

BARBAROUSLY TREATED ARMENIANS THREATENED WITH RACE EXTINCTION

Eye Witness, Returned from Syria and Arabia Tells of People Burrowing in River Banks and Fighting for Offal—Bodies Piled in Huge Mounds on Trail Over Which They Have Been Driven.

The American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief with headquarters at 70 Fifth avenue, New York, has just received a most remarkable statement from an eye witness of the suffering of the Armenian refugees exiled to northern Syria and Arabia. The writer of this statement is neither an American nor a native of Turkey, but belongs to a neutral country. He has traveled extensively through the regions along the Euphrates River and into the interior of the country. In this report he graphically depicts what he saw and experienced in the different places visited.

Dr. James L. Barton, Chairman of the American Relief Committee states that "this report is in some respects the most heart breaking of all the messages hitherto received by the Committee." He also declares that while the name of the writer of the report is known to him, for obvious reasons his identity cannot be revealed at present. "There is, however," said Dr. Barton, "no question as to the reliability of the report and the accuracy of the statements contained therein." This report is as follows:

"I was permitted to visit the Armenian encampments all along the Euphrates, Meskene and Der-i-Zor and to give an account of the state in which the deported Armenians are found in those localities, their present condition, and if possible the approximate number of these unfortunate exiles.

The above mentioned mission is the object of the present report. I take liberty to send you this asking you at the same time to take into consideration my conclusions in the latter part of the report, which conclusions, if followed, can also, in a small way, only lighten the sufferings which are now the point of disappearing is enduring daily.

It is impossible to give an account of the impression of horror which my journey across the Armenian encampments scattered all along the Euphrates has given me, especially those on the right bank between Meskene and Der-i-Zor. These can hardly be called encampments; because of the fact that the majority of these unfortunate people, brutally dragged out of their native land, torn from their homes and driven to the desert, are penned up in the open like cattle, without shelter, almost no clothing and irregularly fed with food altogether insufficient. Exposed to all the inclemencies of the weather; in summer to the torrid sun of the desert, in winter to the rain and cold; enfeebled already by privations and long marches, the bad treatment, the most severe tortures and the daily rations of death, the less feeble have succeeded in digging holes for themselves on the banks of the river. These many individuals who have succeeded in saving from the flood some clothing, some cloth for tents and a little money to procure some flour, if they can find it, are to be counted as lucky persons. Also for those who are able to buy some melons from the peasants of the neighborhood or some sick goats from the nomads at the price of gold. Everywhere you see emaciated and wan faces, wandering skeletons, lurking for all kinds of diseases and victims inoperative to hunger.

The management which has been entrusted to transport these people through the desert has no intention of feeding them. Even it appears to be a governmental principle to allow them to die of hunger. An organized massacre, even in the times of liberty, equality and fraternity were not proclaimed by the Constitution would have been more humane. It would at least have spared these miserable people the horrors of hunger and death in small doses in the worst tortures, in refined methods of torment worthy of Mongolians. But a massacre would have been less Constitutional!!! Civilization is safe.

The remainder of the Armenian nation disseminated on the border of the Euphrates is composed of old people and of women and children. The middle aged and young men, who have not yet been massacred, are scattered on the roads of the Empire where they break stones, requisitioned for the needs of the army and are occupied in works for the state.

The young girls, often very young, have become the booty of the Mussulmans. They have been captured all along the road of emigration, occasionally violated and sold, or not killed by the gendarmes who conduct the sad caravans. Many have been thrown into the harams or into the domesticity of their executioners.

As on the gate of "Hell" of Dante, the following should be written at the entrance of these accursed encampments. "You who enter, leave all hopes." Mounted gendarmes strike the rounds with orders to arrest and flog fugitives. The roads are well guarded! And what roads! They lead to the desert, where death is as sure as under the bastinado of the guards of the Ottoman convict gangs. I have met in the desert at different places six of these fugitives dying, abandoned by the gendarmes and surrounded by hungry dogs waiting for their last hiccups of agony, to jump on and feast upon them.

In fact, all along the road from Meskene to Der-i-Zor you come upon graves containing the remains of unfortunate Armenians, abandoned and dead after atrocious sufferings. It is by the hundreds that these mounds are to be seen where rest anonymously in their last sleep these exiles, these victims of barbarity without qualifications.

