

Vanity, Stupidity, Malice Wrecked Greek People

These Qualities in Constantine Prevented the Rehabilitation of His Country as a Great Maritime Power of the Mediterranean

By FRANK H. SIMONDS
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Washington, Dec. 26.—The latest upheaval in Greece, which has led to the temporary, if not the permanent exile of the King is no more than a final consequence of the evils brought upon the Hellenic state by the late King Constantine.

All of the misery and disappointment which has filled the last years of Greek history has been due to the unspeakable folly and worse of that monarch.

In 1912 and 1913, while Constantine was still willing to follow the advice of his great Minister, Venizelos, Greece participated as a victor in the two Balkan Wars, acquired much of Mesogonia with Salonica, the Aegean Islands and western Thrace. In 1915, when the King broke with Venizelos and undertook to deliver his country to the German cause, dominated by his wife, who was the sister of the Kaiser, Greece for the first time was brought close to ruin.

In the end, however, Venizelos prevailed, Constantine was exiled and the monarchy saved by the succession of Alexander, who followed Venizelist advice. Accordingly, at the Paris Conference Venizelos was able to win for his country relatively vast territorial gains, Northern Epirus, Eastern Thrace, the Dodecanesus Island and Smyrna and its hinterland in Asia Minor.

But again, a Constantine plot intervened, Venizelos was exiled, the old king returned and presently Greece, its army placed in the incompetent hands of the Constantinists came again to disaster. The Greek army in Asia Minor was defeated and fled, abandoning Asia Minor to the Turks. In the subsequent peace negotiations at Lausanne, Venizelos was again called upon to save his country, while Constantine once more fled his country.

But at Lausanne Venizelos could not save much. All of Asia Minor was lost, all of eastern Thrace, the Dodecanesus Islands passed to Italy and in the meantime the Council of Ambassadors had recognized the union of Northern Epirus with Albania despite its Greek character. What was still worse was that the whole Hellenic population of Eastern Asia was condemned to emigrate. Thus, for a time, perhaps forever, the dream of restoring the Byzantine Empire vanished and Greece was again restricted to a relatively inconsiderable area in Europe.

For a time the son of Constantine has been permitted to reign, his marriage with a daughter of the King of Rumania, together with another marriage which united the thrones of Rumania and Yugo-Slavia, seemed to consolidate royalty in the Balkans. But recent events have made it plain that the resentment of the Greek populations, save for the region in and about Athens still ran so strongly against the Constantine dynasty that there was much question as to its continuing.

When Venizelos was in Washington, less than two years ago, he was still opposed to the republican form for Greece, not eventually but immediately. It seems now to be clear that a majority of the legislators elected recently belong to the Venizelist party and it remains possible that in the end the Cretan may again save the monarchy. But it is far less likely now because the military element is strongly against such a course and Venizelos, himself, after the Asiatic debacle, can have little real reason for insisting upon this policy.

Had Constantine supported Venizelos, Greece might easily have become a very powerful state. British support was assured and there was even a very real possibility that Constantinople itself might have passed into Greek hands and the new Greek state, seated on both sides of the Bosphorus, possessing Smyrna as well as Salonica, might have regained its place as a great commercial power in the eastern Mediterranean. The vanity, stupidity and malice of Constantine wrecked all this.

Today, after ten years of war, Greece is heavily laden with debt, it is compelled to provide for more than a million Asiatic Greeks who have been forced to leave Asia, because of the Greek defeat. It is in addition menaced by Italian hostility, which was disclosed in the recent Corfu episode, while it has always to fear a new Bulgarian attack, designed to win back from the Greeks western Thrace with the port of Dedeaqatch.

Venizelos has been reported to have said, after his last retirement that he would never take power in Greece again. Yet in the present crisis it is hard to believe he will decline the ungrateful task of re-

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GREENSBORO ADDS TO POLICE FORCE

Greensboro, Dec. 26.—Carrying out a plan which has been given a great deal of attention recently, the authorities of Greensboro this week announced the addition of 15 men to the police force of the city. The total of the force now is 52 men. It has been necessary to establish new traffic corners with all-day police service and also five men have been added to the motorcycle squad.

WILD DEER BECOME PETS

San Francisco, Dec. 26.—Wild deer from the foothills above the Santa Clara valley have descended to safe pastures adjacent to Palo Alto and Los Altos, about 45 miles from San Francisco, and have become so tame that they trot nonchalantly along highways. Even terrifying motor cars fail to make the arrivals scamper into the brush. In several instances children have fed them from their hands. Shooting is prohibited in the immediate vicinity.

BRUNSWICK NAMED FOR RULING HOUSE

(Continued From Page Two)
Johnson. In July Colonel John Ashe at the head of a large body of patriots drove him out of the Forest to a British cruiser lying at the river, then dismantled and burned the fort and carried off its cannon and other military stores. On August 8, Governor Morrison issued from his headquarters on the war vessel a proclamation forbidding the people of the colony to elect members of a Congress for North Carolina, and offering large rewards for the arrest of the patriot leaders. But elections were openly held and it met publicly at New Bern, of its 214 delegates, 184 being present. There were at that time 35 counties and a number of borough towns which sent members. The Congress sat 29 days and all the members signed the oath of loyalty to the cause. On the fifth day the proclamation of Governor Martin was burned by the New Hanover militia early in March had elected field officers and Col. Howe was drilling men in Brunswick town.

Colonel Olds continues with an account of various minor encounters in which the men of Brunswick participated and makes the statement:

...ing his country for a third time. The task is worthy of his ability and if he declines it there is no one in sight with even moderate equipment.

1847 the 1781 Old Brunswick was destroyed and within ten days only 200 houses and 1,000 inhabitants remained.

which county was at Lockwood's Ferry of wood and it was built the year the county was created, 1754. In 1805 Smithfield which was chartered in 1792 became the county seat and in 1880 the second court house was built there of wood. It was replaced by the third one of brick, in 1848, which is still in use.

The world seems to get a little better every day and a little worse every night.

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J. T. STALLINGS, Manager

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