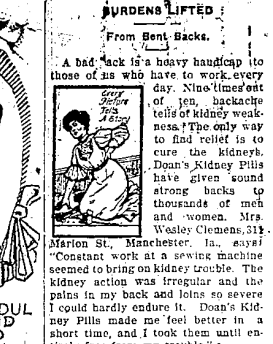
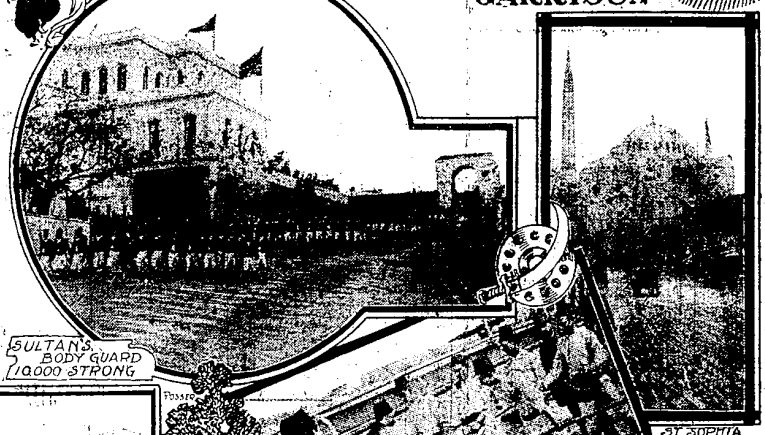
Rejuvenation of Turkey

BY WILLARD W. GARRISON

MEHMED RECHED EFFENDI SULTAN OF TURKEY



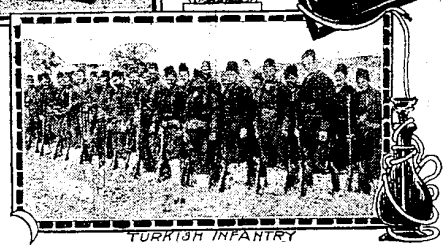
ABDUL HAMID DEPOSED SULTAN



SULTAN'S BODY GUARD 10,000 STRONG

ST. SOPHIA MOSQUE

TURKISH ARTILLERY



TURKISH INFANTRY

GUN PRACTICE TURKISH MAN-OF-WAR

GETTING Turkey back into running order after its revolution and subsequent deposition of Abdul Hamid II. is like cleaning a house which has not felt the touch of a broom in years.

One could not say it within the sacred confines of the Sublime Porte, but it is chiefly a liberal application of "the salve" which bids fair to accomplish this feat for the new ruler, Mehmed V.

Hardly had the revolution been successfully accomplished by the Young Turks after the capture and occupation of Constantinople than the Young Turk soldiers at Saloniki made massacre threats if the Sheriat laws were not restored. Mehmed V said of course they would be restored. There never had been any doubt about it in his mind and he declared himself deeply grieved that so trivial a matter should so thoroughly arouse his noble subjects.

In fact Mehmed V is a whale of good nature and tact, say his courtiers, and when all else fails well adjusted, well chosen words to his countrymen turn the trick.

Despite the fact that he is a brother of Abdul Hamid, the deposed monarch, he has few of the traits of the latter and promises that he will never plead ill health when debtors press hard. That mode of meeting bill collections gave Abdul Hamid the name of the "sick man of Europe."

Contrary to Abdul's policies Mehmed V. has shaped his plans in such a manner that Turkey is to be given and, it is said, is now being given a thoroughly economical administration with the people at the helm to a large extent. The first two months of Mehmed's reign have seen him an object of worship by the people and the change in the order of things from the old way so thoroughly welcomed by the Turkish populace in general that the sultan evidenced his belief in the sincerity of his people by appearing on the streets upon several occasions when the same action by his brother would have produced a vacancy in the royal family.

Commercially Turkey is one of the world's richest countries and less than a hundred years ago was one of the great world powers. Its ships were then on every sea and lorded over by no one. A contrast was presented in the last quarter of a century when demonstrations before the porte were constantly planned and often executed for the sole purpose of frightening the sultan into paying his debts. They seldom frightened him that far, but at least extracted promise of payments on account.

The extent of the Ottoman empire to-day is over 1,500,000 square miles, while back in 1899, before Turkey lost many of its possessions through the despotic rule of Abdul Hamid, the realm totaled 1,652,150 square miles. Its population today is 43,000,000, well scattered, thus giving ample opportunity for agricultural operations.

