perishing of Want.

British charity was checked for a time by the knowledge that all the parties to the two wars committed excesses. Undoubtedly that is the case, though some of the accusations made in the press were grossly exaggerated. But to refuse charity on that ground would be a strange confusion of thought. One gives not to reward merit but to relieve suffering. War, moreover, to the Balkan peoples has always meant devastation and indiscriminate slaughter. That tradition is their heritage from the Turks, and at the worst they are in their morality only a century behind the rest of Europe. These simple peasants had been wronged by the Turks ; they were not enlightened enough to refrain from vengeance when the opportunity came. They are now homeless and naked, facing the future amid the depression of defeat, with no one to help them but a ruined and beaten nation, decimated by war and disease, taking their widows and orphans with them, they are now wandering back amid the winter rains to their bare fields and the charred walls of their homes. Trade is at a standstill, and few of them will earn anything until next year's harvest. British charity could nowhere be better used than in assisting them with food or clothing, seed-corn or building materials.

Two groups of villages are in especial want, the Bulgarian peasants of the Tikvesh and Kotchana regions devastated by the Servians in the second war, and assigned to them in the partition. Several villages have been burned in each of these districts, and as they lie outside Bulgarian territory, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY HELP WILL REACH THEM, UNLESS OUR FUND PROVIDES IT. What the war left to them has since been gleaned by marauding bands of Turkish Bashi-Bazouks, who were tolerated by the Servians so long as they preyed only on Bulgarians. Something, one hopes, may ultimately be done by the Concert to lighten the sufferings of the conquered populations but in the meanwhile they are only too likely to perish of want unless unofficial help can reach them promptly.

November, 1913.

H Lamb

Mr BUXTON's ideas & reflections on the new Ottoman Administration.

The "ROUMELI" has published two articles on the subject of Mr BUXTON's letter to the "TIMES", the first being practically a translation of, & the second an article in comment on it. The latter is to the following effect: -

Young Turkey, in bringing about its revolution, adopted Truth as its first principle and the secret of the success of the present administration is that it is built on this foundation, this basis of truth. The "ROUMELI", as the principal organ & exponent of Young Turkey's policy, is anxious to examine Mr BUXTON's letter in a corresponding spirit, i.e. accepting & assenting to all statements that may be true, even when they tell against ourselves.

We understand that Mr BUXTON's letter was provoked by an article written by the "TIMES' " own correspondent in criticism of the new administration, Mr BUXTON considering the correspondent's strictures on the present situation uncalled for. In this connection he writes: "The logical deduction from your correspondent's article would be that the time is come for intervention. Permit me to say that the present state of Turkey does not warrant any such course." Further on he says: "Turkey has made a fair amount of progress & the reforms introduced by it appear to more radical & more firmly established than anything that could be accomplished by agreement amongst the Powers." Mr BUXTON then cites some of his own experiences in confirmation of his statements about improvements & progress & then turns his attention to criticism. As we do not claim that Young Turkey has suddenly attained complete perfection in its administration, we find it quite natural that Mr BUXTON, after these statements in our favour, should make other statements based on his own observations in regard to what he considers faulty & deficient in our administration. We are the more pleased that he should do so in that we may be able to derive some advantage from these impartial criticisms based on actual observation. Mr BUXTON's criticisms are couched in diplomatic language & display therefore a certain obscurity

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& elasticity that require a certain amount of explanation. With a little attention however they are not difficult to understand. They may be summarised as follows: -

(1) Although the Young Turkish Administration is not as bad as it is reported to be, yet the excesses described by the "TIMES" correspondent & referred to by Lords Lansdowne & Crewe in the Upper Chamber are true;

(2) The barbarities complained of are due firstly to the inefficient control of the Central Government over the administrative machinery & secondly to the growth of militarism & fanaticism in the U.& P. ranks;

(3) No one who knows TALAAT Bey, (who was then still) Minister of the Interior, would believe him capable of being pleased at such acts of tyranny, but nevertheless the acts complained of continued to take place even after his journey through Macedonia;

(4) On the other hand the continuance of separatist propaganda breeds lawlessness & irregularities. The bands cannot accommodate themselves to the idea of a permanent "Ottoman" state;

(5) The Ottoman Government is incapable of maintaining public security & the cruelties committed in its name partly excuse the action of the Comitadjis;

(6) By its treatment of the Church Question the Government has made an onslaught on the national existence of both Greeks & Bulgars; while the only result attained by the bands has been to inflict injury on their own co-nationals;

(7) In short there have been mistakes on both sides.

Mr BUXTON does not think the present policy of England as regard Young Turkey correct or reasonable for, being asked if the Y.T. have afforded grounds for foreign intervention, he replies in the negative. His letter therefore is, on the whole, favourable to the Y.T. administration & we give below some remarks showing that on some points we are in agreement with Mr BUXTON.

