

TERRIBLE MASSACRE OF ARMENIANS.

ROADS COVERED WITH DEAD

WORST ATROCITIES IN
HISTORY.

EXTERMINATION POLICY.

Whelan
Further details of the terrible massacres in Armenia that have been organised by the Turkish Government have been received from a trustworthy source by the "Daily Chronicle." The information is based on the reports of eye-witnesses and many of the victims themselves. Besides the many thousands killed, more than half a million Armenians who inhabited the provinces have been deported from their native land and exiled towards the south. These deportations have been carried out in the most systematic fashion by the local authorities since the beginning of April last. A beginning was made with the disarming of the population in all the villages and towns. Gendarmes were used for the purpose, and even criminals specially liberated from the prisons, who committed, under the pretext of disarming, murders, and inflicted horrible tortures.

The next step was to imprison Armenians en masse, on the excuse of having found in their houses arms or books, or the mere mention of one of the political parties, etc. Failing such excuses, mere possession of wealth or a good social standing was a sufficient pretext. Finally, the deportation began. First of all, under the pretence of sending them into exile, all those were expatriated who had not been imprisoned or who had been set at liberty in default of proof. Then the massacres took place. Not a single man escaped death.

The remainder of the population, old folk, women and children, were looked upon as fair game in the province of Kharpout, and were put at the disposal of the Mussulman population. The highest functionary, like the simplest peasant, chose the woman or girl that pleased him best and took her as his wife, converting her by force to Islamism.

CHILDREN STARVED TO DEATH.

As for the little children, as many of them were taken as were wanted, and the remainder were put on the roads famished and without food, to fall the victims of starvation, if not of the cruelty of robber bands. Massacres took place in the province of Diarbekir, particularly at Mardin, and the population underwent similar atrocities.

In the provinces of Erzerum, Bitlis, Sivas, and Diarbekir the local authorities gave some facilities to the deportees—five to ten days' grace, authorisation for partial sale of their property, and liberty to hire a wagon for a few families—but at the end of several days the wagon drivers left them halfway on the road and returned to the town. The caravans thus collected on the roads encountered the next day or a few days afterwards robber bands of Mussulman peasants, who looted them of all they possessed.

The bandits joined hands with the gendarmes and killed the few men or youths who were found in the caravans. They carried off the women, the young girls, and the children, leaving only the old women, who were driven along by the gendarmes under the lash of the whip, and who died of hunger by the roadside. An eye-witness recounts that the women deported from the province of Erzerum were left for several days in the Kharpout plain, where all of them died of hunger (at the rate of fifty or sixty a day), and all the authorities did was to send some men to bury them lest the health of the Mussulman population should be affected.

A little girl tells a story of how, when the populations of Marsvan, Amassia, and Tekat arrived at Sari-Kichila (between Sivas and Deserea), right in front of the Governor's office, children of both sexes were torn from their mother's arms and shut up in the rooms, and the caravans obliged to take the road again without them. Then word was sent round to the neighbouring villages that anyone could help himself to what he liked. The caravans and their companies were taken in charge of and led by a Turkish officer. Women and children were exposed before the Governor's office in each village or town that they arrived at, so that the Mussulmans might make their choice.

WOMEN THROWN INTO RIVER.

The caravan that started from Papert was lessened in numbers in this way, and the women and children who remained were finally thrown into the Euphrates before Erzinga, at the part known as Kemath-Boghazi. Two nurses of the German Red Cross were deeply moved at these barbarities and other analogous deeds, and handed in their resignations; they went to Constantinople and personally called at several Embassies to relate these atrocious doings.

These barbarities have been committed everywhere, and to-day travellers meet on all the roads of these provinces nothing but Armenian corpses. A Mussulman traveller in a nine-hours' journey from Malatia to Sivas met nothing but the corpses of men and women. All the males of Malatia were brought thither and massacred. The women and children were all converted to Islamism.

Armenians who, in the Black Sea towns such as Trebizond, Sansum, Kirasond, etc., became converts were sent into the interior to towns inhabited entirely by Mussulmans. Chabin-Karahissar having resisted disarmament and deportation, was bombarded, and the whole of the population—that of the town as well as that of the countryside—and even the Bishop, was ruthlessly massacred. In short, from Sansum to Seghert and Diarbekir there is at this moment not an Armenian living. Most of them have been massacred, a portion have been carried off, and a portion have been converted to Islam.

History has never recorded nor has ever spoken of a hecatomb like this. One might almost believe that under the reign of the Sultan Abdul Hamid the Armenians were fortunate. The purpose of the Government is evidently to put an end once for all to the Armenian question by the extermination of the Armenian population throughout the whole of Turkey. And this purpose has just begun to be put into execution, even in the very outskirts of Constantinople.

FEELING IN AMERICA.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.

Appeals on the part of Americans to prevent further wholesale murders of Armenians are reaching the State Department, which has instructed Mr. Morgenthau, the United States Ambassador at Constantinople, to investigate the matter. A previous protest to Turkey was ineffective.

According to information which has reached here 450,000 Armenians have been killed and 600,000 are homeless or exiled. Several American philanthropists have signified their willingness to contribute to a fund for bringing the persecuted people to the United States in accordance with a recent suggestion by Mr. Morgenthau. Officials say, however, that a general Armenian immigration plan is contemplated.—Reuter.