Prevented on one hand, from going away from the encampments to find means of subsistence, the deported Armenians cannot on the other hand exercise their faculty so natural to men, and especially to the Armenian race, to adapt themselves to misfortune and to apply their ingenuity to diminish the amount of their hardships.

Sometimes helter could be constructed such as a hut or shed of earth. If at least they had homes to remain where they are, they could attempt some farming. Even this hope is denied them. They wait any moment to be obliged to change their places

of torture; and then begin new forced marches without bread and water, under the blows of the horsewhip, new sufferings, bad treatment, worthy of slave dealers of Soudan and there are victims all along the road of this horrible captivity.

Those who have some money left are incessantly exploited by their guards under threats of sending them further on, and when these resources are exhausted they put these threats into execution.

What I have seen and heard surpasses all imagination. Speaking of a thousand and one horrors is very little in this case. I thought I was passing through a part of hell. The few events, which I will relate, taken here and there hastily, give but a weak idea of the lamentable and horrifying tableau. The same scenes are found in the different localities through which I have passed. Everywhere it is the same governmental barbarism which aims at the systematic annihilation through starvation of the Armenian nation in Turkey, everywhere the same bestial inhumanity on the part of these executioners and the same tortures undergone by these victims all along the Euphrates from Meskene to Der-i-Zor.

Meskene, through its geographical position on the border between Syria and Mesopotamia, is the natural point of concentration of the deported Armenians coming from the vilayets of Anatolia and sent afterwards all along the Euphrates. They arrive there by the thousands, but the majority leave there their bones. The impression which this immense and dismal plain of Meskene leaves is sad and pitiable. This information was obtained on the spot and permit me to state that nearly 40,000 Armenians are buried there, carried off by hunger, by privations of all sorts, by intestinal diseases and resultant typhus. As far as the eye can reach mounds are seen containing 200 or 300 corpses buried in the ground pell mell, women, children and old people belonging to different families.

At present, nearly 4,500 Armenians are kept between the town of Meskene and the Euphrates. These are but living phantoms. Their superintendents distribute to them sparingly and very irregularly a few crumbs of bread. Sometimes three or four days pass when these famished people have absolutely nothing.

A dreadful dysentery claims numerous victims among them, especially among the children. These latter fall ravenously upon any food that comes under their hands, they eat herbs, earth and even their excrements.

I saw under a tent of five or six square meters, about 450 orphans pell mell in dirt and vermin. These poor children receive 150 grams of bread per day. However, at times and this is more often the case, they remain two days without eating anything. Also death makes among them cruel ravages. This tent was sheltering 450 victims when I was there. They all ravenously upon any food that comes under their hands, they eat herbs, earth and even their excrements.

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Abou Herrera is a small locality north of Meskene on the bank of the Euphrates. It is the worst part of the desert. On a small hill 200 meters high, the gendarmes have 249 Armenians under the surveillance of two gendarmes without pity, who leave them to die of hunger in the most atrocious sufferings. The scenes which I witnessed surpass all horrors. The men are taken as work-cattle as wages a piece of bread which cannot be digested and which is insufficient to give them the force necessary for their exhausting work.

In this place I met some families who live without so much misery and the majority lie on the bare ground, without shelter, and feed on watermelons. The most unfortunate of them satisfying themselves with gnawing the skins thrown away by the others. The mortality is very high, especially among the children.

Rekka is a fairly important town, situated on the left bank of the Euphrates. Here 5,000 to 6,000 Armenians, mostly women and children, are distributed in the different quarters of the town, and live in groups of from 50 to 60 in houses which the kindness of the governor has procured for the poorest. Merit must be recognized wherever it is found, and that which would have been the strict duty in normal times of an Ottoman official toward Ottoman subjects, can be counted as generosity and even heroism in the present circumstances.

Although the Armenians of Rekka are treated better than at other places, their misery is terrible. Flour is very irregularly distributed to them by the authorities and in insufficient quantities. Every day you see women and children in front of the bakeries begging for some flour and asking charity in the streets by the hundreds from the inhabitants. Always there is the horrible pang of hunger. When one realizes that among these famished common people there are persons who have occupied high

positions, it is easy to imagine the tortures, especially mental, which these unfortunate people undergo. Yesterday they were rich and envied, today they are begging like the most miserable for a vile piece of bread.

