

TALAAT SAYS TURKS FIGHT FOR LIFE

Most Powerful Ottoman Minister Declares Conflict Was Forced on Them.

SAYS HOLY WAR IS A FACT

'Sorrowful Eyes of All Islam' Turned to Turkey—Persia's Present State a Warning.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 17, (via London.)—Turkey declared war without being urged by Germany or impelled by any other influences save those of the Empire; she engaged in military operations only when actions on the part of Russia and Great Britain made defensive measures necessary, and today Turkey has taken all the steps needful to carry the war through.

"The holy war is not menacing Christians, but the holy war is a fact which the enemies of the Mohammedan world should bear in mind. Christians in the Ottoman Empire who are participating in the destinies of their country are not suffering from conditions brought about by the present state of affairs, and any statements to the contrary are a result of British, French and Russian intrigues, the purpose of which is to direct against Turkey the pressure of neutral countries of lower standing in the Ottoman world."

The foregoing are among statements made to The Associated Press to-day by Talaat Bey when questioned concerning the political and military situation in Turkey. Talaat Bey today fills the posts of Minister of the Interior, Minister of Finance and Minister of Marine in the Cabinet. Two weeks ago, in addition to these offices, he was also Minister of War, which gave him the four most important portfolios in the administration. He is a Young Turk and is undoubtedly the most important man in Turkey at the present time. His advice is heeded everywhere, and he virtually directs the public affairs of the Ottoman Empire.

To the correspondent of The Associated Press Talaat complained of the attitude of foreign newspapers, including the American press, which, he said, were oblivious alike of the position of Turkey under the pressure of the Entente powers and of the efforts of the Young Turks to accomplish the reforms associated with that party.

"On land and sea alike the Russians and the British provoked hostilities," Talaat Bey declared. "Our action was finally the result of efforts to bottle up our fleet by mining the entrance to the Bosphorus.

"Turkey is prepared to carry on the war to the end of the European conflict. The fact that we are able to face the enemy on four fronts simultaneously against forces three or four times as great as ours, and to mobilize at the same time an army of more than 1,000,000 men for a reserve, is for us, as well as for our allies, a matter of the greatest importance, and for our allies a precious advantage."

The interview then turned to the holy war. Answering a question on this subject, Talaat Bey said the holy war was a fact, in spite of the claims of the enemy, and he added that the Christians were the enemies of the Mussulman world. Questioned concerning the oft-mentioned "reprisal policy," the Minister answered:

"Turkey decided at the outbreak of hostilities just what retaliatory measures she would employ in case the powers of the Triple Entente acted contrary to the regulations set down by international law.

"Russia is our hereditary enemy, and Great Britain is the power which subjugated Islam," the Minister said.

"Nothing demonstrates the enthusiasm of the people so well as the formation of volunteer regiments in all corners of our immense Empire.

"All the sorrowful eyes of Islam are today turned toward the Turks, who, since their appearance upon the historic scene, always have been the benevolent champions of the disciples of Mohammed and all Asiatics generally. The success of Ottoman arms can have but one result—the rising of all Mussulmans subject to the dominion of Russia, France and Great Britain. Persia is a living symbol of what Turkey would have become if we had not taken part in the present war."

The conversation was then turned to the military resources of Turkey, and in this connection Talaat Bey was willing to discuss, although guardedly, the political and military situation of Turkey's allies. In this connection he said:

"This situation appears to me excellent from every viewpoint, even admirable. I am not competent to judge of military matters. All I know is that the Germans are fighting continuously

and advantageously on French and Russian territory in such a manner that their enemies do not dare go from the defensive to the offensive. Public opinion in Turkey concerning the naval operations of the Germans is simply overcome with astonishment; the audacious offensive at sea of the Germans has provoked our legitimate admiration."

The relations of Turkey with the Balkan States was dismissed by Talaat Bey with these words:

"Turkey has most cordial relations with Bulgaria, sincere relations with Rumania, and good relations with Greece, Serbia and Montenegro do not count."

FLED BEFORE THE TURKS.

Plight of Destitute Christians Reported to Mission Board.

The Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions received information by cable yesterday to the effect that there are in Tabriz 20,000 refugees who fled from Urumia on the approach of the Turkish and Kurdish troops. These people are in need of relief. The board gave out a letter received from the Rev. J. D. Barnard, an English missionary in Turkey, which said:

"Practically the entire Christian population of the Urumia Plain and neighboring districts were in flight as we left. As far as the eye could reach in both directions there was a constant stream of fugitives, sometimes so dense that the road was blocked. It was a dreadful sight, and one I never want to see again. Many old people and children died on the way."

From Syria the board has received information that British and French missionaries have been driven out, and that only the American and Italian missions remain. The Danish missionaries have been forced to leave Damascus.

HANG A BISHOP IN OUR MISSION

**Turkish Regular Troops at
Urumiah Also Kill Four
Orthodox Priests.**

A MISSIONARY IS BEATEN

**Mr. Allen Insulted—Dr. Packard
Risks Life by Showing Flag
and Averting Massacre.**

WOMEN TAKEN AS SLAVES

**Men Murdered by Turks and Kurds
—Christians Held Out Till Their
Ammunition Was Gone.**

TIFLIS, Wednesday, March 24, (via Petrograd and London, March 25.)—Telegrams and letters reaching here from Urumiah, Northwestern Persia, describe the situation of the American Presbyterian Mission stationed there as desperate. Turkish regular troops and Kurds are persecuting and massacring Christians.

Dr. Harry P. Packard, the doctor of the missionary station at Urumiah of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, risked his life in a successful effort to prevent a frightful massacre at Geogtopa, where 3,000 Persian Christians made their last stand. They had fought for three days, and all their ammunition was gone. At this juncture Dr. Packard unfurled an American flag and advanced between the lines. His act resulted in the saving of all but 200 of the Persian Christians, who had been burned in a church.

Fifteen thousand Christians have taken refuge under the protection of the American Mission station, while 2,000 are at the French Mission.

A dispatch received at Tiflis from Urumiah yesterday said that seventy Turkish regular troops had entered the mission, hanged the Orthodox Bishop, Mar Ella, and four Orthodox clergymen, and beaten and insulted a missionary named Allen. Shortly before that sixty refugees had been dragged from the French Mission and executed in spite of the pleas of the nuns.

Slain in Groups of Five.

At Culpashan the Kurds were particularly cruel. This was the last of a total of 103 villages to hold out, and it was occupied a month ago. The Kurds ordered all the male citizens into the streets, tied them in groups of five, marched them to the graveyard, and killed them barbarously to the last boy. Girl babies and the older women were then executed with great atrocity, while the younger women were carried away as slaves.

As a result of the war 12,000 Persian Christians are taking refuge in the Caucasus, some 17,000 are described as in imminent danger at the Urumiah Missions, while 20,000 are dead or missing. Furthermore, much property has been destroyed.

The Christians fought their assailants bravely, and as long as they had ammunition they were victorious.

The missionaries are untiring in their efforts to help the people, and they are spending money to this end freely. In Urumiah they are disbursing the equivalent of \$400 daily.

Disease is prevalent among the refugees.

the mountain passes in freezing weather. At Dilman they were joined by many more from Salmas plain. But for Father de Cross of the Roman Catholic Mission at Hosrova, near here, the disaster might have become historic. After assuring the safety of the sisters of the mission, Father de Cross joined the pilgrims, and managed to secure bread and shelter for many of them.

The caravansaries were so crowded that few persons could lie down in them, and thousands slept in the mud and the snow. Children were born on the roadside or in the corner of a caravansary.

Arriving at Julfa, on the Russian border, passport difficulties added to the troubles of the fleeing people. Maddened women threw their children into the Araxes River or into pools in order to end their sufferings from cold and hunger.

Father de Cross had to put his back against a wall to fight off the famished mob when he began distributing bread. The mud and cold and the shelterless nights, during which the garments of the refugees were frozen knee high, continued for three weeks, until the people were slowly dispersed by rail. Meantime, hundreds of them had not slept under a roof or near a fire.

