

Office:
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Dresden A.
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1755.

The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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THE UNSPEAKABLE TURK.

In spite of recent events which bid fair to transmute the time-honoured sordid baksheesh methods of Turkish government into the pure gold of constitutionalism, the individual who is not prone to sudden attacks of frantic enthusiasm at the first sign of reform must gaze in wonder at the complete change in the attitude of civilised Europe towards barbaric Turkey which is reflected in the world's press today. Less than twelve months ago the name of Turk was considered synonymous with the adjective "unspeakable." Abdul Hamid was picturesquely distinguished as "Abdul the Damned," though today he is lauded to the skies as the benefactor of his people, as a shining example of progressive Orientalism. The world's public has a notoriously short memory where its own private feelings are not concerned, but there are certain individuals who have good reason to remain silent while paeans of praise in honour of the Turkish sovereign arise. Sefer Bey, one of the men who are thoroughly acquainted with Turkey both unregenerate and regenerate, has been exhibiting the other side of the medal in the columns of a French review—a very ugly side, it must be confessed. When Abdul Hamid ascended the Turkish throne the men he most feared were not unnaturally those who had been concerned with the deposition of his predecessor Abdul Aziz (name of evil omen), and he at once made it his business to rid himself of them. One was sent to Mecca, a second to another part of Asia, and two others had already been conveniently assassinated. There remained Midhat Pasha, who at first was retained as President of the Council, and six weeks after the Sultan's accession was made Grand Vizier. But Midhat Pasha no sooner thought himself free to put into practice his ideas for the regeneration of the Ottoman people than the Sultan ordered him to quit the confines of the Empire. The people of Constantinople were stupefied, and no one dared to enquire the reason for such a catastrophe. Midhat went to Brindisi, afterwards to Paris and London, and visited the leading statesmen of Europe. Needless to add, he laboured under a weight of depression. He suffered morally and pecuniarily, the ingratitude of his country overpowered him, and Western life with its feverish strain was anything but attractive to the unfortunate Oriental. In Turkey he had been surrounded by a horde of parasites, flatterers, and courtiers; in Europe he was deserted and was compelled to spend his days away from his wife and children.

Meanwhile the Sultan had prosecuted his pet war, and on the conclusion of peace he set about creating a new administration after his own heart. But he was not happy; he realised he had been most imprudent in exiling Midhat Pasha to Europe, and he feared him there as much as at Constantinople. He therefore decided to recall him and to bring about his destruction. After making a special confidant of Savfet Pasha, Midhat's devoted friend, the Sultan asked Savfet to telegraph to Midhat announcing to him his restoration to favour and permitting him, in the name of the Sultan, to instal himself in Crete. Notwithstanding the warnings of his friends, Midhat Pasha took his departure from Paris, and soon after we hear of him in Syria and later at Smyrna. While he was still at Smyrna the Sultan despatched Helmi Pasha and Riza Bey with orders to arrest him dead or alive. On the very day on which the Governor was arrested, Said, a confidant of the Sul-

tan, published in a journal, the principal organ of the Palace clique, a vehement article, every line of which was a plain announcement of the fate reserved for Midhat Pasha. Brought to Constantinople, Midhat was incarcerated with other companions in misfortune, and all were accused of being concerned with the assassination of the deposed Sultan. An extraordinary court of justice was arranged, and among those invited to listen to the proceedings was Sefer Bey, the writer of the memoirs from which we have culled this lurid narrative. Midhat Pasha protested that the charge was infamous, that the mode of procedure was absolutely illegal, and that his judges were not qualified to hear the case. After a few moments' deliberation the Court decided that all the prisoners were guilty of *lèse-majesté* and were condemned to death. But Abdul Hamid, afraid of the noise which his odious work created in Europe, pretended to be generous, and commuted the penalty to twenty years' confinement in an Arabian fortress. The prisoners were sent to Taif and shut up in the fortress. A year afterwards it was reported that Midhat had cancer. He recovered, however, whereupon poison was put into his food, but without success. Next, pens and paper were taken away, and all communication with the outside world was prohibited. Finally, Bekir Bey arrived from Constantinople and subjected the prisoners to a régime of complete isolation. They were fed on stale bread and water, and after some seventeen months in the fortress, the room in which the prisoners lived was one night surrounded by soldiers. The unhappy Midhat was seized, bound, and, on the orders of the commanding officer, brutally strangled with a cord. For months the vile episode was hushed up, but details eventually leaked out. In the light of these facts it would appear that the Sultan's condemnatory nickname was thoroughly well deserved.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

