Old World News Flashed by Cable to the Times-Dispatch

NATIVE CHINESE WILL BE RULERS

Manchus, After Ruling Nation Since 1640, Swept From Power.

STRUGGLE SOON MAY END

Fight Now Is on Question of Republic or Restricted Monarchy.

BY HERBERT WEBB,
Editor China Press, Shanghai, China.

Shanghai, China, December 9.—Though the rebellion is in no sense of the word over, the Manchus, after ruling China since 1640, have been swept from power, and no matter which side is crowned victor, henceforth the Chinese will rule their own country. This paradoxical statement is explained by the abject manifesto granting absolute power to the National Assembly, a governing body of native Chinese, and by the appointment of Yuan Shi Kai, a Chinese, a Premier, with a Chinese Cabinet and the distribution of the army and navy under Chinese officers. The fight at present, while it appears on the surface to be between the Manchus and the rebels, is in reality a struggle between those Chinamen who favor a republic and those who favor a restricted monarchy as the best means of rejuvenating the empire. It is not improbable that the negotiations between Yuan Shi Kai, Premier and exponent of a restricted monarchy, and General Li Yuan Hung, leader of the rebels and champion of a republican form of government, will terminate the struggle within the next few weeks.

Yuan Shi Kai, by many able judges considered the ablest living Chinese, is the Premier. Before throwing his strength to the Manchus, who only a few years ago stripped him of all power and sent him into retirement, he in turn stripped them of power and sent them into retirement. He has surrounded himself with able lieutenants, all Chinese so far. The prince regent, in a most extraordinary edict, has, on behalf of the baby Emperor, renounced all power and at the same time conferred that power upon the National Assembly.

This edict is the most remarkable document in the history of China. To any one familiar with Manchu character, and especially with the proud and imperious character of the ruling classes, it will be all the more amazing. Its utter abjectness shows to what extremity the throne was reduced. Yuan Shi Kai made the conditions; the throne could only consent.

This isn't the first time that Yuan has humbled the present clique of Manchu princes. For years, when the old Empress Dowager, Tsi An, and the young Emperor, who died three years ago, were ruling, Yuan was the power in Peking. Acting in concert with the famous old Empress Dowager, he kept the little Manchu princes off the pay roll; actually they were penniless and powerless. But the death of the Empress Dowager and the Emperor caused a swift change. The present regent and his son, the baby Emperor of to-day, came into power. The splendid body of Chinese that Yuan had placed in charge went out of office, Yuan, of course, at the head of them. The new powers to be hated Yuan and every one associated with him. So a sleeping giant that was being slowly aroused, China, with her indolent and infantile moods and traits, went back to sleep. It was a complete reversion. It was too complete; even China noticed it.

The result was the upheaval at Wu Chang. It found the hole Chinese nation in sympathy with it. The fact that the Chinese for once were united spelled the end of Manchu rule, and the throne was quick to realize it.

Until very recently there has been little of what is known in America as patriotism or national feeling in China. If a man was from Hupeh, he was a Hupeh man, or he was a Cantonese or a Sechuenese. He was loyal to his province. His ancestors were buried there, and wander where he might, it was always his idea to go back to his native province for burial among his forefathers. But in the last few years, while there has been no diminution of ancestor worship nor of devotion to the native province, there has been developing a strong national feeling. Many thousands of independent Chinese newspapers have sprung up. The granting of a constitutional form of government, with Parliament, provincial assemblies and so on, the spreading of railroads, telegraphs and a modern postal service over the empire—all these things have tended to weld the empire together, so that when the rebellion came the news spread fast to every part of the country.

The revolutionary organization was ready at all strategic points, and the "turnover," as the Chinese describe it by turning their hand from palm up to palm down, was accompanied without bloodshed in city after city. The revolutionaries simply notified the consular bodies where such existed, and the Chinese officials, that they would take charge at a certain hour, and that foreigners would be given every protection, and when the hour came they took charge.

