The World for a Week

THE trouble in the orient has not simmered down any this week. Reports from the interior of Turkey are suppressed and the real truth is not known to the outside world. Troops have been landed from the warships at Constantinople for protection of the legations and embassies there, Minister Leishman being the only one who has not yet asked for a guard. Turkish troops have crossed the Bulgarian frontier. Consul Magelssen's assailant has not been found, and there is a strong suspicion that no efforts have been made to find him. The vali of Beirut has been deposed and Nezim Pasha installed in his place and hopes are expressed that the latter will be able to break the backbone of the trouble in that vicinity. The latest reports are that the Turks have killed 65,000 Christians already. Macedonian leaders have given notice of their intention to resort to reprisals on the Turks for these massacres. They say that the powers are in a measure responsible for the massacres, for instead of siding with Macedonia, they call upon the Turk to end the rebellion at once. The Turk knows no better way than to exterminate the residents of the rebellious districts. The very latest development has a comic opera aspect and is the employment by the sultan of an American "press agent," whose business it will be to send out attractive stories about the good side of Turkey, the sultan and Turkish methods.

It is practically certain that the Colombian government has been holding up cablegrams from Washington to Minister Beaupre at Bogota. Secretary Hay has demanded an explanation from the Colombian director of telegraphs. This is a very grave offense on the part of the Colombian officials as it is of the greatest importance that the government of the United States should have free communication with its representative in the present critical state of affairs. Talk now among government officials at Washington is that since the treaty of 1846 with Grenada gave control of isthmian transportation to Great Britain and the United States, and the Hay-Pauncefote treaty eliminated Great Britain, thus leaving the United States as the sole factor, recognition would be given to Panama should she make the attempt to set up an independent republic, and the canal would be built. It would be a clear course for the United States to press her privilege thru a new state of Panama according to the rights which descended from the government of Grenada in 1846.

Servian army officers not concerned in the assassination of King Alexander and Queen Draga have been detected in a plot to kill those who were, and have been arrested and thrown into prison. They succeeded in publishing a proclamation calling upon the people to stand by them in demanding the most severe punishment of the regicides. They declare that either the offending officers must leave the service or they will. The Servian public openly sides with the imprisoned officers and demands their release.

The failure of Shamrock III. to make any kind of a showing in the recent cup races is said to be the result of a fatal error in her water line, just discovered. Reports do not specify what the error is, but say that it made defeat absolutely certain.

While driving thru Madgeburg recently the Empress of Germany was struck by a huge bouquet, which knocked off her hat and stunned her for a few minutes. There was no serious injury, however, and after a short delay the empress continued her drive.

Professor Langley's airship certainly has a hoodoo. For the second time since it was ready for test, an accident has disabled it. This time it was not the effects of a storm, but the breaking of a propeller under the pressure of its own velocity, its fall damaging the framework badly.

The Manchurian open door policy which is attracting the attention of diplomats seems to have been given a turn by Russia which really strengthens her hold on Manchuria, and yet which apparently yields enough from the present position of Russia as to Manchuria, to satisfy Japan. China is given power to resume administrative rights in three provinces, providing she agrees not to cede any portion of the territory to any other nation; that there shall be no increase on the present import duty by railroad into Manchuria; that in the event of an epidemic at New Chwang, a Russian health officer shall be appointed to deal with it; that Russia shall retain her own military telegraph along the railway and that the agencies of the Russian-Chinese bank in Manchuria shall be guarded by Chinese soldiers.

Lieutenant Robert E. Peary has been granted a three years' leave of absence for the purpose of continuing his attempts to reach the pole. Distinctive features of Commander Peary's plan are the use of individual sledges with comparatively light loads, drawn by dogs, the adoption of Eskimo methods and costumes and the fullest utilization of the Eskimos themselves. In his letter granting the application for leave of absence, Secretary Darling explicitly warns Lieutenant Peary that his single aim should be to reach the pole; that the polar regions are the only ones unknown to science now, and that Americans should be the ones to complete the map of the world by the discovery of the two poles.

John Stone, a lecturer in the electrical department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and known for his inventions of improvements in long distance telephoning, claims to have sent wireless messages recently under conditions which have hitherto been considered impossible, conditions which have rendered wireless telegraphy of no real practical use as yet. Wireless messages are easily interrupted and intercepted and they can not be sent within three miles of an electric car or under conditions surrounding the use of the ordinary telegraphic communication. Mr. Stone claims to have overcome these difficulties.

The battleship Olympia, which was so badly damaged in the recent naval maneuvers as to necessitate her being placed in dry dock, ran into a heavy storm on her way down the Atlantic coast from Portland to Norfolk and there were fears that she might not weather the gale. She ran into Thomaston harbor for shelter and even there the storm handled her severely, but she finally reached the dock at Norfolk.

