

The Awakening of the Older Nations.

Marvelous Wave of New National Life That is Sweeping Around the Earth—Turkey's New Regime Constitutes Huge Human Problem.

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS.

Constantinople.—The man who lifts his head above his own neighborhood's affairs—and that's the fashion nowadays—finds himself confronted with a whole cycle of world problems. If he knows how to put two and two together he perceives that the present ferment is what Mr. Roosevelt called in his Berlin speech a "world movement." While as individual and distinct as human nature and racial characteristics, it yet presents the same general features everywhere. Front and foremost is the new expression of the national spirit.

This may fairly be called the biggest news in the world, and I have undertaken to follow it through Europe and Asia. While the journalistic historian naturally cannot see it as clearly as the student of a generation hence, he none the less cannot fail to perceive the outstanding aspects of this ancient human drama which is being enacted before his eyes. The theme is one calling for the arts of the poet and the dramatist rather than for those of a mere chronicler of the obvious or the easily ascertainable. America's deep internal agitation and mood of self-examination are a case in point.

An Instance From Ireland.

The first time outside of North America on this tour of investigation where I came into contact with the awakening of the old and dormant national consciousness was in West Ireland. I was in the poor fishing village outside of Galway called the Claddagh, where survive the purest blooded Irish stock. Everybody spoke a tongue strange to my ears, but a genial coterie shifted his duddan and good naturedly explained to me, "Every nation ought to have their own language you know and use that." A similar revival of the Gaelic may be found in parts of Scotland. Indeed old Scotia as a whole shows a restiveness under the Anglicization that is in progress and asserts her own national character even to the extent of calling the Scottish members of Parliament sharply to account.

Britain's Big Scare.

Great Britain as a whole, and especially England, has within the past half decade been scared into a new national self-consciousness. The situation looks strangely like a case of blue funk to an outsider. John Bull has displayed something more closely akin to hysteria than he has been accused of for a long time. The nation has hurriedly built Dreadnoughts, organized territorial forces, reorganized her army, created the Boy Scouts, and is now clamoring for an airship fleet lest Germany should suddenly gobble her up over night.

With Germany the new mood is co-extensive with the reign of Emperor William and the power of Bismarck. It is frankly avowed imperialism. Even the tourist may see that Germany is the most efficient nation in Europe. Its organization running down into all departments of life, and becoming objectionable paternalism in many respects, is paralleled only by the case of her pupil, Japan. Germany has gone in for world-dominion, commercial. If not political.

Whether the emperor dreams more who can say? The observer cannot help wondering what may be the inspiration and significance of the Napoleon cult which has such vogue in Germany. I have watched the emperor as he sat for nearly four mortal hours on horseback reviewing 30,000 of his troops, and the occasion was ominous.

Whatever the militarism in Germany portends, certainly she is winning the commercial world, especially from Great Britain. However heartily Germany may be disliked abroad—and she seems to have few friends—she is successful in spite of ill-will. Crossing to France and Spain one finds evident symptoms of a new awakening there. The "laissez faire" attitude has been abandoned, and France's experience is even now being repeated in the realm of King Alfonso. And Portugal is a republic!

The Lesser Nations Alert.

The little nations are doing wonders. Bulgaria, now nominally as well as actually, independent, has forged powerfully to the front in the Balkans. Her army is the dread of Turkey, the concern of other powers, and the hope of Greece. Finland and Poland, robbed of their independence, and under a heavy yoke, are yet showing the power of their revivifying national spirit by their dogged adherence to their national ideals and language. Hungary clings to its own tongue, and in Budapest the carriage drivers, even at the risk of losing a fare, will often refuse to speak any language but Hungarian.

The case, as the history of the past 20 years has shown, is well summed up by Sydney Brooks in a recent magazine article:—

"Russia, a power whose mere imminence had for a century oppressed the imagination of Europe, has reeled, through an unbroken series of defeats, into the blackness of chaos and anarchy. Japan, 20 years ago an unconsidered factor in the plans of

statesmen, has thrilled the entire world with all the qualities that make a nation victorious and keep it great; has marched irresistibly to the mastery of the far east; and is now organizing an astounding campaign of commercial triumphs. China, numerically the greatest power in the world, but immemorably inert, disjointed, and nerveless, has felt the quickening of new life, and lifts its scarred and battered head with a frown that is half a protest and half a threat.