Isaac Yonan, a graduate of the Louisville (Ky.) Theological Seminary, was among the refugees. He kept a diary of the happenings during the exodus. This relates that among the refugees from Urumiah were an old man and his two daughters-in-law, with their six children, three of them babes in arms. The oldest child was 9 years old. They were eight days on the way, averaging twenty miles daily through the mud. The old man became stuck fast in a pool and at his own request was left there to die. One woman gave birth to a child during the march and an hour afterward was again plodding along with the other refugees.

Two of the children were lost in a caravansary, but were taken up by Cossacks along with forty other persons. The soldiers displayed great humanity, often giving up their horses to the women.

One young woman carried her father for five days, when he died. A woman was found dead by the roadside with her infant, still living, wrapped up in her clothing.

In a single day twenty persons died in the railway station at Nakhitchevan, across the border in Russia. The entire casualties aggregated hundreds. People died unheeded and unmourned; in fact, those who died seemed to be envied by the living.

GREAT EXODUS OF CHRISTIANS

Thousands Suffered Greatest Hardships to Escape Enemies.

DILMAN, Persia, April 24. (via Petrograd to London, April 26.—The exodus of from 20,000 to 30,000 Armenians and Nestorian Christians from Azerbaijan Province, the massacre of over 1,500 of those who were unable to flee, the death from disease of 2,000 in the compounds of the American mission in Urumiah, and possibly of an equal number of refugees in the Caucasus have been confirmed.

When it became known on the night of Jan. 1 and 2 that the Russian forces had left Urumiah about 10,000 Christians fled, most of them without money, bedding, or provisions. Vehicles and camels and donkeys were for hire only at prices at which they might previously have been bought.

A majority of the people started out afoot, through mud knee-deep, across

SAYS TURKS AIDED RECENT MASSACRES

Troops Allowed Kurds to Kill
Hundreds, American Mis-
sionary Reports.

RUSSIA THE SOLE HOPE

Occupation of Persia Alone Can Save
Situation, a Missionary
Writes.

More than 800 native Christians have been massacred by Kurds, and not less than 2,000 have died of disease at Urumiah, Persia, according to information received by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions yesterday. The Turkish soldiers are accused of aiding or permitting the massacres. Two letters were received from Dr. W. S. Vanneman, head of the Presbyterian Mission Hospital at Tabriz, who is the Chairman of the relief committee appointed by the American Consul. Because of the strict censorship Dr. Vanneman wrote to his wife, who is in Salem, N. J., rather than to the board itself. His letters were sent to the board by Mrs. Vanneman. In a letter of March 14 Dr. Vanneman wrote:

"About ten days ago the Kurds in Salmas, with the permission of the Turkish troops, gathered all the Nestorian and Armenian men remaining there, it is reported about 800. Four hundred were sent to Khosrova and 400 to Haft Dewan under the pretense of giving them bread. They were held a few days and then all of them tortured and massacred. Many of the women and children were taken away and maltreated. This happened a day or two before the advancing Russian Army took Salmas.

"We are very anxious about Urumiah. A letter dated March 1, from Dr. Shedd (the Rev. Dr. W. A. Shedd of Marietta, Ohio) came through by messenger two days ago. He said things were getting worse. Gulpashan, which hitherto had not been disturbed by the Kurds, as it had not fought against them, had been plundered and ruined. I think this was the only village which remained. Fifty-one of the most prominent men of this village were taken out at night to the cemetery and shot. The women and girls who could not escape were violated. This was done by the Turkish soldiers.

"Forty men had been taken from the Roman Catholic Mission in Urumiah City, kept prisoners a few days, then were taken at night two miles from the city and shot.

"Dr. Shedd asked the American Consul at Tabriz to come to Urumiah, but

after consulting with three other Consuls here it was decided it would be impossible to get through. Mr. Paddock has telegraphed every possible place for assistance. We can do nothing more.

"We hear, but do not know if it is true, that the mission in Urumiah has been forced to pay \$40,000 as a ransom for the refugees, and we fear it is true. Dr. Shedd writes that not less than 800 had been murdered in Urumiah and not less than 2,000 had died of disease. This applies to Christians only. This is a very large per cent., as more than half of the Christians fled to Russia."

