

THE WORLD'S GREAT EVENTS

ALBERT PAYSON TERHUNE

The Balkan Puzzle

IF YOU will look over a map of Europe you will see three great peninsulas jutting into the seas that wash the south shores of the continent. The southernmost and farthest east of the three is known as the Balkan peninsula. It comprises Turkey in Europe, Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Montenegro, eastern Roumelia, Rumania and other lesser divisions. Incidentally, that same peninsula has for a thousand years been the hotbed of revolt, intrigue and violence.

No other district of the same size contains so many races, nor so many people who are so widely different in religion, politics, customs and characteristics. This jumble of nationalities dwells side by side, yet never blending. Turk, Greek, Bulgar, Albanian and a half score of other peoples live shoulder to shoulder, yet each sharply divided from all the others. The Turk is the bully of the peninsula. The other races spent centuries fighting and intriguing against each other, but have merged their various difficulties in a common hatred against Turkey. The Turks, strongest of all Mahomet's followers, became masters of the peninsula in the Thirteenth century, being at that time the foremost military power of the world.

Most of the Balkan states are Christian. For this reason, as well as because of the frequent plots and revolts against the sultan's government, Turkey has, from time to time, punished her rebellious subjects by wholesale slaughter and outrage. The Armenian and Macedonian massacres have, at one period and another, aroused the horror of all civilized countries.

In May, 1876, Bulgaria and Herzegovina (then Turkish provinces) started one of the periodical insurrections. The peasants of the Batak district of Bulgaria were preparing to rise when suddenly a large Turkish force under Achmet Agha appeared, surrounded the town of Batak and commanded the natives to yield; promising that not one of them should be harmed. With a credulity unusual in people having experience with the "Unspeaking Turk," the patriots obeyed. Then the massacre began. The prisoners—men, women and children alike—were slaughtered like sheep. Some took refuge in a church. It was burned over their heads. Achmet Agha received a decoration from the sultan for this great killing.

At news of the outrage the six great European powers sent a formal protest to the sultan. He had, earlier, promised reforms, but had disregarded his pledges. Now he gave the envoys no satisfaction whatever. This was the chance for which Russia had waited. Twenty years earlier Turkey (backed by England, France and Sardinia) had beaten Russia in the Crimea. The wound still rankled. Russia, moreover, had for a long time yearned to absorb her eastern rival or to annex as much of the latter's territory as possible. The other nations, however, had no idea of allowing the "balance of power" to be thus shifted, and Russia had been able to find no occasion to promote her schemes. Now, under pretext of avenging the injuries inflicted on Balkan Christians, the czar declared war (1877) against Turkey.

A Russian army crossed the Danube June 27. On July 13 General Gourko made the difficult passage of the Balkan mountains and advanced on Adrianople, but was driven back. In December he recrossed the Balkan range, vanquishing a Turkish army of 32,000 at Shipka pass (January 9, 1878). Osman Pasha, the sultan's best general, meantime had held his own against the invaders and had at length occupied the city of Plevna. Here he endured for twenty weeks a memorable siege against superior numbers, but was in the end forced to surrender. With the fall of Plevna the Turkish cause weakened. Philippopolis and Adrianopolis were taken, and the Russian armies marched unchecked on to Constantinople.

Here, however, with the fruits of victory within their very grasp, the conquerors were halted by the powers. The old menace of "destroying the balance of power" seemed about to be fulfilled, and the Russians were forbidden to enter the Turkish capital.

By the peace treaty of San Stefano, however, Rumanian Bessarabia and part of Armenia were ceded to Russia. Bulgaria was made a principality with home rule; Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro were declared free countries, and Bosnia and Herzegovina came under Austro-Hungarian sway. So ended the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-1878. Turkey, far from profiting by her lesson, continued to oppress her Christian provinces. In 1895 massacres of Christians in Armenia, and even in Constantinople,

horrified civilization. Christians in Crete revolted, by way of showing their disapproval, and asked Greece to annex their island. A Greek military force was sent to Crete. Turkey at once declared war, thrashed Greece in one brief campaign and wrung from the beaten country a heavy war indemnity.

The Balkan peninsula still teems with plot, counterplot, intrigue, misrule and discontent. The Balkan problem will, perhaps, never be solved.

