

TURK ARMY IN BAD WAY

Position of Ottomans Defending Dardanelles Said to Be Precarious.

Turkish Affairs Are in Control of a Strong Triumvirate.

Athens, via Paris, Sept. 13.—An American citizen of standing in Athens has received advices from Constantinople, which he says are trustworthy, that the situation of the Turkish army and government is unfavorable. According to this information the position of the Turkish forces defending the Dardanelles is precarious. It is said the Turkish front, thinned by the heavy losses which the fighting has entailed on both sides, is finding it increasingly difficult to hold the lines against the French and British.

Turkey's position at sea is described as disadvantageous. The former German cruisers Goeben and Breslau, renamed the Sultan Selim and Medullu, are said to have been incapacitated, while the Russian fleet preys upon Turkish ships.

Controlled By Triumvirate.

According to this information, Turkish affairs are under the control of a triumvirate with autocratic powers, consisting of Enver Pasha, minister of war; Taalat Bey, minister of the interior, and Bedri Bey, chief of police of Constantinople. Dissatisfaction among the Moslems is reported and it is expected Sheik Ul Islam was dismissed because he did not approve of measures taken against the Armenians. The committee of union and progress is reported to have been virtually superseded by a secret committee which

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is responsive to the wishes of the triumvirate.

Massacres Duplicated.

The American's informant states that Armenians are being shipped to concentration camps at various points, being driven afoot or forwarded in box cars. He adds that the earlier massacres of Christians in Asia Minor are being duplicated in the present instance and that in some cases only a comparatively small part of the expelled Armenians reach the concentration camps alive.

Henry Morgenthau, American ambassador at Constantinople, has exerted every effort to protect the Armenians but apparently his endeavors have been unavailing. It is stated that American women who attempted to go with the refugees to look out for Armenian children were turned back and that a number of young Armenian girls, who were students at the American college at Constantinople, fell into the hands of the Turks.

No Coal at Constantinople.

Owing to the interruption of sea transportation it is almost impossible to purchase coal at Constantinople, and wood is being used for locomotives. The crops were good, but it has been almost impossible to harvest them. Petroleum costs \$1 a gallon and the price of sugar has increased seven fold.

The American's informant states that the agreement said to have been reached between Turkey and Bulgaria has not effected a definite settlement of relations but that to the contrary the Turks are hastily erecting defenses against the Bulgarians.