Under date of March 21 Dr. Vanneman wrote:

"We are more anxious than ever about Urumiah. On the 17th Turkish troops attacked our mission and the Roman Catholic Mission and took five native Russian priests from our compound and treated them badly. We do not know yet if they were killed. Mr. Allen was also treated badly because he had sent out three messengers. The gates of the Catholic Mission were burned and they were all in great danger. We received word from Ambassador Morgenthau that orders had been sent to Urumiah to protect Christians, but the order was just too late. We are working to get all the remaining Christians away from Urumiah.

"Some of the native Christian preachers have been crucified and some burned, but these were of other denominations.

"If the Russian troops should be withdrawn again, every Christian would have to leave Tabriz. We have received \$6,000 for relief and have spent at least \$15,000. If the people have to be moved from Urumiah and then fed, you can imagine what an expense it will be.

"I do not believe the real condition of affairs is comprehended in America. It is practically the extermination of the Syrians (Nestorians) and very bad for the Armenians also. The only hope is occupation by Russia."

ies. They can only hope today that some of their relatives will be returned to them from Kurdish enslavement. Those who did not escape, or were made slaves, perished.

The committeemen speak English fluently, and were at one time prosperous merchants. This was before their little tribe was gripped by the cogs of the great war.

Until American missions were established in the Urumiah country the Assyrians maintained their religious traditions by semi-annual reading from half a dozen cherished parchment New Testaments, taking the additional precaution of requiring the more gifted youth to memorize the whole of their sacred literature. With mission schools and hospitals, enlightenment and prosperity increased. The Assyrian villages were as famous for neatness and comfort as their gardens were for fertility. Further encouragement and protection were brought by the Russians, who came into the country about nine years ago.

The Assyrians took sides with the Russians in this war, while the Mohammedans turned to the Turks and Germany. Organized and drilled by Russian officers, the Assyrians rendered valuable services by fortifying some of their villages and guarding the caravan roads to Urumiah. About 250 were regularly enlisted, the Central Committee supplying the funds. Later, 2,000 or 3,000 volunteers were under arms and had some training.

Toward the end of December the Russians and Assyrians defeated a large body of Kurds, inflicting a loss estimated at 500.

Fleeing before impending massacre, 3,000 of the Assyrians gathered at a strong village, Geogtapa, and held their ground five days with a loss of seventy men.

AWAIT EXPULSION OF KURDS.

Thousands of Christians Want to Return to Persia.

TIFLIS, Transcaucasia, Saturday, March 27. (Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—Many thousands of the Assyrian inhabitants of the country west of Lake Urumiah have had to flee before the coming of the raiding Kurds. Some 45,000 or 50,000 of these people a few months ago occupied the smiling gardens on the lake shores. Now 12,000 are refugees in Russia and some 15,000 or 17,000 toow refuge under the protection of Dr. Harry P. Packard of the American Presbyterian Mission at Urumiah. His successful efforts in their behalf already have been told by cable. His name will survive in Assyrian traditions.

The members of the Central Committee of the Assyrian or Chaldean Christians are awaiting only one thing, the return of the Russians, to endeavor to reconstruct into a safe community this remnant of the ancient empire of Nineveh. The committeemen fled with their famil-

RUSSIANS OCCUPY URUMIAH.

**Drive Turks from District Where
Massacres Took Place.**

PETROGRAD, (via London,) May 28.
—Urumiah, Persia, has been occupied by the Russians after an engagement with the Turks in the direction of Dilman and near Bachkala, according to a statement issued by the General Staff of the Army of the Caucasus.

Urumiah, in Azerbaijan Province, with a population of about 50,000, is a centre of missionary activity. It is the seat of Fiske Seminary for Girls and of Urumiah College. For weeks the missionaries stationed there, as well as many thousands of Assyrian Christians, have been in grave danger from attack by Kurds and Turks. Between 15,000 and 17,000 natives are reported to have placed themselves under the protection of Dr. Harry P. Packard of the American Presbyterian Mission, at least 12,000 have taken refuge in the Caucasus, and it has been estimated that 20,000 are dead or missing.