On the right border of the Euphrates, opposite Rekka, are found nearly 1,000 famished Armenians, living under tents and guarded by soldiers. They suffer more than anywhere else parts of the country, doubtless to fill the gaps made by deaths in other encampments. And how many of them will arrive at their destination!

Zierrat is north of Rekka. Nearly 1800 Armenians are encamped there. They suffer more than anywhere else of hunger, because Zierrat is altogether desert. Groups of men and children are seen wandering about on the border of the river, looking for herbs to relieve their hunger. Others fall dead from exhaustion under the unrelenting eyes of their guards whose chief, a barbarous person in the full sense of the word, forbids anybody to pass the limits of the encampment, without special authorization, under penalty of bastinado.

Sebga is a small village where a group of 250 to 300 Armenians live as miserably and as famished as in other places.

Der-i-Zor is the headquarters of the independent governorship (mutesarifate) of the same name. Some months ago, 30,000 Armenians were installed in encampments on the outskirts of the city under the protection of the Governor, Ali/Soud Bey. Although I do not want to make personal remarks I would not like to pass without comment, the name of this man with a heart for whom the exiles were thankful and who tried to alleviate their misfortunes. A certain number of them had even be-

gun a small commerce and were feeling happy to remain there. This proves very well that if reasons of State had demanded—let us suppose—the deportation in mass of Armenians to prevent problems arising from the Armenian question at least the authorities could have acted humanely and also in the interest of the Ottoman Empire, in transporting the Armenians into cities where they could find commerce or use their professions; or they could have removed to lands that could be cultivated, as the necessity of labor is felt so keenly at the present moment. But, if it was intended to suppress the race in order to eliminate at the same time the Armenian question, the aim would doubtless not have been attained.

Again the comparative favor (?) that the Armenians were enjoying at Der-i-Zor was denounced and reported to higher authorities. The guilty All Soud Bey, was transferred to Bagdad and replaced by Zekki Bey, notorious for inhuman acts and barbarism. They have related to me appalling things about this new Mutesarif (governor) at Der-i-Zor. The prison tortures, bastinado and hangings were at one time the daily bread of this small town. The girls were violated and given to the neighboring Arabs for their pleasure or domestic use, the children drowned in the river; neither weakness nor innocence was spared.

The distinguished All Soud Bey had gathered about one thousand orphans in a large house and was looking after their subsistence at the expense of the town. His successor threw them out of the house, he threw them out of the streets like dogs, of hunger, of all sorts of privations and from assaults.

Furthermore, the 30,000 Armenians

\$2.00 Marquissette Curtains at \$1.50
Marquissette Curtains with lace edge, 2 1/2 yard length, regular price \$2.00 a pair, for Thrift Day only \$1.50

DORSEN'S

MAIN, ELM & MIDDLE STS.

19c Kolynos Tooth Paste at 16c
Kolynos Tooth Paste, regular price 19c for Thrift Day only... 16c

Wednesday is Thrift Day

First Thrift Day of the New Year

Here's a list of economies that sets a high standard for value giving. Begin the new year right, by taking advantage of the splendid savings afforded by this popular mid-week bargain day.

The Great Yearly Clearance Sale of Women's Suits, Coats, Dresses and Skirts Offers Strong Attractions for Thrift Day Shoppers

The splendid assortments of garments in styles that are now at the height of their popularity, and the extraordinary reductions—

1-3 to 1-2 Under Regular Prices

make this an opportunity that no woman who wants a new garment can afford to miss. Note these few examples of the savings—

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| \$15.00 Women's Coats at .. \$ 9.75 | \$150.00 Hudson Seal Fur Coats at .. \$110.00 |
| \$25.00 Women's Coats at .. \$16.75 | \$175.00 Hudson Seal Fur Coats at .. \$135.00 |
| \$29.75 Women's Coats at .. \$18.75 | \$250.00 Hudson Seal Fur Coats at .. \$195.00 |
| \$35.00 Women's Coats at .. \$24.75 | \$17.75 Evening Dresses at .. \$13.75 |
| \$18.50 Women's Tailored Suits at .. \$ 9.75 | \$19.50 Evening Dresses at .. \$14.75 |
| \$25.00 Women's Tailored Suits at .. \$12.75 | \$25.00 Evening Dresses at .. \$16.75 |
| \$29.75 Women's Tailored Suits at .. \$14.75 | |