A railroad recently completed in Peru is really a railroad in the clouds. It starts at Lima, at 12,000 feet above the sea level and in 75 miles climbs to 17,000 feet. It is said to be one of the most wonderful constructions known to the railroad world of to-day.

Secretary Hay is the latest victim of a crank, a man by the name of Francis M. Beuque informing the secretary that if he did not attend to the collection of his claim for $41,000 from the German government, he would attend to Mr. Hay. As this is one of a number of rambling letters written by the man to various officers of the government, and the most threatening, it was thought advisable to have him examined as to his sanity.

Buenos Aires has just given an unusual token of its regard for the Italian government and the late King Humbert in particular. It has offered to pave the piazza of the Pantheon, where Humbert is buried, and the surrounding streets with Argentine wood, which will be kept in order by the donors. The offer has been accepted by the government.

Several suspicious cases of illness and death at Marseilles, France, are thought to be bubonic plague. The disease was introduced in a cargo of rags from Constantinople. There have been five deaths and eighteen cases are now under surveillance.

A British scientist, Sir Norman Lockyer, says that England's position as leader is threatened because of lack of universities and research. There are eleven universities in Great Britain against 134 state and privately endowed universities in the United States and twenty-two state endowed in Germany. The German state gives to one university more than the British government allows to all the universities and university colleges in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales put together.

September 10 was a record breaking day in the United States customs house. With the exception of a day shortly before the present tariff went into effect, when $1,400,000 was taken in as duties, it was the largest day's business in the history of the office. Customs receipts amounted to $1,300,000.

Navigators in Alaskan waters have always noticed that in the vicinity of Skaguay some influences disturbed compasses so that they were absolutely useless. Professor Barnett, of Stanford university, has just returned from a trip of several months, spent in survey along the coast of Alaska, and reports that he has discovered the presence of immense quantities of magnetic ore on Douglas island and on the mainland near Skaguay. He says there is almost a perfect magnetic pole at this point.

San Francisco sweltered on Sept. 9 in the hottest wave it has had since 1886. The thermometer registered 97 against the previous record of 100 degrees.

Fort Snelling is to have an adidtional $400,000 for improvements. Four, instead of two, cavalry troops will be sent to the fort and the new work is to be devoted largely to making provision for them. Among the changes ordered is that of remodeling the old round tower from the guardhouse into the administration building.

Captain E. P. Perkins, color guard of the First Minnesota regiment, was buried Sept. 10. Many of his old comrades followed him to the grave, and by special request Governor Van Sant allowed the colors which Captain Perkins carried in the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville to be carried with him to his last resting place. Captain Perkins was also in the Gettysburg campaign and was severely wounded.

The First of a Wriggle.

"Father," said the little boy, looking up from his picture book, "if I ask you a question, will you answer it?"

"Certainly," was the reply.

"Well, what I want to know is, where does a snake begin when it wags its tail?"—The Little Chronicle

MADE in MINNEAPOLIS

VIOLINS.

SLENDER, dark-eyed and fairy-fingered, Carl was a born violinist both in temperament and appearance. From the time he held a tiny toy instrument and sawed away like uncle, everybody said he would become a fine musician and whispered, "Who knows? He might be famous some day." By and by he held a real violin and sawed away in real earnest. At first all the people in the neighborhood wanted to put their fingers over their ears and run away, but in a very short time Carl was blushing to hear how they enjoyed the voice of the violin wafted across the lawn and how they liked to interpret its various moods.

Moods? Of course Carl's violin had moods. Sometimes it laughed and trilled so joyously one could almost hear the children at play with the birds. Then again it was oh, so sad that Carl often caught a tear trailing down his cheek. Almost any fiddle can laugh and cry, but Carl's violin had a mood all its own. That was when a plaintive wail crept thru the ringing melody of its song, suggesting to Carl's active imagination a child smiling thru its tears. He said it was thinking of the Fatherland then, and of the time it was a part of trees growing in the Rhine valley. Carl ought to know, because he was so curious to learn how violins were put together he went down to the shop and saw one made. That was a much better way than taking his own apart to see how it looked inside.

The Jolly Violin-Maker.

The violin-maker was a jolly old German whom Carl called captain because he had once served in the kaiser's army. He could tell any number of curious legends about the beautiful Rhine, and the vineyards and queer old castles on its banks. He described the groves of trees from which the violin wood was obtained, the beautiful maples furnishing backs and sides, and spruce providing the tops. When the trees were cut down the wood was piled where it could take its own time in drying and not be hurried at all. This resting spell was called seasoning and always lasted four or five years. Very ancient violins—the ever-so-many-times-great grandparents of the violin family—were the best and most valuable, the captain explained. New wood gives a strong tone, but it lacks a beautifully polished, mellow quality for which rare old instruments are famous. He worked on the theory that violins made from very old wood were the same as very old violins. He had wood which was about 125 years old, and it was said one of his fellow craftsmen possessed some wood from the piles of Caesar's bridge, tho he could not say how true that was. Carl smiled mischievously as he remarked that Caesar would be surprised if he knew some one was drawing entrancing melodies from a piece of his bridge.