HEALTH OF KING EDWARD.

London, December 8.

Lord Knollys, Private Secretary to the King, informed the *Daily News* yesterday by a telegram that His Majesty was better and hoped to leave London today.

According to another telegram, His Majesty will go to Brighton for change of air.

London, December 8.

The King, who is making good progress and who was stated this morning to be feeling very much better, left for Brighton in the afternoon. The duration of his stay will depend on how long it takes to completely restore His Majesty's health.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London, December 7.

Mr. Carlyon Bellairs, a Liberal member, having called attention to a statement made by Admiral Finnis in a speech at Dover on the 2nd instant, that during the fleet manoeuvres he had succeeded in evading the fleet in a fog with a convoy representing transports carrying 70,000 troops and in reaching the coast of Scotland unobserved,

Mr. McKenna, the first Lord of the Admiralty, said that Admiral Finnis had been on half-pay

since January last and had held no command of any kind in the last fleet manoeuvres. The Admiral had also informed him that the statement attributed to him was based on a misconception and misrepresentation of a small part of his speech. Nothing had occurred during the manoeuvres, the Minister added, that would give occasion for such a statement.

In the course of the sitting the Prime Minister formally withdrew the Education Bill, expressing his regret that the Government's hopes of settling the Education question had been disappointed. Mr. Asquith alluded further to several difficulties that had arisen in the matter, and warmly praised the efforts made by Mr. Runciman and the Archbishop of Canterbury. "I have never," said the Prime Minister, "experienced a greater disappointment, but I do not regret the attempt that has been made; I would rather have made it and failed than have refrained from making it for fear of failure."

CONFERENCE ON MARITIME WARFARE.

London, December 7.

At the second sitting of the international Conference on maritime warfare today Sir H. Norman was elected General Secretary. Freiherr v. Doczy, the delegate of Austria-Hungary; Freiherr v. Grünau, the delegate of Germany; and M. Louis Milikoff, the delegate of Russia, were elected Secretaries. The proposals of the British Government will form the basis of the discussions.

GOLD DISCOVERED IN NEW GUINEA.

London, December 7.

Reuter learns that the British and German Government have agreed to appoint a joint boundary Commission to fix the boundary between British and German territory in New Guinea, in view of the development of that island and of the fact that gold has been found in parts of it near the boundary in question.

DISASTROUS EXPLOSION IN INDIA.

London, December 7.

The evening papers publish telegrams reporting an explosion in a powder magazine at Dumdum, six miles north of Calcutta, by which eleven native soldiers were killed and twenty-six injured.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

OIL TRUST'S RAMIFICATIONS.

By far the most impressive figures in the testimony disclosed during the prosecution of the Standard Oil Company were those showing the capitalisation of the companies owned or controlled by the Standard throughout the world, given by Mr. Archbold. It amounts to \$328,301,495, of which sum \$98,328,300 is the capitalisation of the Standard Oil Company, of New Jersey, the holding firm. The Anglo-American Oil Company (Limited) is solely owned by the Standard. There are 56 other companies, including two German, directly owned by it. The subsidiary companies of the Standard own another 56 concerns, American, Scandinavian, German, French, and Italian, while apparently the British firms in this category are the Imperial Oil Company, the International Oil Company, and the Vacuum Oil Company.

(Continued on page 2.)