

MR. BOGIGIAN'S EXPERIENCE.

His Passports Not Questioned When He Visited Turkey.

Hagop Bogigian, one of the best known Armenians in New England, objects to the statements that have got into print regarding the treatment accorded his countrymen who return to the land of their birth armed with a United States passport.

What is more, Mr. Bogigian says the stories of suffering in Armenia are greatly exaggerated. Last summer, Mr. Bogigian took his wife and traveled extensively in Turkey. Here is his experience:—

"The stories that have been published are very misleading, and place the United States government, the Turkish government and the Armenians in a bad light. During a protracted trip this summer with my wife we had no difficulty whatever. On the contrary, a Turkish passport was issued to me upon presenting my American credentials. Then everything was done to make my visit pleasant.

"There is no doubt the government is suspicious of a certain class of Armenians. These have left their own country and come to America to be naturalized. Just as soon as they have received their papers, back they go and preach anarchy under the cloak of their passports. Turkey wants to protect herself just as America has, and objects to the visits of those who are plotting riot and revolution.

"I talked with Consuls and merchants of all nationalities in Constantinople and Smyrna, and am thoroughly convinced that the alleged Armenian woes are not susceptible of proof. The tales of cruelty and suffering are started by men who want to raise the wind, and at the same time convince Americans that anarchistic clubs have started up all over Turkey.

"To sum it all up, it can be stated that an Armenian who has become a citizen of this country in good faith, and has any decent reputation, can go over to Turkey and will find his passport honored in every way."