In order to be in a position to form an opinion on the action of

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the bands & the measures adopted against them by the Government, it is necessary to study the causes that lead to their formation and the sources from which they spring. It will be found that their origin is due not to Government mismanagement but to foreign instigation & organisation. The establishment of constitutional government in Turkey was a source of great annoyance and a severe blow to the aspirations of many states who had hoped to profit from the dismemberment of Turkey as a result of the old régime and these states still hold on to their old aspirations. Their aim is to force Y.T. to administer Macedonia with as much severity as Old Turkey did & to - falsely - persuade Europe that the Christians are the victims of barbarity. The rumours concerning the oppression of Christians in Macedonia, the repetition of which in the House of Lords as if they were true excited so much annoyance amongst all Ottomans, arose out of the disarmament proceedings, a measure of precaution naturally applied to the whole of the country in order to prevent a repetition of the regrettable incidents that had previously occurred there. Let Mr BUXTON & other foreigners who are possessed of erroneous ideas on this subject take into consideration the fact that, when it was decided to disarm the whole of Macedonia, proclamations were issued from the organising centre of the bands in Bulgaria to the Bulgars of Macedonia calling on them not to give up their arms to the Government. For what reason did the bands, which are simply under the control of the Cabinet at SOFIA, issue such an order? Merely that these arms might again be used against the Turkish Government. If England had been in Turkey's place what would she have done in the face of such action on the part of foreigners? Y.T. did nothing more than Justice & Humanity required. It may be that certain excesses were committed, but after all they were excusable. Even Mr BUXTON admits that the Y.T. administration can not be held responsible for them. It must be remembered that the bands had ordered the Bulgars of Macedonia not to give up their arms under penalty od death or worse. When the disarmament proceeding were over, the bands directed by Bulgaria decided that everyone

(not frank)

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who had surrendered a weapon should be mulcted of £5 and they have endeavoured to enforce this decision. We understand that the brigand band of 25 men that recently had an encounter with Gendarmes near Kumanovo had gone to collect this fine. How ought Y.T. to have acted in face of movements of this kind which threaten the whole prosperity of the country? What difference is there between such people & the anarchists who were shot at by soldiers with cannon & finally burnt to ashes in a house in a London street?

Referring still to the bands, we must remark that the fact, cited by Mr BUXTON, that they cannot reconcile themselves to the idea of a permanent Ottoman state is due to their being organised & controlled by another & foreign state. Again, when he says :"The bands have produced no other result than to injure their own co-nationals" we must remember that the latter are Turkish subjects & that it is Turkey's duty to protect them from the attacks of the bands.

~~You must think~~ Before passing judgement on these excesses, which by all sorts of tricks & misrepresentations have been carried right up to the English House of Lords, one should consider the fundamental causes of them.

In one sentence of his letter Mr BUXTON says: "While this regrettable state of affairs continues, the danger of War is always within the bounds of probability". It is not however the Young Turks who will be in any way responsible for this.

Roumelie, Wednesday 1st March.

Mr. Buxton's Thoughts and Reflections on the new Ottoman Government.

Mr. Buxton has written a letter to the Tanin (which we reproduce) explaining that he never advised the Bulgarians to combine against the Young Turks in Macedonia and that they would have the support of the Balkan Committee. On the contrary he told the Bulgarian correspondent that he did not approve of the methods of the Bands and that if the Christians in Macedonia had recourse to such methods they would not have the Balkan Committee's support nor England's.

Mr. Buxton says he does not approve of the action of the Bands. In his "Times" letter he says that the action of the Bands may be held excusable in the light of the excesses of the Young Turk Administration. It should be clearly understood that these Bands are created for political reasons, that they are controlled from a political centre. If they had sprung into being on account of cruelty of the New Régime, we and every honourable man would have done our best to put an end to that Régime, and if we couldn't do so we would have retired and left it. But the Bands are created in countries opposed to Turkey's progress and reduced to despair by it. A Band, we will say, of 15 men comes from Bulgaria into Turkey and comes to a Bulgarian village. They order the villagers to do this and that against the Government and to pay them so much money, otherwise they threaten to cut their throats. If their orders are not obeyed they kill the offenders. The Government gets word of their presence and send a detachment to make inquiries of the villagers, so as to be able to pursue the brigands. Now we ask Mr. Buxton: What should the villager do ? If he gives information to the Government, he is punished by the band or by another one. If he does not, the Government imprisons him for harbouring brigands. Imprisonment is not so bad as death, so the villager generally chooses to inform the Government. The unfortunate villagers are indeed to be pitied. And indeed those who hate the Bulgarian bands most are the Bulgarian peasants. But what are they to do when the Bands command !