The entire Urumiah district has been terrorized by wandering bands of Kurds and by Turkish regulars. Appeals have been made to the American State Department to take measures for the protection of American missionaries, and the Russian Government has been urged to make every effort possible to occupy the district. There have been many reports of atrocities and the wholesale slaughter of natives. The Christians have resisted the attacks of the Kurds as vigorously as possible, but have been handicapped by a lack of guns and ammunition.

BISHOPS APPEAL FOR NESTORIANS

**Ask American Aid for 100,000
Christians Who Are Vic-
tims of Moslems.**

ARE DYING OF STARVATION

**Their Plight Parallels That of the
Serbs and Armenians, Bishop
Greer's Committee Reports.**

Sixteen bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States issued an appeal yesterday in behalf of a group of Nestorian Christians of Assyria. Headed by Bishop Greer of New York the bishops who signed the appeal bring for the first time, it is stated, to the attention of the people of this country the story of the battle for life on the plains of Kurdistan of an entire people, a struggle which the bishops add "went on practically without the knowledge of Europe or America, and which ended in the complete destruction of 1,000 Christian tribesmen and the reduction to destitution of 100,000 more."

The appeal continues:
"The Assyrian Christians are of Syriac origin and are related racially to the Syrians. For centuries they have lived along the borders of Turkey, Persia and Russia, chiefly in the high ranges to the east of the Tigris Valley and north of Arabia. At the beginning of the war, according to the first news of any completeness which is just reaching America through missionary sources, the Turks and the Kurdish tribes in Persia attacked the Assyrian Christians without warning. These latter, most of them herdsman and farmers of sturdy stock and persistent traditions, were able in some cases to retreat to plateau fastnesses, selling their lives as dearly as possible, but failing to protect their families from the brutality of the Kurds and the lower class Turks.

"While the world was watching the more spectacular fortunes of war in Western Europe and along the Russian front an epic battle took place on the heights of Eastern Asia, as full of dramatic incidents and heroic fighting against odds, perhaps, as has ever occurred. The fragmentary accounts of this struggle, which was protracted for months, now reaching this country and England, indicate that when the full story is known the tragic history of Serbians and Armenians will be found to have been duplicated in a region entirely out of the main path of the world war.

"The most significant fact brought out in these reports concerns the needs of 100,000 refugees, chiefly women and children who, left to die by the Kurds and Turks, have struggled together in pitifully desperate bands to the lower villages of Kurdistan, where they are cared for by Russian and American and in some spots German relief agencies. These agencies have sent appeals which have reached the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief, at 70 Fifth Avenue, which has undertaken to send supplies. Already more than \$115,000 has been sent. A large share of this was contributed by the Rockefeller Foundation, and most of it has bought rations of bread and salt for thousands of refugees.

"Another letter says: 'Christians are living in barns and stables. They are so lean and emaciated that death will get at them wholesale.'

"One of the letters from Asia Minor on which the bishops base their appeal says: 'These people are dying for actual lack of nourishment. Those who are sick and those who are well are all huddled together under a few quilts, in some cases the wife or the daughter buries the family dead. Many of them are so lightly covered that very soon the dogs get them out.'"

The appeal of the bishops, which relates further details of the condition of the refugees, is signed by:

David H. Greer, Bishop of New York; Charles S. Burch, Suffragan Bishop of New York; James De Wolf Perry, Jr., Bishop of Rhode Island; William Lawrence, Bishop of Massachusetts; Samuel G. Babcock, Suffragan Bishop of Massachusetts; Frederick Burgess, Bishop of Long Island; Philip M. Rhineland, Bishop of Pennsylvania; Thomas J. Garland, Suffragan Bishop of Pennsylvania; William T. Manning, Rector of Trinity Parish, New York; Edwin S. Lins, Bishop of Newark; Chauncey B. Brewster, Bishop of Connecticut; Thomas F. Davies, Bishop of Western Massachusetts; William A. Leonard, Bishop of Ohio; Charles T. Olmsted, Bishop of Central New York; Richard H. Nelson, Bishop of Albany; W. R. Stearly, Suffragan Bishop of Newark, and Paul Matthews, Bishop of New Jersey.