As a sample of their readiness, it may be mentioned that the first proclamations of General Li Yuan Hung, the rebel leader, guaranteeing safety to foreigners, advising the people to continue their business pursuits peacefully and without turbulence as though nothing were transpiring, and refusing to honor the government currency, were written by him three years ago in Japan.

There are several factions or parties among the Chinese. The revolutionists call themselves Republicans, and have established a provisional government. Negotiations betwen the rebel leaders and Yuan Shih Kai are now in progress. Probably the best thing for China at the present time would be to permit the present dynasty to continue on the throne, but without power—a limited monarchy with the national and provincial assemblies, a strong Cabinet and so on. Later on a republic, perhaps. A sudden and radical change might now, considering the conditions of the patient, prove fatal. Almost surely it would bring chaos.

PLANS TO DESTROY PICTURESQUE SPOT

"Friends of Paris" Urged to Rescue Old Village From Pick of Demolisher.

COSMOPOLITAN RESTAURANTS

Well-Known Adventurer Again Is in the Public Eye.

BY GEORGE DUFRESNE.
(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.)

Paris, December 9.—Lovers of the old and the picturesque will learn with regret that one of the most attractive corners of Montmartre, the very heart of the "butte sacree," is threatened with destruction. Now is the time for that society known as "The Friends of Paris" to justify their title and rescue from the pick of the demolisher the old village, whose every stone has its history, and the gardens which lend to this "coin de Paris" the fresh and verdant smile of nature. In justification of their sacrilegious plans, the architects allege that it is necessary to enlarge the Rue Junet, but, according to those who are most competent in the matter, the city functionaries are about to destroy for the mere sake of destruction. This section of Paris, on the top of a steep hill, with its ancient gardens and venerable wells, its century-old mills and charming gardens, is ill fitted to be the theatre of busy traffic, no matter what "improvements" may be carried out. Why, then, is it not let alone?

Some of the finest artists France has ever known have drawn their inspiration from Montmartre, which, according to one legend, was called "Mons Martyrum," owing to the martyrdom of St. Denis, the patron saint of the city. The story is that, after being beheaded at the foot of the hill, he rose, picked up his head, and carried it to the summit, where he was buried. The hill of Montmartre rises to a height of 330 feet above the Seine, and during the Franco-Prussian War and the Commune it played an important part in the history of the city. The Communists took possession of the cannon on Montmartre, but they were afterwards dislodged, and the batteries of the heights which they had taken were directed against them. The most prominent feature of the "butte" is the famous Church of the Sacred Heart, which dominated the city. It has been erected at enormous outlay, the foundations alone having cost over $500,000, and the building, up-to-date, nearly $6,250,000, though yet incomplete.

During the summer months the Sacre Caeur is visited by pilgrims from all parts of France, and I have seen some very odd looking groups making the rounds of this Mecca, with its narrow little streets and the hall where the pilgrims may rest and eat the food they bring with them. It is curious to recall that Montmartre was at one time a vast vineyard, and in 1133, when the monks at St. Martin-des-Champs ceded the church of Montmartre to Louis VI., the vines were included in the property. It is also on record that in 1737 the Abbess Isabelle des Rieux signed a lease for seven "arpents de vignes" situated at Montmartre.

One of the most agreeable features of Paris is its cosmopolitan eating houses. Personally, I have never been able to understand why any one should prefer the cooking of other nations to "la cuisine francaise." But taste in regard to the things of the kitchen is a matter that does not admit of discussion, and the Parisian shows his wisdom by catering for all nationalities. The homesick German, who finds no satisfaction in a "tournedos a la Richelieu," served with "petite pois a la francaise," and a half-bottle of Bordeaux, has only to enter any of the numerous German brasseries in the city, and he will get as much sauerkraut as he wants, accompanied by Teutonic jugs of cooling Pilsner or Löwenbrau.