Yes you can protect him

In all their actions against the brigands the Young Turks' first idea is to save the unfortunate peasant.

Mr. Buxton says that "the Ottoman Government cannot assure tranquillity" But he will admit that the administration of a country cannot materially change in a day and that, in comparison with the Hamidian régime, the present administration is in quite a different category. We have explained the character, aims and sources of these bands, and no matter how much the Administration improves, as long as the centre of operations continues in the same way, we shall never be free from the bands. England carried on a guerilla warfare in South Africa for three years and spent three hundred million pounds. Reforms are wanted in the administration. Nabié administration must be established. The government and people must be in closer relations so that the people may be protected from the brigands; we call for these reforms. The Government must prepare a Bill; Parliament must discuss the

Pourquoi, Saturday 1st March.

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the question. Let it be done soon. We hope this year. These reforms will diminish, if not terminate, the activities of the Bands. Till they are passed , the Government must do its best to protect the people against the Bands. If we were to say that the case of 90% of the complaints made by the population they were put up by the Bands to make them, we should not be exaggerating. . . . . Look how Mr. Buxton's statements were treated by the Bulgarian Press. 20,000 copies of the paper containing his distorted statements were printed and distributed to Bulgarians in Macedonia and it was said to them: "See who protects us and what those who protect us say."

? The shot was many correct. ~~[illegible]~~ (Cantis. land.)

Mr. Buxton's remarks about the Churches Question surprised us. For if Young Turkey has done anything for the good of the non-Moslem races it is in the Churches Question. Mr. Buxton knows of course that the dispute between the Exarch and the Patriarch is really a "political" one. The common people cannot understand the political motives of this dispute. But they have been worked on by interested parties so that these two elements who have at bottom the same belief in the same creed are now engaged in a struggle of religious fanaticism. No one of course mentions the political aspect of the question, but under the dispute about this church belonging to the Bulgars and that cemetery to the Greeks one sees the real aim, viz: this part of Macedonia is to go to the Bulgars and that part to the Greeks. Turkey could not remain indifferent to this political struggle. Moreover the people who are engaged in it are her children, her subjects. For that reason she brought forward the Churches Law and with many sacrifices on her part put an end to the dispute. The result has been that the majority - two-thirds at least - of these churches have gone to those who own them already. Money was given to those remaining without a church and new churches built for them. No one remained without a place of worship. The people have found security and tranquillity. Can anything be objected to in all this ? We think no criticisms can be directed against us on this score.

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10, Adelphi Terrace,

Strand, W. C.

Dear Sir,

I beg to enclose a brief statement of the present state of affairs in the Balkans.

The mandate to Russia and Austria has proved, as predicted from the first, a failure, and the state of things is certainly not less, but more anarchic, than when I was in Macedonia before the insurrection and the subsequent institution of the so-called "Reforms".

The policy required remains the same -

(1) Complete European control; the foreign Gendarmerie officers are without executive power, and to pacify the country control must also be exercised over the Finance, Judiciary, Administration, now vitiated by corruption and partiality in favour of the Turkish idea of ascendancy. The number and movements of troops must also be controlled.

(2) Responsibility of the Governor to all the Powers. Why should the "interested" Powers use the mandate for their own interest, and the disinterested Powers, such as England and France, who alone have done their best to make use of the gendarmerie's powers of inspection, be excluded from influence?

(3) The inclusion of Adrianople province. Adrianople adjoins the British district, and Lord Lansdowne suggested last session that our officers might be useful there. They are now less numerous than those of the other Powers, and should number at least 12. British money is still being spent in the villages burnt in 1903, where the Turks are persecuting the returned refugees, in defiance of the agreement with Bulgaria. A consul should be appointed to Adrianople, though his presence would be but an inadequate mitigation of the trouble.

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As to the way in which real reform is to be obtained, the precedents of the Lebanon in 1860, Thessaly in 1880, and Crete in 1897 point the way. The Sultan yielded in 1880, on the mere announcement that Mr. Gladstone had proposed coercion. The Mahommedan law, which forbids him to yield without coercion, commands him also not to resist it. It is well known that England would be warmly supported by Italy in pressing for drastic action.

The subject will be raised in the debate on the Address, and as there is great hope that action may be taken if adequate signs of public interest are shown, we venture strongly to urge the importance of making the debate a good one.

Mr. C.P. Allen is Secretary of the Committee of Members of Parliament for dealing with the subject.

Yours very truly,

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TURKS' AFFRONT MUST BE PUNISHED.