FLOCK TO FLOWER SHOW.

**Natural History Museum Crowded
in Last Day of Annual Exhibit.**

The rain and the fact that President Wilson was in the city are the reasons given by the managers of the Horticultural Society Flower Show at the Museum of Natural History for the failure of the attendance yesterday to come up to the Sunday afternoon of the show a year ago. Before the show closed its doors at 5 o'clock yesterday 64,994 persons had passed through the doors, as against 88,593, the record of the Sunday last year. The total attendance since the opening on Thursday, however, broke last season's record. At the 1915 show 194,024 persons came to view the flowers. This year 190,993 persons were in attendance.

All day long a stream of persons, mostly women and children, entered the building and slowly passed in line before the exhibits. The main attraction was the magnificent exhibit of chrysanthemums in the centre of the main hall. The table decoration exhibit also came in for much favorable comment. When 5 o'clock and closing time came there were so many in the hall that it took the attendants a quarter of an hour to get them all out.

SEND SHIP TO AID STARVING ARMENIA

**Syrians, Too, Will Share in
\$250,000 Cargo on
Collier Caesar.**

FIVE MILLIONS ARE NEEDED

**Organized Campaign to Collect This
Has Been Organized for
Thanksgiving.**

The United States collier Caesar is due in New York this week to take on a Christmas cargo of food and clothing supplies for the starving people of Armenia and Syria. A statement issued yesterday by the American Committee, in charge of the fund, says that to date the committee has raised \$2,018,602.68 and, of this sum, \$2,000,000 has been applied to the relief of 2,000,000 Armenian, Syrian, and Assyrian war sufferers in the Near East.

"By sending America's 1916 Christmas ship," the statement adds, "the committee's relief work will approach a scale slightly more nearly adequate to the starvation demands. The Christmas ship will leave New York early in December with a cargo of food and new clothing, costing more than a quarter of a million dollars, and will be followed after its departure by increased efforts to continue the saving of Armenians and Syrians from starvation by the cabling of further funds direct to distribution centres.

"Altogether the committee, basing its figure on cabled reports from its agents, estimates that \$5,000,000 is necessary merely to keep alive the women and children survivors. An organized campaign to collect the balance of this \$5,000,000 has been arranged for Thanksgiving, when, in pursuance of the President's proclamation calling for un stinted giving, contributions will be received in churches throughout the country.

"The destitute ministered to by the committee comprise, roughly, 1,000,000 Armenians in deportation camps in Turkey and in refugee bands in Syria, the Russian Caucasus, and Egypt; 1,000,000 Syrians, whose crops and homes have been confiscated, and 1,000,000 Assyrian Christian women and children in Kurdistan and Persia, who have absolutely no protection against Winter except what comes from relief funds. The money cabled by the committee is spent under the direct supervision of American Consuls and missionaries, and, in some cases, of Russian and German officials and teachers.

"The \$2,000,000 contributed came from at least twenty countries or dependencies, the American Committee acting as an international relief agency. Substantial gifts have come from China, Korea, Japan, France, Egypt, the Philippines, Hawaii, Alaska, British Columbia, Cuba, and several South American republics. One check came from the Nez Perce Indians. The bulk of the gifts came from the United States, however.

"The Christmas ship cargo, which will be completely assembled as soon as sufficient funds are received, will be loaded aboard the Caesar as soon as that vessel reaches New York from Charleston, S. C., where, under orders from Secretary of the Navy Daniels, day and night repair shifts are putting her in shape. The Caesar will leave Charleston Dec. 2, stopping at Norfolk for coal.

Gifts for the Christmas cargo are pouring in rapidly to the Bush Terminal, Brooklyn, in care of Albert W. Staub. The committee has just received a check for \$10,000 from The Christian Herald to be used in the purchase of wheat, flour, and rice to go on the Christmas vessel. This check makes a total of \$25,000 contributed by subscribers and friends of that paper for Armenian and Syrian relief."

ARMENIAN COUNCIL PROTESTS TO BERLIN

Asks That Measures Be Taken to End Excesses of the Turkish Troops.