It is said that to-day through the slavery laws and heavy taxation opposed by the former ruler there are 40,000,000 acres of uncultivated land in Turkey. Think of the vast revenue from the soil which is year after year absolutely going to waste. Much of this land is in the possession of the crown and what little duty was squeezed from it usually went into the coffers of the brother of the present ruler.

In evidence that Abdul Hamid was a wise financier and a merciless master are offered the discoveries of the cabinet members who were selected as advisers to Mehmed. In the palace and in the grounds surrounding there was unearthed over $10,000,000 in coin, and papers were found which showed the former sultan to have $15,000,000 in the banks of Germany, France, England and America. That was the state of affairs which Mehmed found and it gave him and his court a pang to think of the enormity of Turkey's debt while his brother Abdul had been silently but persistently tucking away the country's money in his own private pocketbook—and Turkey with a debt which the world says will never be paid.

But thanks to the Young Turks, Mehmed's sound financial policies and a surrounding of loyal subjects, the word has gone out from the head of the Turkish cabinet that the debt will be liquidated as fast as money is plied into the Ottoman surplus fund.

A lowering of taxation rates is also promised by the new ruler. In years past the taxes upon the people of the empire have been so steep that thousands upon thousands of them have migrated to America, others going to countries in the vicinity of Turkey, where the yoke placed upon the subject's head is not nearly so heavy.

It was proved conclusively that Abdul Hamid himself ordered the Moslem fanatics of Asiatic Turkey to wipe out the entire Armenian race and with the advent of Mehmed V. to the throne everything within human power was done to stop the flow of Christian blood, with the result that with the exception of a few roving bands, the carnage makers were almost immediately hauled from their crimson assignment.

Then at orders of the new sultan the relief work in the stricken districts where the torch and sword had reigned but a few days before commenced with marvelous results. It was estimated that 40,000 Armenians had been slain during the few days which intervened between the order of Abdul Hamid and the successful termination of the revolution in the deposition of the despotic monarch.

That was the first step in the Turkish house-cleaning and it has been followed by others of greater import to the subjects of the sultan.

The minister of the interior has personally toured the provinces nearby and also the outlying districts with a view towards learning the wants of the citizens. A thorough reorganization is still in progress and already results are beginning to show themselves.

Reasons for Abdul Hamid issuing the fateful secret order for the massacre of all Armenians are assigned to his desire to stem the tide of growing strength of the Young Turks and give another bit of play for the idle hands to accomplish in order that the destructiveness might be turned in a direction other than Yildiz Kiosh.

To all intents and purposes he succeeded. As far as destruction went Abdul Hamid was successful, but the terrific wave of opposition to his rule refused to spend itself in the massacres in Asiatic Turkey. Thus he brought about his own downfall.

But to-day a different sight than that of the previous quarter century of retrogression greets the eyes of the visitor in Turkey. Prosperity is in the air. The spy system, so thoroughly organized by aides of Abdul Hamid, is practically abolished. Under Abdul's regime men feared to whisper their beliefs at their own firesides for fear a spy listened without or—fraught with even more danger—for fear members of their own families were in the pay of the sultan.

Christian words at that time were punishable by penalties more severe than some of those which are administered for manslaughter in this country. To be confined in a Turkish dungeon for any length of time practically meant death because of the vermin, lack of food and insanitary quarters.

The task which Mehmed faced was that of reorganizing perhaps the most corrupt government in the world. It was a government in which graft reigned openly and unquestioned. And from the findings at Yildiz Kiosh, the former sultan was the kingpin of his fellow grafters. The subjects were the only ones who did not graft and they were the ones upon whom the grafting was inflicted.

The people in Constantinople, according to consular reports forwarded from Washington, highly respect the new ruler and their hope for a new order of things has not been dissipated, for the regime of the present occupant of the Ottoman throne has ousted the most pernicious grafters of the old monarchy and honest men form the new ministry.

Capitalists are scanning the situation in Turkey with eagle eyes for they realize that the opening of the country to outside financiering will produce investments which cannot be overlooked. The Ottoman empire is one of the largest of the old world. It embraces extensive territories in southeastern Europe, western Asia and Northern Africa, grouped mainly around the eastern waters of the Mediterranean and along both sides of the Red sea, the west coast of the Persian gulf and southern and western shores of the black sea.

