

KING CONSTANTINE COMPARES VENIZELOS' ACTION TO THAT OF AARON BURR IN AMERICA

Green People Call Him Traitor, Says Ruler, in an Interview—Truth About Happenings in Greece Will Out Despite Censorship, He Tells Correspondent.

Athens, March 2.—King Constantine received the Associated Press correspondent in audience recently. It was the Greek New Year's Day and before the interview the correspondent assisted with King Constantine, Queen Sophie, the Princess Helen and the young Prince Paul, at the time honored New Year's ceremony at which a band of Greeks chant choruses in praise of King and country in the great hall of the palace.

"I am sorry you are leaving us," King Constantine began abruptly. "I don't believe that there is a man or woman in Greece who does not feel very profoundly what a great thing it has been for us during this most critical period in our national history to have a correspondent of the Associated Press here to tell the world with absolute impartiality the truth of what is taking place. They tell me, however, that a good many of your telegrams to the Associated Press never got through the censors." The King laughed a little ruefully. "You have nothing on me," he added. "Neither do mine."

"I am afraid there is no way," he went on. "We might as well be in a dungeon here for all the touch we have with the rest of the world. The most ridiculous, the most outrageous nonsense about what is happening in Greece is published daily in the European press, presumably written by journalists who are not even on the spot to see the facts for themselves. And when my government sends official denials of them the European newspapers will not even publish the denials. Take this letter for example. As you see it is from Ex-Mayor Bannakis, who was arrested on Dec. 2 during the attempted Venizelist revolution. A French newspaper publishes a story that Bannakis was so badly mistreated that his right arm had to be amputated and he was on the point of death. Far from having his arm amputated he writes me a letter with it, as you see, expressing his gratitude for the kindness with which he has been treated and assuring me that he is my most loyal and devoted subject. Your minister, Mr. Droppers, personally investigated the treatment of those who were imprisoned on the charge of sedition as a result of the abortive revolution of Dec. 1 and 2 and told me himself that he found them very comfortable. My government, therefore, telegraphed the French press a denial of the Bannakis story as well as of any number of similar fabrications, but I have never heard of any of the denials being published.

"After all, all we ask is fair play. But it seems almost hopeless to try to get the truth out of Greece to the rest of the world under present circumstances. We have been sorely tried these past two years and we don't pretend to have always been anguished under the constant irritation of the ever-increasing Allied control of every little thing in our private life—letters, telegrams, postcards, everything. Why do you now that my sister-in-law, Princess Alice of Battenburg, was only permitted to receive a telegram of Christmas greetings from her mother in England by courtesy of the British Legation here?"

"Moreover, by taking an active hand in our own internal politics, England and France especially have succeeded in alienating an admiration, a sympathy and a devotion towards them on the part of the Greek people that, at the beginning of the war, was virtually a unanimous tradition. I am a soldier myself and I know nothing about politics, but it seems to me that when you start with almost the whole of a country passionately in your favor and end with it almost unanimously against you, you haven't succeeded very well. And I quite understand how those responsible for such a result seek to excuse themselves by exaggerating the difficulties they had to contend with in Greece,—by talking about Greek treachery and the immense sinister organization of German propaganda that has foisted them at every turn and so on. The people of Greece are paying for them now in suffering and death from exposure and hunger, while France and England starve us out because they have made the mistake of assuming that their man Venizelos could deliver the Greek army and the Greek people to the Entente Powers whenever they wanted to use Greece for their advantage, regardless of the interests of Greece as an independent nation.

"There are just two things about our desperate struggle to save ourselves from destruction that I am going to ask the Associated Press to try to make clear to the people of America. The rest will have to come out some day—all the blockades and censures in the world cannot keep the truth down forever. Understand I am not presuming to sit in judgment on the Entente Powers. I appreciate that they have got other things to think about besides Greece. What I say is meant to help them to do justice to themselves and to us, a small nation."

"The first point is this: We have two problems on our hands here in Greece—an internal one and an external one. The Entente Powers have made the fundamental mistake of considering them both as one. They said to themselves: 'Venizelos is the strongest man in Greece and he is heart and soul with us. He can deliver the Greeks whenever he wants to let us back Venizelos there and when we need the Greek army he will turn it over to us.'

"Well, they were wrong as I think you have seen for yourself since you have been here. Venizelos was perhaps the strongest man in Greece as they thought. But the moment he tried to turn over the Greek army to the Entente as if we were a lot of mercenaries, he became the weakest man in Greece and the most despised. For in Greece no man delivers the Greeks. They decide their own destinies as a free people, not England, France and Russia put together can change them, neither by force of arms nor by starvation. And they have tried

both. As for Venizelos himself—you had a man once in your country, a very great man who had even been vice president of the United States, who planned to split the country in two and set himself up as a ruler in the part he separated from the rest."