GERMANY IS RESPONSIBLE

Her Insistence at Peace Conference Resulted in Withdrawal of Rus- sians, It Is Pointed Out.

LONDON, April 14.—Russia has followed her protest in Germany against the Turkish operations in the Caucasus, which have resulted in wholesale murders of the Armenian population, by forwarding a similar protest by the Armenian National Council, addressed to the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the President of the Reichstag. This protest, received from the Russian wireless system and given out by the British Admiralty through the Wireless Press, reads:

"The Armenian National Council, as the supreme body for the expression of the will of the Armenian people, is addressing you in connection with the tragic state of things in Armenia. Armenia is flooded with blood and, only recently saved from centuries of slavery, is again condemned to fresh sufferings. Following upon the withdrawal of the Russian troops, Turkish troops have already invaded the undefended country and are not only killing every Turkish Armenian, but also every Russian in Armenia.

"In spite of the terms of the peace treaty, which recognizes the right of self-determination for these Caucasian regions, the Turkish Army is advancing toward Kars and Ardahan, destroying the country and killing the Christian population. The responsibility for the future destiny of the Armenians lies entirely with Germany, because it was Germany's insistence that resulted in the withdrawal of the Russian troops from the Armenian regions, and at the moment it rests with Germany to prevent the habitual excesses of the Turkish troops, increased by revengefulness and anger.

"It is hard to believe that a civilized State, like Germany, which has the means for preventing the excesses of her ally, will permit the Brest-Litovsk treaty to be used by the German people, who have been involved in war against their own will, as a means for the creation of incalculable sufferings.

"The National Council firmly believes that you will undertake the necessary measures, which depend solely upon you, to influence the Turkish authorities with a view to saving the Armenian people from fresh horrors."

MURDER OF MAR SHIMUN.

Syrian Catholicos First Head of a Nationality to Perish in the War.

The American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief last night gave out the following concerning Mar Shimun, head of the Assyrian Church, who was killed recently, according to a cablegram received by the State Department at Washington on Saturday.

Mar Shimun is the first political head of a nationality who has paid the supreme sacrifice of this war. To his people he was both King Albert and Cardinal Mercier. In 1903, when a boy of 16, Mar Shimun was selected to become Catholicos or Patriarch, to succeed his uncle, Ruwel Reuben, who was on the point of death. He was consecrated Catholicos on April 12 of that year. He was educated by native teachers and by members of the mission established by Archbishop Benson of Canterbury at the Patriarchal seat, Qudshants, (Kochannes,) in Kurdistan.

His elder sister, Surma, who ranked next to him in influence over his people, also was educated at the mission and later became a recognized authority on canon law and Church history.

Attacked by the Turks in June, 1915, Mar Shimun and his 125,000 Assyrian highlanders defended the narrow valley of their mountain home, which might be termed a Switzerland in Asia. After Turkish mountain guns had battered down ancient castles and churches, the Assyrians were forced to abandon their valley and retreat to mountain fastnesses.

When their supplies ran out, Mar Shimun, with a handful of warriors, risked grave perils to reach the Russian lines at Salmas, Persia, but the Russians, weakened by the loss of Warsaw, could give no assistance. Then Mar Shimun, returning to his people, was forced to lead them down to the plateaus of Northwestern Persia, where they scattered over the plains of Salmas and Urumiah. There 15 per cent. of them died from cold and hunger.

As 138th Catholicos of the east he maintained the ancient traditions and his people almost worshipped him.

PERSIAN ARMENIA RAVAGED BY TURKS

Massacre at Urumiah—47,000 Refugees Reach British Lines in Mesopotamia.

LONDON, Oct. 10. — Mesopotamian dispatches received here record the arrival inside the British lines of 47,000 Assyrian, Armenian, and Russian refugees from Urumiah, Persian Armenia, who broke through the Turkish front and made their escape.

Another 10,000 refugees, according to the dispatches, are distributed in Kurdistan towns or are wandering in the hills. The Turks pursued them, but were driven back by British cavalry.

Later the Turks entered Urumiah and massacred 200 persons, mostly old men. It is reported that 600 Christian women have been distributed among the Turkish troops and the Moslem inhabitants of Urumiah.
