

Winona, Winona County, Minnesota

BRINGING ARMENIANS TO AMERICA

THE Turk still persecutes the Christian Armenians, as he has done from time immemorial. And the present persecution is said to surpass all previous atrocities.

It is estimated that since last April from 300,000 to 700,000 Armenians have died from massacres, starvation and disease. The Turkish government has been carrying out a systematic and heartless deportation, seemingly with the purpose of destroying the race. In extensive regions the whole Armenian population has been expelled, women have been outraged and sent to Turkish harems, men and boys have been driven into deserts, families have perished by thousands of hunger and exhaustion.

The government gives the spurious excuse that "the Armenians are spies and revolutionists." But when the Austrian ambassador asked Enver Pasha, the Turkish war minister, why they were so cruelly treated, he replied, "Because it amuses us."

The American ambassador has interested himself in the matter and proposed a plan to solve the Armenian problem once for all. He suggests bringing the surviving Armenians to this country and settling them on our vacant land.

"The United States," he says, "might be the Moses to lead the Armenian people out of bondage. They could be put in the unsettled regions of the western states, in parts of Washington, eastern Oregon, Idaho, Nevada and California. They are a clean, industrious, intelligent race, and best class of immigrants, farmers and laborers, eager for education."

He has asked and received the approval of the Turkish officials for his plan, and submitted it to Washington, but no action has yet been taken.

Ambassador Morgenthau suggests that each state needing settlers raise a fund and send a ship to Asia Minor to bring the Armenians. It might cost as much as \$5,000,000 altogether. There are 500,000 who need help, he says, and they could be brought to America for \$100 apiece.

It would be a great and worthy act of philanthropy. It remains to be seen, however, whether any of the states will turn philanthropists. If the race is saved by deportation to America, it will probably be through generosity.
