

3/Herbert

House of Commons.

10th January, 1913.

Dear Buxton,

I see that in a recent meeting of the Balkan Committee, two resolutions were passed -

Firstly - That nothing short of the terms demanded by the allied States from the Turks should be accepted.

Secondly - Urging the Powers to insist upon the terms proposed by the Allies.

Had I been at your meeting, I should have protested against these resolutions.

When the Conference paid the high tribute to British impartiality, by deciding to sit in London, Sir Edward Grey expressed his belief that in England they would find a spirit of fair play and neutrality. This hope is evidently not shared by your Committee, and there is also a section of the Press, whose aggressive attitude does little to advance the Peace negotiations. When the Turkish delegates have taken time before offering their concessions, there are headlines of "Turkish dilatoriness", when, on the other hand, they come to a decision which is displeasing to the Allies, the headlines run "Turkish precipitancy".

If I am answered that the Balkan Committee and the press, which agrees with it, are not bound by any expression of

opinion by Sir Edward Grey, and that the Balkan Committee has a right to its own policy, I should like to know what that policy is.

[It has not been denied that the Servians have massacred Albanians wholesale. I have it on authority, which I believe to be absolutely reliable, that Bulgarian Committees are exterminating the Moslem women and children in Macedonia, with the object of establishing a claim to inherit the land.]

[You feel the same abhorrence for these methods, as do I, and I think that the least that your committee could do, under these circumstances, is to declare your disapproval at such unforgettable and unforgivable savagery, before passing resolutions that deal with the apportionment of the spoil and the inheritance of the murdered.]

[I have, for some time past, been out of sympathy with the partizan attitude of the Balkan Committee, which favoured the Bulgarian at the expense of the Greek and Moslem inhabitants in Macedonia,] and consequently, ask you to be good enough to accept my resignation.

I am sending this letter for publication to the "Times".

I am,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) AUBREY HERBERT.