

ARMENIANS ARE BLAMED

Conduct Towards Ottoman
Government Has Invited
Repressive Measures.

Turk Wreaking Vengeance
Upon the Guilty and
Innocent Alike.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)

Constantinople, Sept. 10.—By virtue of a total suppression of all news on the subject, the Turkish government has succeeded in throwing an impenetrable veil over its actions towards all Armenians. Nothing definite is obtainable in Constantinople of the fate of this people out in the provinces, but it is known that severe measures planned against the Armenians in the Ottoman capital were not carried out owing to objections of the German government.

Concerning the Armenian affair, three separate notes were presented to the Ottoman government by the German ambassador ad interim, Prince Hohenlohe-Langenburg. If the Associated Press is rightly informed, these notes had no far-reaching effect, because under present conditions, the German government has been obliged to act rather gently. Turkey is still the ally of Germany, and the Armenians seem to have alienated the good will of the German government and people to a considerable extent by having made open cause with the entente powers. Many of them have joined the Russian forces near Van, and at Zeitoun and Dort Jul they revolted against Turkish authority. The three notes referred to were but official incidents in weeks of endeavor to persuade the Turkish government to take a more reasonable and humane view of the Armenian affair. One of the notes drew attention to the great injustice of making all Armenians suffer for the acts of a few.

Turk Is Adamantine.

The Turkish government, however, seems to have remained adamant.

As already stated, it has been impossible to secure accurate information in the premises. Turkish officials have either refused to discuss the situation, or have placed all blame on the Armenians; these latter, on the other hand, have either refused to talk for fear of being also persecuted, or have assigned all responsibility to the Turks. A mass of irreconcilable statements has been the result, ranging on the part of the Turkish officials, from the absurd claim that the Armenians were being well treated, to the assertions of Armenians that in Zeitoun, Dort Jul and other places 50,000 Armenians had been massacred.

That the Turks have in many instances been guilty of needless severity, and in some cases have permitted barbarous acts of violence, including murder and rape, seems well established. On the other hand, the Ar-

menians in the Van country have been accused of similar excesses against the Turkish population, and the Turks, having power on their side, have repaid such acts with liberal interest. It is said, in well-informed Constantinople circles.

Will Not Talk.

It cannot be said that the acts of the Turkish government in this connection have found the approbation of the advanced Turkish classes in the capital, who, for the greater part, favor a policy of conciliation, and some of whom even go so far as to advocate the establishment of a separate Armenian state in Asia Minor under the sovereignty of the Ottoman imperial government. Meanwhile the tendency of the Ottoman government, to either deny altogether that the Armenians are being persecuted, or give its acts a too obviously artificial basis and character, would have but one result, namely that it is both ashamed and afraid to let the truth be known. The many attempts made by the Associated Press correspondent to throw some light on the Armenian situation resulted in failure, because the Turkish officials would not talk and the censorship would not permit the free message of dispatches on the subject.

Nevertheless it must be said that the Armenians are not blameless. Divested of all factors related to the national ambitions of the Armenians, their conduct towards the Turks and the Ottoman government has invited constantly measures of repression. The rising of Zeitoun, Dort Jul and Van, and wholesale desertion of Armenian soldiers to the allies on the Gallipoli peninsula, and to the Russians in the Caucasus, have turned the Turk's heart into stone in matters Armenian, he is now wreaking vengeance upon guilty and innocent alike.

Many Rumors Abont.

Constantinople has for weeks had its daily crop of Armenian rumors. One of the most interesting of them is that even the Sheik-ul-Islam had protested against the excesses from which the Armenians have suffered. There is a possibility that this is true, because the Sheik-ul-Islam is a man of moderation and very progressive tendencies.

It is asserted in Constantinople that the German government has for some time, even at the beginning of the war, taken a special interest in the Armenians. The Germans feared from the very start of the war between Turkey and the Entente that the Armenians would make an attempt to re-establish by force, their independence.

Prominent Armenians were informed that Germany would continue, and even increase, its benevolent interest in the race, if a reasonable attitude was taken during the war. For a time the influence of the men who had been entrusted with the dissemination of this promise had the desired result. But last January and February, more especially in March and April, when the allies had begun to attack the Dardanelles in real earnest the services of those intermediaries ceased to be of value. Exaggerated reports of Entente victories inflamed the imagination of the Armenians, and in many parts they rose in revolt.

What has happened since then is still an unwritten chapter. No newspapermen are allowed to visit the affected districts and reports from these are altogether unreliable. The reticence of the Turkish government cannot be looked upon as a good sign, however, especially when viewed in the light of what the German government has been obliged to do.