There are several Italian restaurants in the capital, more than one house that makes a specialty of Turkish dishes, and one which serves both Turks and Italians. This Italo-Turkish restaurant is situated in the ninth arrondissement, not far from the Rue Lafayette, and until recently the subjects of Victor Emmanuel and the sons of the Prophet lived in complete accord.

But since the beginning of hostilities in Tripoli their common friendship is at an end. The Italians now sit at a table by themselves and the Turks do the same, each nationality keeping to a different side of the restaurant. Formerly all the guests saluted each other, and gossiped about the happenings of the moment. But now that is a thing of the past. They roll murderous eyes and twist their rebellious moustaches in the most aggressive fashion.

The "patron" has done his best to calm the incendiary passions of his guests by placing his French customers at tables separating the Turks and Italians. These have been humorously described as "les clients-sandwiches." But it requires all the restaurateur's tact to prevent regrettable incidents. When the natives of the Peninsular order: "Un risotto Milanese!" "Un verra d'asti spumante!" "Un provolone di Sorrento!" the Turks reply by commanding in stentorian tones, "Un youveski aux pommes!" "Un Hadjem pilaff!" or "Unmouton hapana!" Then from a Frenchman comes the modest request: "Deux aeufs sur le plat, s'il vous plait!"

How will the conflict end? It is impossible to say. Everything depends on the march of events in the Tripolitan war. Should the Italians carry the war into the Aegean Sea and take Salonica, then the restaurant proprietor had better look out for his crockery. If, on the contrary, the Ottomans triumph over the Italians, the latter are quite capable of "sabotling" their adversaries' coffee, naturally Turkish. So that whatever the fortune of war may hold in store, international complications seem inevitable.

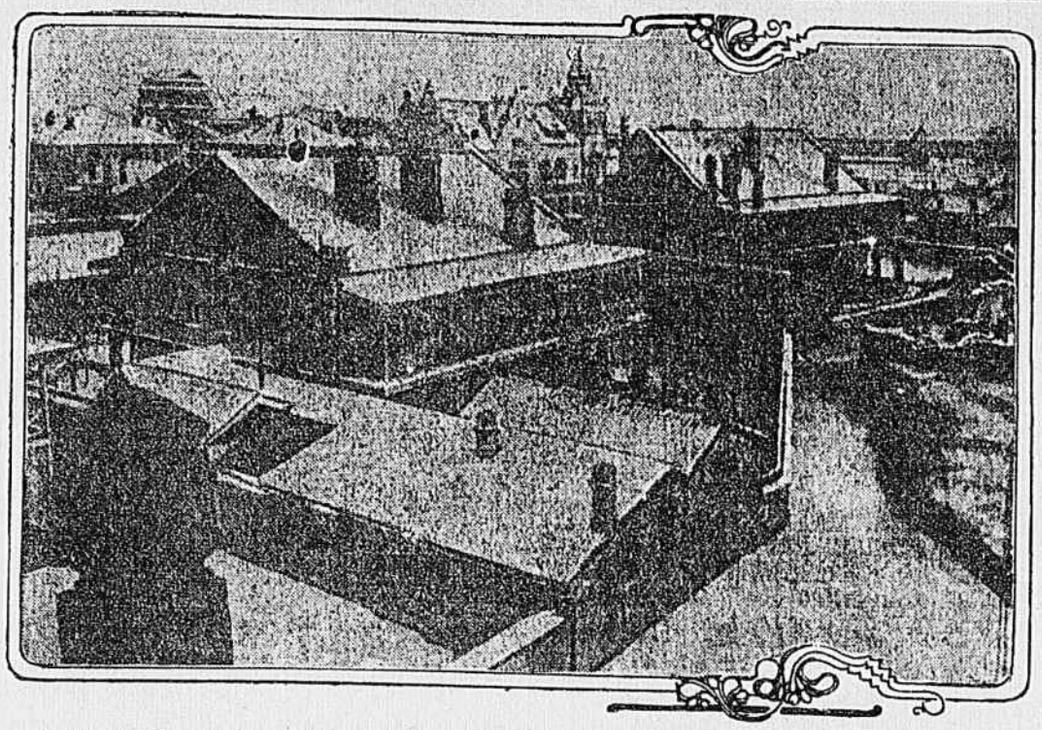
The adventurer, Durand de Pellefond de Gournet, whose real name is Cognet, and posed as a colonial administrator on the strength of a magnificent uniform and received credit from forty tradesman in Granville, is again in the public eye. He has written a pathetic letter from the prison at Coustances to the tailor who supplied him with clothes. All his clothes have been seized, he says, and he had nothing to put on his back. He therefore requests the tailor to send him the suit and the overcoat he ordered.