Frigidaire in Europe

NEW YORK, Jan. 10—Although electric refrigeration is newer in Europe than in the United States, the market there is developing at an even more rapid rate than in this country, according to R. D. Funkhouser, vice-president of Frigidaire Corporation, who returned on the Berengaria from a three month's tour of the corporation's branches and distributors abroad.

"Enforcement of drastic food and health laws in England, which ban use of preservatives in bacon, butter, cream and other foods is simply going to force the entire nation to artificial refrigeration" Mr. Funkhouser declared. "Some of these new rules are already in effect and others will come up for enforcement later."

"When it is remembered that there are 30,000 retail meat dealers in England alone, some idea can be had as to the vast commercial market, which is being opened up for electric refrigeration."

Ice for table use is almost unknown in England and the old fashioned larder, consisting of a room with a brick floor, slate shelves and an open window is in general use. Ice for use in the home can be obtained only from the fish-monger, he said.

"More diversified use for electric refrigeration can be found abroad than in the United States. Over there are wine cellars to be cooled, draft beer to be chilled, fish boxes to be refrigerated and many other applications not developed in the United States. Larger installations than are usually found in this country are the rule."

"The railway companies are building their diners to accommodate electric equipment. The first train to experiment with this was the Flying Scotsman, the crack flier between London and Edinburg, which has such

success with Frigidaire equipment, that in future all diners on this road are to be so equipped."

Mr. Funkhouser's trip took him through the British Isles, France, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Belgium and Holland. The Berlin branch, although one of the youngest in the foreign offices, and this, Mr. Funkhouser said is a typical example of the progress which is carrying Germany back to an influential position among the nations of the world.

"Europe is undergoing a rapid change. Living standards are advancing and American customs and inventions are to be found everywhere. American interests have found success in the European field. They have increased the number of their employees by hundreds and these employees are spreading a campaign of good will," he said.

Announcement of the opening of new sales branches in Nice, France, and Birmingham, England, was made by Mr. Funkhouser together with appointment of distributors for Frigidaire in Budapest, Vienna, Bucharest, Stockholm and Geneva. Branches are being projected for Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow and Edinburgh, he said.

As a result of its confidence in the future of electric refrigeration abroad, General Motors, of which Frigidaire is a subsidiary, will spend many times as much in 1927 as it did in 1925 in promoting electric refrigeration in the foreign field. Sales records for 1926 showed an increase of five fold over the preceding year and this figure will be trebled in 1927, Mr. Funkhouser predicted.

FLATS NEWS

Miss Hazel Cochran, who has been staying in Asheville has returned home, here.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Douthit, a fine boy, Calvin Coolidge.

The farmers are making use of the warm weather, turning their ground for crops.

Dr. Jas. DeHart, of Bryson City was called to the home of Mr. Richard Shields to see Mr. Shields, who is very ill at this writing. Mr. Shields (Uncle Dick) as we all call him has lived to a good old age, and was a soldier in the Civil war. The writer has often sat in his mill and listen to him tell of his many hard fought battles. And when a young man hunting and killing deer over the rugged mountains. None know him but to love him, nor speak of him but to praise him, and all wish him a speedy recovery.

Rural Library Service

More than four-fifths of the rural population of the Nation are without library service and 1,160, or 37 per cent of all counties in the United States, have no public libraries within their boundaries, according to a study recently published by the American Library Association. Other results of this study show that there are over seven and one-half million negroes in the Southern States without library facilities, and seven States without organized State library extension work.

It is generally known that many people living in the open country and small villages lack the advantages of

public libraries enjoyed by residents of cities. The extent to which this is true was not known until the study mentioned above was made. However, it is encouraging to know that various agencies—public and private, are attempting to bring library service to rural people. Such efforts have resulted in the establishment of efficient library facilities for many rural communities; but the efforts of these agencies often lack coordination. Ardent work is done in some communities; others are overlooked. Uniform library service for all the people of a State is most easily accomplished when all the library agencies within a State either consolidate or coordinate their efforts.

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NOTICE

TO

Income Taxpayers

If you are an unmarried person and had an income of \$1,000 during the year 1926, or if you are a married person and had an income of \$2,000, you should file a return with the State Revenue Department on or before March 15, 1927.

Mr. M. L. Reed, Deputy Commissioner, will be in the office of Clerk of Court at Franklin, N. C. on 23 and 24 day of February 1927, for the purpose of assisting the Taxpayers in filing their State Income Tax returns.

Be Sure To See Him.

R. A. DOUGHTON,

Commissioner of Revenue,
State of North Carolina.