Revolve in your mind the various assortment of industries which may be carried on in that fertile country and then ask yourself whether it is any wonder that lots of American money will go to aid Turkey by being invested in its industries.

The rejuvenation of Turkey is going on from the inside as well as from the outside. The powers of the world want to give Turkey a chance to retrieve itself and they realize that the new sultan must be depended upon. Every official action which goes forth from the palace is quickly communicated to the governments of Europe and America. In fact the whole world is just now sizing up Mehmed V. He is being watched as closely as if he were out on parole.

Mehmed is believed by the Turkish people to be in some manner a descendant of Mohammed, father of the religion which reigns supreme within the confines of the Ottoman empire. It was that fact which kept Abdul Hamid on the throne for so long a time while Turkey longed for his life blood and thousands of plotters were praying for a chance to effect his demise.

Finally, however, the people of Turkey took the view that it was the office of sultan which they honored and not the occupant of that position. So the Young Turks party was formed with the primary idea of restoring the constitution of 1876. The decrepit ruler, after many promises of a "New Turkey," gave them the constitution they wished. Then by machinations known only to himself and perhaps one or two members of his court, he took away all the grants, still leaving the subjects in possession of the constitution of 1876, which then amounted to nothing more than an empty promise.

"Give us the old man's head," shouted the Young Turk soldiers the morning of April 13, just before they invaded the sacred interior of the sublime Porte. Those words, which were also spoken to an American correspondent by the leader of the army of investment, told a long story. They told the correspondent that the Turkish people no longer revered the person of Abdul Hamid because he happened to be a descendant of their prophet. They were the sharp evidence that the people had taken it upon themselves to worship their rights and the sword, emblematic of sultanic power, rather than the man who wore the sword, the crown and occupied the raiment of a great monarch.

So there was little surprise expressed in other cities of the world when the news "The Porte has fallen," was flashed over the wires. The end of despotism in Turkey was in sight, diplomats at Washington said.

The following day came the official bulletin from the head of the church announcing that the ruler had been unseated, his office turned over to his brother and making grave charges against Abdul Hamid, now an old man.

"It is the will of Allah," sighed the old man, his shoulders seeming even more stooped after the strenuous events of two days.

Carassa Effendi, a member of the deputation from the national assembly, which conveyed the fetva (announcement) to the Yildiz palace, tells a graphic story of the dramatic scene which closed six centuries' domination of the boundless power of the Padishahs. When the deputation arrived at the palace the scene was one of utter desolation. The investing army had cut off the water, gas and electric supplies and had stopped the ingress of food, so that all the palace officials already were suffering from hunger and panic.

While waiting to be introduced to the sultan the members of the deputation carefully examined their holsters and pistols, and, according to Carassa, had Abdul Hamid shown an armed hand he would have been shot on the spot. After much delay the unwelcome visitors, surrounded by 20 black eunuchs, were ushered into the sultan's apartment, where stood the sultan's son, Prince Abdur Rahim.

Presently the sultan entered in a bewildered manner. He was dressed somewhat negligently, as though his clothes had been hastily donned, in civilian attire. His arms hung at his sides and his hands trembled.

After a silent salute Essad Pasha pronounced in slow tones the decree of deposition, at which the sultan shuddered.

There was a painful silence, followed by an equally painful colloquy, lasting a quarter of an hour. Abdul Hamid appealed for his life and for the lives of his family. He protested his devotion to the people and his innocence in recent events.

The youthful prince burst into tears, and after vain efforts to restrain his feelings, retired behind a screen, where he broke into bitter sobs. For a moment tears trembled in the sultan's eyes. Then he supplicated the soldiers in attendance to swear that they would not take his life. The deputation brought the interview to a close and Abdul Hamid humbly saluted them as they departed.

Why the Muscles Grow Tired

Nearly half the weight of the human body consists of muscles which connect the bones and, by contraction, move them into various positions. In the best steam engines only one-tenth of the potential energy of the fuel is converted into mechanical work, but the muscles utilize in work from 24 to 55 per cent. of the energy of the food and probably much more, as the experiments which furnished these figures were performed with muscles removed from the body, not with living muscles richly supplied with blood. The less the contraction of a muscle the greater is its efficiency. A steam engine which is maintained in good condition works hour after hour and day after day, always consuming the same quantity of coal in performing the same amount of work.