He assures the tailor that he will lose nothing, that all the garments which have been supplied to him and those which have yet to be delivered will be paid for. As he is in prison he says he can only pay 10 francs a month, but promises to settle quicker after his release. "I am not a swindler," he adds, "and do not know what sentiments of vanity I obeyed. I was haunted by an idea which obsessed me. But one fact is certain—the school which I founded would have done well in normal conditions and brought me money. I cannot recriminate. I acted like a child. I should have taken the advice of people more experienced than myself."

Cognel begs the tailor to hearken to his demand, so that he can appear at his trial in a decent raiment. He announces that after he leaves prison he will start for Abyssinia to start in life anew. The tailor has not responded to the adventurer's appeal.

A reliquary of the thirteenth century, and of inestimable value, has been stolen from the church of St. Remacle, at St. Avelot, near Liege. The sacristan was showing foreigners round the church, when he found that the rails round the reliquary had been torn up, and two statues, representing Christ and St. Paul, stolen. The statues were enriched with enamels and jewels, and figured in the exhibiting of ancient art held at Liege some some months ago. The precious stones alone are worth thousands of pounds.

It is supposed that the thieves took the statues away in a motor car, as an automobile had been seen standing in front of the church for a long time.



A view of the foreign legations in Peking, where European residents have congregated to escape possible outrages attendant upon the great excitement that the rebellion has produced among the natives. The picture was taken from the Tsien Min gate.

SOUTH POLE EXPEDITION IN NEED OF MORE FUNDS

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]

London, December 9.—Shall the honor of first reaching the South Pole fall to a Norwegian or a Briton? Much depends on the British public and how they respond to an appeal just issued by the committee of the British Antarctic Expedition.

Unforseen expenses, state the committee, have been incurred since the start of the expedition from New Zealand in November of last year.

"The Terra Nova, heavily laden, left New Zealand on November 29, 1910, and returned there on March 31, 1911, after having safely landed the expedition and carried out the orders received from her commander. The letters brought by her from Captain Scott showed that the ship on her voyage south had met terrible weather, and had been near to foundering. Later she had been beset in the ice, and much valuable time had been lost, but in the end the expedition had been landed successfully at Cape Evans, in McMurdo Sound. The extensive damage to the ship, caused by the bad weather, has entailed a heavy bill for repairs, to which must be added the cost of the new stores ordered by Captain Scott to replace those lost on the voyage south.

"But what has, in the opinion of the committee, most changed the conditions under which the expedition left England, is the fact that the Terra Nova has unexpectedly come across the Norwegian expedition under Captain Amundsen, whose deliberate intention and purpose are to make a dash for the pole in advance of Scott. Captain Scott's exact intentions in the new circumstances cannot be known, but the committee feel that this imminent competition must have the effect of producing a very great stimulus to the British expedition."

The committee plead strongly for these gallant men, who are doing national work, and they are confident that the British public will not abandon them by allowing the expedition to "miscarry" and fail for the want of the $75,000 which they now ask for.