"Your Majesty means Aaron Burr?"

"Precisely. But he only plotted to do a thing which he never accomplished. Venizelos, with the assistance of the Allied Powers—and he never could have done it without them—has succeeded for the time being in the same kind of a seditious enterprise. You called Aaron Burr a traitor. Well, that's what the Greek people call Venizelos.

"The impression has been spread broadcast that Venizelos stands in Greece for liberalism and his opponents for absolutism and militarism. It is just the other way around. Venizelos stands for whatever suits his own personal book. His idea of government is absolute dictatorship—a sort of Mexican government I take it. When he was premier he broke every man who dared to disagree with him in his own party. He sought to express the will of the people; he imposed his will on the people. The Greek people will not stand that. They demand a constitutional government in which there is room for two parties, liberals and conservatives, each with a definite program, as in the United States or England or any other civilized country, not a personal government where the only party division is into Venizelists and anti-Venizelists.

"That is one thing I wanted to say. The other is about the effect of the so-called German propaganda in Greece. The Entente powers seem to have adopted the attitude that everybody who is not willing to fight on their side must be a pro-German. Nothing could be further from the truth. The present resentment against the Allies in Greece is a good deal of it, especially since the blockade, is due to the Allies themselves and not to any German propaganda. The proof of it is that when the so-called German propaganda was at its height there was little or no hostility in Greece against the Allies. It has only been since the diplomatic representatives of all the Central Empires and everybody else whom the Anglo-French secret police indicated as inimical to the Entente, have been expelled from Greece and any German propaganda rendered virtually impossible, that there has grown up any popular feeling against the Entente.

"Part of this is due to the Entente's identification of their greater cause with the personal ambitions of Venizelos; but a great deal has also been due to the very unfortunate handling of the Allied control in Greece. When you write a personal letter of no possible international significance to a friend or relative here in Athens and post it in Athens and it is held a week, opened and half its contents blacked out, it makes you pretty cross—not because it is unspeakable tyranny in a free country at peace with all the world, but because it is so silly. For after all if you want to plot with a man living in the same town you don't have to write him a letter. You put on your hat and go to see him. Half the people of Greece have been continually exasperated by just this sort of unintelligent control which has irritated the Greek people beyond anything. But to say that they are pro-German because they dislike having their private letters opened or their honors whittled is childish. It's a vicious circle. The Entente take exception to the Greek people because they allege the Greeks are pro-German. The Greeks very naturally resent the measures thus taken as would the Americans or anybody else. The Entente then turns around and says: 'You see that proves that the Greeks are pro-German as we suspected.'

"The fact of the matter is that there is even now less pro-German feeling in Greece than in the United States, Holland or any of the Scandinavian countries. And there is far less anti-Entente propaganda in Greece even now than there is anti-Hellenic propaganda in England, France and Russia. The whole feeling of the Greek people towards the Entente powers today is one of sorrow and disillusionment. They had heard so much of this 'war for the defense of little nations' that it has been a very great shock to them to be treated as they feel very badly, even cruelly, for no reason and to nobody's profit. And more than anything else, after all the Greek government and Greek people have done to help the Entente powers since the very outbreak of the war, they deeply resent being called pro-German because they have not been willing to see their own country destroyed as Serbia and Rumania have been destroyed.

"As I have tried repeatedly to point out to the Entente representatives there can only be one certain guarantee of the safety of the Greeks in the Balkans as far as the Greeks are concerned—that is mutual confidence. The assumption that every Greek is an enemy and not to be trusted is merely a standing challenge to every irreparable — irreparable for Greece as well as for the Entente.

"I have done everything I could to dissipate the mistrust of the Powers. I have given every possible assurance and guarantee. Many of the military measures that have been demanded I myself suggested with a view to tranquillizing the Allies and myself. I offered to execute. My army, which any soldier knows could never conceivably have constituted a danger to the Allied forces in Macedonia, has been virtually put in jail in the Peloponnese. My people have been disarmed and are today powerless even against revolution and they know from bitter experience that revolution is a possibility so long as the Entente powers continue to finance the openly declared revolutionary party of Venizelos. There isn't enough food left in Greece to last a fortnight. Not the Belgians themselves under German rule have been rendered more helpless than are we in Greece today.

"Isn't it, therefore, time calmly to look at conditions in Greece as they are to give over a policy dictated by panic and to display a little of that high quality of faith which alone is the foundation of friendship?"

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FAIRFIELD COUNTY NEWS

Suicide in Stamford.
Edward Lockwood committed suicide in his room at Stamford Friday afternoon by inhaling illuminating gas. Mr. Lockwood was found in a dying condition. He lay on the bed in his underclothing, a gas jet wide open, and crevices beneath the door and along the edges of the window stuffed with paper and cloth.