12 1/2c OUTING FLANNEL at 8 1/2c
27 inch striped Outing Flannel, regular 12 1/2c quality, for Thrift Day Only, yard 8 1/2c

\$3.25 GRAY WOOLNAP BLANKETS at \$2.45
Extra Grade Gray Woolnap Blankets, large size, Regular price \$3.25, for Thrift Day only, pair \$2.45

\$1.00 Women's Kid Gloves at 59c
Women's Tan and White Kid Gloves with self stitched back, one-clasp, regular price \$1.00, for Thrift Day only 59c

\$2.50 Comfortables at \$1.95
Large Size Sateen Covered Comfortables, regular price \$2.50, for Thrift Day Only, pair \$1.95

\$7.00 Wool Plaid Blankets at \$5.50
Large Size Extra Heavy Wool Plaid Blankets, regular price \$7.00 a pair, for Thrift Day only \$5.50

\$1.25 Diaper Cloth at 78c
10 yard piece of "Puritan" Diaper Cloth, regular price \$1.25, for Thrift Day only 78c

85c Bungalow Aprons at 62c
Women's Bungalow Aprons of Ginghams or Percale, hooded with chin strap, buttoned front or back, both regular and extra sizes, regular price 85c, for Thrift Day only 62c

\$3.50 Comfortables at \$2.75
Large Size Sateen Covered Bordered Comfortables, regular price \$3.50, for Thrift Day only \$2.75

\$1.50 Crochet Bedspreads at \$1.19
Large Size Fine Grade Crochet Bedspreads, regular price \$1.50, for Thrift Day only \$1.19

65c Men's Neckwear at 42c
Men's Silk Four-in-hands, large square flowing end style in latest patterns and colorings, regular price 65c, for Thrift Day only 42c

59c Children's Rompers at 47c
Children's Rompers of good quality Seersucker, white or colored, sizes 2 to 6 years, regular price 59c, for Thrift Day only 47c

\$1.00 Bleached Sheets at 85c
Fine Grade Bleached Sheets, size 114x90 inches, regular price \$1.00, for Thrift Day only 85c

15c Pillow Cases at 12 1/2c
Fine Grade Pillow Cases, size 42x36 inches, regular price 15c each, for Thrift Day only 12 1/2c

\$5.49 Men's Sweaters at \$4.98
Men's Kabie Knit Sweaters V-neck with or without pockets in Brown, Navy, Oxford and Maroon, regular \$5.49, for Thrift Day only \$4.98

\$1.25 and \$1.50 Boudoir Caps at 95c
Boudoir Caps in Crepe de Chine and fine net, trimmed with pink and blue ribbons, regular prices \$1.25 and \$1.50, for Thrift Day only 95c

85c Bleached Sheets at 65c
Bleached Sheets, Single Bed Size, 64x90 inches, regular price 85c, for Thrift Day only 65c

35c Pillow Tubing at 23c
4 1/2 inch Bleached Pillow Tubing, regular price 35c a yard, for Thrift Day only 23c

\$1.25 Men's Union Suits at 92c
Men's Heavy Ribbed Union Suits, long sleeves, ankle length in Beu, Gray and White, all sizes from 34 to 50, regular price \$1.25, for Thrift Day 92c

5c Laces at 3c
Val Lace edgings and insertions in desirable patterns, regular price 5c a yard, for Thrift Day only 3c

\$1.00 Metal Laces at 69c
Gold and Silver Lace edgings, 2 to 4 1/2 inch widths, regular price \$1.00 a yard, for Thrift Day only 69c

19c Ribbons at 10c
Taffeta, Messaline, Dresden and Striped Silk Ribbons in remnant lengths, values up to 19c a yard, for Thrift Day only 10c

\$2.98 Boys' and Girls' Raincoat Outfit at \$1.98
Raincoat Outfits for Boys and Girls, just 25 outfits in this lot for the first 25 who come for them. Regular \$2.98, for Thrift Day only \$1.98