KING'S VALET WILL TELL OF LATE MASTER'S FANCIES

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]

Paris, December 9.—The valet who is writing his memoirs in connection with King Leopold II. of Belgium, tells us today about the peculiar taste and fancies of his late master. King Leopold was, it appears, at perpetual enmity with his cooks. Looking over a menu one day, on which a duck cooked with port wine was marked, he is alleged to have exclaimed: "Oh, this is all nonsense! They drink the port, and do not put any on the dish."

He pushed his animosity against the cooks so far as to criticize in advance anything they were going to prepare. Walking up and down in his room before luncheon, he would be talking to himself in the third person as usual: "He knows that the chicken is going to smell of the barn. He knows that the beef is going to be tough. He will not eat any woodcock to-day; he knows it is going to be high."

He was in constant terror of contagious diseases. The rooms of his servants had to be disinfected as well as his own, and he was always on the watch to see that his domestics were perfectly healthy. One day an architect told him confidentially that his daughter was ill with scarlatina. The King dismissed him at once, and had the room carefully disinfected where he had been talking with the visitor.

The valet also tells of some queer habits in dress. The kepi, or military cap, worn by King Leopold was a subject of legendary jokes at Lacken. None of his attendants could remember when it was not. He always called it his bonnet, and had a real affection for it. The "bonnet" was certainly twenty-five years old. The galloons had been mended and new ones sewn on time and again by the chambermaids. The King took everything that concerned his "bonnet" very seriously, and it has finally found an honorable resting place in the Porte de Hal Museum.

FRENCH DANCER GREETED WITH HOOTS AND HISSES

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]

Berlin, December 9.—Mdlle. Vilany, a French dancer, has had a very unpleasant experience in Munich. She is appearing in a theatre before "invited" dectators, who "paid very high prices for their seats." In a series of dances which had the common feature that in all of them the woman's attire was of the very scantiest description. In fact, it is said, that her only garment was a "very airy veil." One of her turns was a "dance such as the princesses of ancient Egypt were accustomed to perform at banquets."

This terpsichorean display, says a telegram from the Bavarian capital, threw anything but a favorable light on the moral side of the princesses "of antiquity." The inevitable Salome dance was, of course, not lacking, and enabled the woman to "display her physical charms in the best light." Whether the appreciation of earlier audiences had tempted her to fresh indiscretions is not clear, but at her closing performance the spectators came to the conclusion that she had stepped to the other side of the borders of the permissible, and broke into a turmoil of hooting and hissing. This appears to have suddenly awakened the moral consciousness of the police, who at once intervened, stopped the performance, and, not leaving Mdlle. Vinay time to change from the airy veil into her usual clothes, wrapped a mantle round her and hustled her off to jail. She will, it is said, be expelled from Bavaria.

WANTS RIGHT ARM CUT OFF, LEFT IS REMOVED INSTEAD

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]

Paris, December 9.—An employe of the Paris underground railway has been the victim of an extraordinary mishap. He entered one of the leading Paris hospitals for an affection of the right arm, and an operation was declared to be necessary.

It was duly performed by one of the hospital surgeons, but on recovering from the anaesthetic the patient discovered to his stupefaction that the left arm instead of the right had been operated on. There was nothing to be done but to submit to another operation. This time no mistake was made, but because the victim made a complaint about the mishap he was released from the hospital, although he was told that his arm was not healed, and that it would require to be operated on again.

The unfortunate patient is going to sue the surgeon for damages. The latter protests that he was not to blame for the blunder, which was due to the fact that the attendant turned the operating table the wrong way round.

INSTITUTE OF PLUMBERS CONDEMNS RECENT BOOK

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]

London, December 9.—At a meeting of the Institute of Plumbers at Huddersfield recently, Mr. Challoner, of Blackpool, took exception to statements regarding plumbers made by Harold Begbie in a book.