With the muscles, however, it is different. For their waste products from combustion accumulate and cause fatigue. The poison of fatigue gradually is washed away by the blood, and in light and slow work it is carried off as rapidly as it is formed by the activity of the muscle, while in heavy, violent, or greatly prolonged labor it accumulates in the muscles.

It is the sensation of fatigue that causes us unconsciously to select the easiest way of doing things—for example, to ascend a mountain by a winding rather than by a straight path, although we thus increase the total quantity of work.

BURDENS LIFTED

From Bent Backs.

A bad back is a heavy handicap to those of us who have to work every day. Nine times out of ten, backache tells of kidney weakness. The only way to find relief is to cure the kidneys. Doan's Kidney Pills have given sound strong backs to thousands of men and women. Mrs. Wesley Clemens, 312 Marion St., Manchester, Ia., says: "Constant work at a sewing machine seemed to bring on kidney trouble. The kidney action was irregular and the pains in my back and loins so severe I could hardly endure it. Doan's Kidney Pills made me feel better in a short time, and I took them until entirely free from my trouble."

Sold by all dealers, 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

BILL'S AFFLICTION.

"Why, uncle, how are all the folks?"

"They're all well, thanks, except Bill. He's got the baseball fever!"

Prominent Women Aid Good Cause.

A large number of women occupying prominent positions in society, plus on the stage, are taking an active interest in the anti-tuberculosis campaign. Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt has recently given $1,000,000 for sanitary homes for consumptives. Mrs. Keith Spalding of Chicago has erected a sanitarium for the Chicago Tuberculosis Institute at a cost of about $40,000; Mrs. Collis P. Huntington and Mrs. Borden Harriman have given largely to the consumption fight. In Porto Rico, Mrs. Albert Norton Wood, wife of a prominent army officer stationed at San Juan, has stirred the entire island through the anti-tuberculosis crusade she inaugurated. Mme. Emma Calve is a most enthusiastic worker, and has given largely of her talent and money for the relief of tuberculosis sufferers, and Miss Olga Nethersole has even lectured before the public on tuberculosis.

Couldn't Stand It

A Raleigh, N. C., woman not long ago received into her house for "training" a "cracker" girl from the mountains.

Endeavor was made to inculcate in the girl a love for order and cleanliness, but suddenly this discipline ceased, for the "poor white" fled to her home in the fastnesses. Thither the Raleigh woman traced her after some difficulty.

"Why did you leave me, Mary Jane?" she asked.

"Mis' Morgan, I jes' couldn't stay!" exclaimed the girl. "I was jes' cloyed with neatness!"

Obedience.

Prompt and unquestioning obedience is the corner stone of the foundation of succes in life. No man can give orders properly who has not learned to take them, and "save he serve, no man may rule." It will be found that the men who have won their way to positions of power and responsibility have invariably been the men who did not reason or argue or even "respectfully represent," but who promptly did as they were commanded without questioning. It is the large man, not the little man, who recognizes a superior authority.

MAKING SUNSHINE

It Is Often Found In Pure Food.

The improper selection of food drives many a healthy person into the depths of despairing illness. Indeed, much sickness comes from wrong food and just so surely as that is the case right food will make the sun shine once more.

An old veteran of Newburyport, Mass., says: "In October, I was taken sick and went to bed, losing 47 pounds in about 60 days. I had doctored after doctor, food hurt me and I had to live almost entirely on magnesia and soda. All solid food distressed me so that water would run out of my mouth in little streams.

"I had terrible night sweats, and my doctor finally said I had consumption and must die. My good wife gave up all hope. We were at Old Orchard, Me., at that time and my wife saw Grape-Nuts in a grocery there. She bought some and persuaded me to try it.

"I had no faith in it, but took it to please her. To my surprise it did not distress me as all other food had done and before I had taken the first package I was well on the mend. The pains left my head, my mind became clearer and I gained weight rapidly.

"I went back to my work as in and now after six weeks use of this food I am better and stronger than ever before in my life. Grape-Nuts surely saved my life and made me a strong hearty man, 15 pounds heavier than before I was taken ill.

"Both my good wife and I are willing to make affidavit to the truth of this."

Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.