Mr. Noel Buxton and the Powers' Responsibility.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—The action of Turkey in violating the frontier laid down by the Treaty of London constitutes an affront which the Powers cannot afford to leave unremedied, and public opinion should make itself clear in favour of an active support by the British Government to a policy of possible coercion of Turkey.

Discussion in the House by means of a motion for adjournment has not been permitted by the Speaker, and it has remained for the Press to provide the Foreign Minister with the backing of which he may be in need. Foreign Ministers are naturally loth to encourage discussion in which they themselves are unable to make definite declarations of policy, yet it is notorious that Ministers, for instance, Lord Salisbury and Lord Lansdowne, readily adduced in their dispatches to Foreign Governments the fact that public opinion compelled them to take an active line. It is quite significant that not only has the Press of all parties urged that to tolerate the Turkish invasion would be unthinkable, but a public meeting has actually been held at the Caxton Hall to assure the Government of support. . . .

The Turks have advanced so far that they are now infringing not only the Treaty of London, but the Treaty of Berlin.

Outrage and Massacre.

Above all, outrage and massacre has taken place on a terrible scale, and has shown that action must be immediate to prevent the extermination of a large population.

The public mind has been satiated with stories of outrages by the allies; stories which now prove to be largely inventions or imputed to the wrong party. There are no correspondents in Thrace as there are with the Greek army, and the truth is now only filtering through the foreign residents of Constantinople. It is difficult to realise what outrages by the returning Turks may mean.

I am one of the few Europeans who had seen the towns near the Sea of Marmora liberated in the war and now restored to the Turks. Places such as Rodosto and Chorlu are wealthy and highly civilised; they are not Bulgarian, but their populations had profited by the liberation and welcomed the invader. Highly educated Greeks with whom I was quartered at such places as Lule Burgas are now victims of indiscriminate vengeance, such as the slaughter of which the European Embassies

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in the paragraph: "Children who are incapable of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in ordinary schools," he said a large number of the children who would come under that definition were merely backward, dull children, who preferred playing in the streets or the open country to sitting on a bench and saying their "A B C." It would be a crime to consign these children for life to those hells on earth—the feeble-minded institutions.

Mr. McKENNA said Mr. Wedgwood was still, notwithstanding two years' debates, under a complete misapprehension as to the nature of the Bill. There was no such provision in the Bill as he described, nor anything like it. The statement that children who were merely backward or lazy at school would be sent to hells on earth was entirely without foundation. The only child who could be dealt with under the Bill was one who was in a special school or class, or who had been discharged from such a school or class as incapable of receiving further benefit from it.

In order to provide a further safeguard Mr. McKenna proposed to move an amendment providing that children should not be deemed feeble-minded unless, by reason of mental defectiveness, they were "permanently" incapable of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in ordinary schools.

The amendment was ultimately withdrawn.

Home Office Amendment.

Mr. McKENNA then moved the amendment which he had previously mentioned, providing that children shall not be deemed mentally defective unless they "are permanently" incapable of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in ordinary schools.

After some discussion he accepted a proposal from the Ministerial side of the House to substitute "appear to be permanently," etc., for "are permanently," etc. The Opposition objected to this, and challenged a division upon it.

There voted:

For the proposal	230
Against	78
Government majority	152

The amendment thus modified was agreed to.

Mr. WEDGWOOD moved an amendment providing that a mentally defective person under the age of 21 might be placed in an institution at the instance of his parent, but not of a guardian.

Mr. McKENNA accepted the amendment, which was agreed to, and further announced his intention in a later clause of limiting the power of the parent by requiring a medical certificate upon which a mentally defective child—not an idiot or imbecile—was committed to an institution to be counter-signed by the judicial authorities.

£4,000 GOLD INGOT STOLEN.

LIEGE, Monday.

It was found by an employee this morning that a glass case containing an ingot of gold had disappeared from the Belgian Colonial Palace at the Ghent International

The *Vossische Zeitung* again attacks England this evening, saying, in a Constantinople despatch, that the Young Turk Committee, who are the real holders of power, are more than ever under English influence since the arrival of Mr. Noel Buxton, chairman of the Balkan Committee of London. It is added that England's policy, which was formerly to show the uselessness of German friendship, is now directed towards proving the worthlessness of that of Austria.

going to gain much by a system of that kind, and the public were not going to gain much in regard to the character of the men who would go into the houses when they might be turned out of their homes with their families within 12 months. The noble earl below him believed that the tied system would be done away with. He was pretty sure it would not. He thought it was extremely probable that whoever got the licence and these not very valuable rights in the future would be either a brewer or under an arrangement with a brewer to sell a particular beer. He saw nothing in the Act to prevent the tied system going on. His opinion upon the result of the Bill at the end of 21 years was that the more powerful breweries would arrange among them-