\$1.00 Silk Shirts at 79c
Silk Striped Shirts, 36 inches wide, regular price \$1.00 a yard, for Thrift Day only 79c

\$6.00 Women's Tan Russia Calf Boots at \$4.85
Women's high-cut Tan Russia Calf Boots, with welt soles and leather Louis heels, regular price \$6.00, for Thrift Day only \$4.85

15c Shoe Polish at 8c
Griffin's Black Shoe Polish in tubs, easy to use, regular price 15c, for Thrift Day only 8c

\$8.00 Young Men's Overcoats at \$5.00
Young Men's Long Gray Wool Overcoats, sizes 16 to 20 years, regular price \$8.00, for Thrift Day \$5.00

12 1/2c Curtain Material at 7 1/2c
Colored Border Curtain Material, 36 inch width, regular price 12 1/2c a yard, for Thrift Day only 7 1/2c

15c Turkish Towels at 11 1/2c
Bleached Turkish Towels, regular 15c quality, for Thrift Day 11 1/2c

Lean Rump Corned Beef lb. 16c
Fresh-Cut Hamburger Steak 2 lbs. for 25c

ART EMBROIDERY
48c stamped carriage robes, 39c Thrift Day
59c stamped pillow cases, 49c Thrift Day
50c stamped card table covers, 42c Thrift Day
29c stamped linen color squares, 19c Thrift Day
85c stamped Turkish Towels, 69c Thrift Day

Thrift Specials in the Pure Food Market
Sirloin, Porterhouse and Round Steaks, lb 16c
Fresh-Roasted Coffee, regular 25c grade, lb. 18c

EXPERTS CALLED TO TESTIFY IN SMALL'S TRIAL

Wife Alive When Husband Left is Contention of the Defense.

OSPECK, N. H., Jan. 2.—Expert testimony that Mrs. Florence A. Small had eaten meat and vegetables an hour before her death was supplemented today by the statement of witnesses that Frederick L. Small, on trial for her murder, and his wife generally held their heartiest meal at noon. This supplemental testimony was given by Mrs. Lilla M. Ferrin and Edwin C. Conner, who were recalled to the witness stand and is regarded by the prosecution as significant because of its bearing on the time of the woman's death. Small left his home for Boston about 3 p. m., on Sept. 28, the day of the murder. He has stated since that they had a light luncheon of ganned shrimp just before he left.

Counsel for the defense, it is understood, will contend that the finding of the food in the stomach of the victim indicates that she was alive after her husband departed and had an opportunity to eat another meal before her death which, in those circumstances, must have occurred after

Small had boarded the train. Both Mrs. Ferrin and Conner testified that Mr. and Mrs. Small left them at various times that they ate their principal meal at noon.

Dr. E. W. Hodsdon, who was recalled, testified that from the direction of the bullet wound in the head, Mrs. Small was in a reclining position when the shot was fired. The person who fired it evidently was standing above her, he said.

Sheriff Arthur W. Chandler identified a number of articles found in Small's satchel. There were two letters, written in 1908 and 1909 and signed "Laura," but the court would not permit them to be read. Attention had been called previously to the fact that Small's second wife was Laura Esterson Small from whom he obtained a divorce after he had been awarded damages in a suit against A. H. Soden, formerly a Boston baseball magnate, for alleged alienation of affections.

Sheriff Chandler produced a sparkling found in the cellar of the Small cottage. He identified an automatic revolver taken from the ruins.

Witnesses had testified that this revolver was similar to one owned by Small. It was of .32-calibre and a .32-calibre bullet was found in Mrs. Small's head. The sheriff also identified a number of fine wires picked up near the spark-plug.

HANGS SELF TO BED POST.

Bristol, Conn., Jan. 2.—John A. Molin, 55, committed suicide at his boarding house during the night by strangulation with a cord attached to his bed post. The body was found today. Poor health is believed to have been the cause. He leaves a sister in New Britain and an uncle in Waterbury, it was said.

DIES OF BURNS.

Hartford, Jan. 2.—Miss Annie Fitch, about 50 years of age, died at the Hartford hospital today of burns received from her kitchen stove Monday.