

ARMENIAN REFUGEES IN PITIABLE CONDITION; THOUSANDS NEED AID

LONDON, Oct. 16.—Patrick W. Stevens, British consul at Batum, Russia, trans-Caucasia, reports the arrival at Urumiah, Persia, and in the Caucasus, of a large number of Armenian refugees from Asia Minor. They were in a pitiable condition, Mr. Stevens reported. They declare that Turkish troops have completely ravaged Sasun, 85 miles northwest of Bitlis, which was the scene of a massacre of Armenians by Kurds in 1894, killing a majority of the inhabitants and the defenders of the town. Only a handful fled to the mountains, where the refugees say they are doomed to perish.

The bishop of Bagra, writing from Echmiadzin, the seat of the patriarch of Armenia, and the monastery of which is the chief sanctuary of the Armenians, the consul says, reports that a large number of refugees have arrived there and at other points in the government of Erivan. They come chiefly from the Melazghert and Ardesch districts, and Van. In all 160,000 refugees have passed through Igdir and Echmiadzin.

The pitiable condition of these people, is indescribable. The daily mortality among them is about 100, due, chiefly, to dysentery and typhus. Medical detachments from Russia are attending them, but unless immediate relief comes, half of the refugees will die.