Discharged from Bankruptcy.
Discharges from bankruptcy were granted to Frank A. Church and Alice D. Church, who did business in Green- wich under the firm name of Church & Church.

Auto Accidents.
John Ryan and Harry Martiniello of Stamford were injured at Cannon- dale Monday night, when an auto- mobile in which they were riding skidded, crashing through a rail fence, and turned over on an embankment. Martiniello's nose was broken and he suffered from shock. Ryan was hurt in the knee and the shoulder.

Charles Unitus, 43 years of New Canaan, is in the Stamford hospital, in serious condition, from injuries sustained Sunday.
An automobile operated by Joseph H. Gandolfo of New York city, hit Mr. Unitus and passed over him. The New Canaan man suffered a compound fracture of the leg, and a possible fracture of the skull, and he was badly bruised and cut. Mr. Unitus, it was said, became confused, dodged back and forth, and finally stood still, in front of Gandolfo's automobile.

LITCHFIELD COUNTY NEWS

Ice Too Thick.
The ice is too thick to cut, according to a Roxbury correspondent, who says that the Mutual Creamery and Milk Storage plant at Roxbury a few days ago and found it 37 inches. As a cake of that thickness and the usual other dimensions would be too heavy to be handled by ordinary means the ice cutters turned for their supply to ponds where the ice was only 18 inches thick.

State's Attorney Resigns.
State's Attorney Donald T. Warner has sent to the judges of the superior court his resignation, to take effect a few days before his taking up of the duties as judge of the superior court to which he was recently appointed.

Strike in Iron Mines.
Miners in the Ore Hill iron mines, belonging to the Barnum Richardson

"The King Dentists"

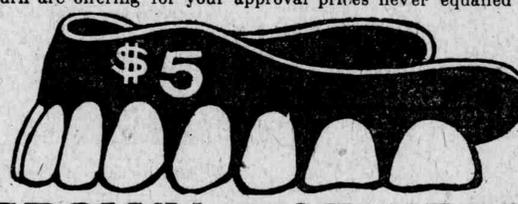
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N. Y. Wholesale Prices.

Butter—Creamery, higher scoring than extras, per lb., 42@42½; extras, 41½; dairy, tubs, finest, 40½@41; good to prime, 38@39½.

Eggs—Fresh gathered, extras per doz., 39½@40; extra firsts, 39c; hen- nery whites, fine to fancy, 44@45; ordinary to good, 40@43; gathered whites, ordinary to fine, 39@44; hen- nery browns, 40@41; gathered brown and mixed colors, firsts to extra firsts, 38@39c.

Apples—King, bbl., \$3@5.50; Northern Spy, \$3.50@7; Stayman Winesap, \$3@5; Ben Davis, \$2@4; Baldwin, \$3@5.50; Greening, \$3@6; Russet, \$2@4.

Hay and Straw—Large baled, tim- othy, No. 1, per ton, \$21@22; No. 2 to No. 2, \$14@20; shipping, \$12@15; no grade hay, \$8@11; fancy light clover, mixed, \$17@19; No. 1

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Beesves—Common to fairly good steers sold at \$3.50@10.40 per 100 lbs.; bulls at \$5.75@9; 1 bull at \$9.25; cows at \$1.75; a few head extra, at \$8.50.

Calves—Common to prime veals sold at \$10@14 per 100 lbs.; culls at \$7@9; barnyard calves at \$5@6; fed do. at \$6@8; yearlings at \$4.50@5.50. City dressed veals, 15@21c; country dressed at 13@18c.

Sheep—Common sheep sold at \$7 @9 per 100 lbs.; common to prime lambs, \$13.25@14.75; dressed mutton 13@17c; dressed lambs, 18@21c; country dressed hothouse lambs, \$9 @10 per carcass.

Hogs—Sales at \$12.90@13.25 per 100 lbs. for light to medium weights, \$11.50 for pigs, \$11.75 for rough hogs. Country dressed hogs, 12½ @17c.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION.

The United States Civil Service Commission announces an open competitive examination for mechanical engineer, for men only. A vacancy at the Springfield armory, Springfield, Mass., at \$3,500 to \$4,000 a year, and various vacancies requiring similar qualifications will be filled from this examination, unless it is found in the interest of the service to fill any vacancy by reinstatement, transfer, or promotion.

The duties of this position require the services of a mechanical engineer experienced in the manufacture of machine guns, small arms, rifles or pistols, the manipulation and testing of machine guns and small arms, and the physical testing of materials. Experience in administrative work is also very desirable.

Competitors will not be required to report for examination at any place, but will be rated on the following subjects, which will have the relative weights indicated: Technical education or preliminary experience; Responsible experience and fitness.

Further information may be received at the Post Office.

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