At the End of the Lecture.

When the captain had concluded his little lecture he took some spruce and maple blocks from a neat little shelf. Each block was fifteen inches long, four and a half inches wide, one-half an inch thick on one of the long sides and one-eight of an inch thick at the other. The blocks had been cut, the captain said, so that the thicker sides came from the wood nearest the bark, the outer growth of a tree being the oldest and therefore the strongest. Carl wondered what part they were to play in the violin, and even when the captain glued two of them together with their thick edges back to back, he could not guess what was to come next. He stared with wide eyes as the captain outlined a violin on the smooth white surface of the wood, making the "seam" come directly down thru the middle. Then he remembered that all violins had this seam.

The captain carved it out with a keen-edged knife, rounding the outside off most beautifully, and curving the inside equally beautifully. While he worked, he talked; and Carl could not tell for the life of him which he did the hardest—listen or look, but he succeeded in doing both wonderfully well. With a doleful shake of the head the captain said mournfully that there are shops and shops full of factory-made violins, very inexpensive but alas, they have no individuality. There is a difference in the purity and volume of tone which is very easily detected by a maker of instruments. The art of the trade lies in the distribution of wood on top and back. A machine can be accurate, of course, but a machine has no judgment, no artistic taste. For tone, for the soul of the violin, human hands only can do the best work.

As for himself, the captain continued modestly, he knew from experience just how to carve the different parts so they would produce the best sound. Making violins, he thought, was like painting a picture or writing poetry. One must have a talent for it in order to be truly a maker, and possess not only the artistic sense but a mechanical turn of mind as well. Carl drew a long breath and wondered admiringly how anyone could talk so long without getting tired.

That Beautiful Curving "F."

Both top and back were carved from the same pattern. Then gracefully curved sound holes, about three inches long and the shape of an "f" were made on the top piece where holes are found usually. They were carefully cut with a tiny scroll saw and finished with a knife. This was critical work, and the captain had to screw his face up and wipe his spectacles a good many times before he was satisfied.

When the f-holes looked prim and pretty enough, he hunted around and poked and peered into corners until Carl wondered what he was playing hide-and-go-seek with. Finally he found the mysterious thing and brought it forth—a dummy violin. It was a block of wood perfectly proportioned and accurately shaped, except that at the middle of either side and at the end there was a vide indentation. Into each one he fitted a small block to serve as a support. Then taking six strips of wood one and a quarter inches wide and one-sixteenth of an inch thick, he passed a hot iron over them until they curled around in the way they should go. These curved pieces of wood were the "ribs" of the violin, and it is safe to say that never yet were ribs more gracefully curved with a curling iron. They were fitted around the sides of the dummy and glued firmly to the blocks of wood. Then the back piece was glued to the ribs and blocks and the dummy lifted out. The violin was then lined; a very narrow, ribbon-like strip of wood was glued in the joint made by the ribs and back and another narrow strip was glued around the upper edge of the ribs to fit the top upon. Then on the inner side of the top between the f-holes and directly under the base or G-string, a strip of wood or "base-bar" eleven inches long and one-half inch wide was glued. This was to give support to the top. Lastly the top was fitted on and the violin was placed in a press to remain for several hours or until it was dry.

A Well-Behaved Violin.

The violin behaved properly and dried rapidly and meanwhile the captain worked with the neck. It was in an unfinished condition except for a charming twist at the end where a head would grow on almost anything but a violin. This piece of white maple he carved and smoothed until it was of the desired shape and as captivating as a swan's neck. Moreover, it had four round little holes near the twist for pegs. Then the neck was dove-tailed and glued into place. When the different parts had been put together a small, round post was adjusted beside the base-bar, connecting top and back and thus giving the top support.

The violin was now a violin in reality except that it needed sand-papering and a few trimmings. These latter proved to be an ebony finger board fitting trimly on the upper side of the neck, a tail-piece to run the strings thru at the bottom, an ebony end-pin to wind the strings around, and pegs. All of the trimming, even to the strings, was done before the violin was varnished. With the air of knowing what he was talking about, the captain observed that he never stained the wood before varnishing, for that would make it look no better than an ordinary farm wagon. He merely dropped a little red coloring into the golden-brown varnish, which gave a luster to the wood and made more brilliant the natural fire of its crinkly lines.

Picking up a bow the captain tested the strings, saying between its agonized groans that few instruments could compare with the violin for power of expression. A piano is unsurpassed for composition, but for interpretation of feeling the violin it its superior. When finally he held the beautiful, amber-red violin triumphantly forth, Carl's eyes shone and he could hardly refrain from shouting, "All hail the king of musical instruments!"

—Mina B. Price.