"A wave of national self-consciousness and self-assertion has passed from east to west, agitating Siam, upsetting sovereigns and governments in Persia and Turkey, and gravely perplexing the rulers of India and Egypt. The United States has bounded out of her long, innocuous isolation; has felt at a blow an ancient member of the European family of nations; has been swept by the spirit of expansion; has planted herself in the West Indies, and has strewn the Pacific with stepping-stones from San Francisco to Manila. The hardy and democratic people of Norway, after beating for long against the bars, have wrenched them apart, and stepped on to the European stage with a quiet but intense assertion of nationality. Another people, the Hungarians, not less virile and incomparably more gifted and attractive, with a thousand years of self-contained history behind them, have in the last two decades taken long and irretraceable strides toward the same goal of conscious nationalism. France, barely escaping a military dictatorship, has been stretched on the rack of the Dreyfus case, amid universal anguish and abhorrence. Great Britain, expanding ponderously from the Cape to Cairo, has fought and conquered the Boers and added their territories to her empire. Italy has had her Adowa, and Greece her Domokos. What is compendiously called the 'labor question,' has posed its in-

soluble conundrums with a growing and menacing insistence to the peoples and rulers of all countries; and incredible inventions and discoveries have revolutionized our conceptions of matter and deeply affected our daily scheme of life.

Egypt in the Lime-Light.

Thanks to the assistance of Mr. Roosevelt, the case of Egypt is fairly familiar to the public. That a tremendous crisis has come in the land of the pharaohs, after the sleep of centuries, is now doubted by no one. The people as a whole are clamant for all the rights and prerogatives of a self-governing nation. Their emergence is one of the spectacular phenomena of recent history. The end of the story has not yet been written. I shall shortly be in Egypt to study the case on the spot.

It is in Asia that this new wave of nationalism assumes the most amazing proportions. Turkey, as I shall show in my next article, has executed a volte face. There are changes under way there which will have unpredictable consequences to Europe. For anybody to whom life has become biase a trip to Turkey and a study of its transformation is recommended as a sufficient tonic. The civilizations of the past three thousand years have flowered and died on the soil of Turkey. The holy places of the two most potent religions of mankind are within that empire. Most of the ruins that link the present with the past may be dug up only by permission from Constantinople. A strange assortment of nations and colors and creeds converge their problems upon the capital, to which Constantinople, the first Christian emperor, gave his name 15 centuries ago.

India and China are the two other great nations whose awakening concerns all who see things in the large and who perceive the inter-relation of human history. The case of India is politically of concern chiefly to India herself and

Great Britain, the governing power. From the human standpoint it is one of the great dramas in real life that are more interesting than any books. After I have gone through Turkey and Persia, I am due in India.

China's portentous Turnings.

The giant among nations, whose awaking has long been a source of speculation to statesmen, philosophers and novelists, is at last unmistakably awake and girding herself for a new place in the history of the world. If her incredible bulk of more than four hundred million human beings were to be unloosed with hostile intent upon America, Europe or Asia, the result would be an unparalleled avalanche—a real Armageddon. Her soil holds minerals enough to upset all the calculations of the financial districts of the world. Her industrial potentiality could turn the labor market upside down. As a military force she has possibility which one shrinks from contemplating.

Anything is possible in the China of tomorrow, because by government edict, and by the impulse of the people at large, she has definitely turned her face toward the west and turned her back upon the past that made the old China. Moreover, she seems to be seeking the tutelage of America; and whether the youngest of the great nations shall become the teacher of the oldest is of more interest and importance than the question of the tariff.

A Great Human Drama.

Roughly sketched, the foregoing is the field to which I have addressed myself in the present series of investigations which I am now making in Asia. Although I have spent several months in Europe, working on the subject, I shall confine myself to the oldest nations, for, alongside of the peoples of Asia, the antiquity of Europe is modern. I shall deal less with the political aspects of the case than with the human conditions which go to make this wonderful waking a fact in the life of the everyday man



Typical Street Scene in the New Constantinople.

and woman. It is altering the bazaars of the Orient into shops for the sale of western products, and is putting American sewing machines into the homes of the people and American agricultural implements into their fields. In all the world there is nothing quite so interesting as the life and labors and hopes of men and women.

Bad One on Brown. Brown is a traveling man who lives in West Philadelphia. He has a little three-year-old who has just learned to say her prayers. Every Sunday Brown gets home for a few hours, but this is about all the time he has with his family.

Consequently, the little girl is not as well acquainted, perhaps, as she might be with his relation to the family, although she thinks him very nice because of the candy and presents he brings to her.

Mrs. Brown, in teaching the child his prayers, of course, taught her to ask a blessing for "papa" along with "mamma" and "grandma" and "grandpa" and the other persons the child knows well. She was much surprised the other night when the child at the end of "Now I lay me," recited the remainder of the prayer like this: "God bless papa, mamma, grandma, grandpa, Willie and that man who comes to see mamma every Sunday and brings me such nice things."

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