In a chapter headed "The Plumber," Mr. Begbie said that the plumbing trade was the worst from a moral point of view; that there were no bigger set of thieves than those in the plumbing trade; that the writer did not know why it was, but plumbers appeared not to be able to help it, and that he would sooner have a burglar in the house than a plumber; further, that if those were "rum" things to say about the whole trade they were true.

The plumber, said Mr. Challoner, had been made the butt of the comic papers for a great numbers of years, but Mr. Begbie's statements were serious. He moved that the executive be asked to consider the wisdom of taking legal opinion as to whether they had not some cause for action.

Mr. Armitage, Huddersfield, declared that the statements were a libel, and read a further extract from the book, in which the author said he had seen a man in a plumber's shop take up a pot of boiling metal and sling it at a boy "for a cockeyed action or a bad word."

The resolution to take legal opinion was carried.

The four children of the Duchess of Manchester, whose Christmas has been spoiled by a royal command. The usually high favor in which their mother, the former Miss Helen Zimmerman, of Cincinnati, has been placed by Queen Mary, who has made her court practically an English reserve, made her presence at the Durbar, in far-off India, essential, and brought tears to the eyes of her children, who had thought to enjoy their Christmas under her usual lavish care. From left to right are Lord Mandeville, nine; Lady Ellen, three; Lady Mary Montagu, ten, and Lord Edward Montagu, who is five years old.

MUST PRODUCE ITS OWN NECESSITIES

Strong Efforts in England to Induce Farmers to Cultivate Soil.

EXPERIMENTS IN COTTON

New Objection to Land Tax Appeals to Patriotism of British People.

BY PHILLIP EVERETT.
[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]

London, December 9.—Now that the British navy is no longer strong enough to prevent an enemy from seizing food transports in time of war, the English people are waking up to the fact that unless they are able to produce at least some of the necessities of life on home soil they are very apt to find themselves in an embarrassing position one of these fine days.

Strong efforts are being made all over England to induce the farmers to cultivate the soil, and large donations are given to bacon factories. The government is encouraging poultry begun to cultivate sugar beets on a large scale.

In Bristol the old industry of sugar refining is soon to be revived, sugar having doubled during the last few years. The Bristol Sugar Company has just leased a site at Avonmouth for the erection of a large refinery and a capital of $1,250,000 has been raised. The new refinery is expected to turn out 50,000 tons of sugar a year.

A report just issued by the International Association of Tropical Agriculture contains reports from a number of regions where experiments in cotton growing have been carried on with excellent results. These reports show that there is no reason why Great Britain should continue to rely on the United States for her supply of cotton, as there are vast areas in the colonies where superior cotton may be produced at a very much lower cost than in America.

An established cotton industry is already to be found in Nigeria, and Uganda is rapidly becoming a producing region. In fact, the statistics justify the expectation that the industry in Uganda will rapidly expand. Favorable conditions for cotton growing have been proved to exist in certain portions of British East Africa, Rhodesia, and in various localities within the borders of the Union of South Africa. The principal necessity for the development of the industry in these countries is capital and the provision of ginning facilities.

The great landowners of Great Britain have succeeded in finding a new objection to the land tax, which they hope will carry great weight, as it appeals to the patriotism of the British people. In connection with the new land valuation scheme a series of new ordnance maps are being issued, which are so accurate that a new hen run eighteen yards long appears on the maps with half an inch of space. Every tree in the country is marked, and a pine tree is indicated differently from an oak or an elm, even a shrub is distinguished from a fruit bush. Every spring is shown, and mission rooms, smithies and mills are also marked with the utmost precision.

It is now claimed by the landowners that the public sale of these maps is a great danger to the country. They say the German government is sure to buy them up in large quantities and state they will be of inestimable value to the Kaiser's armies in case of invasion, doing away with the necessity of employing spies, except to locate the positions of guns in the various fortresses.

Dr. Inge, the new dean of Saint Paul's, whose pessimistic view of the prospects of England, expressed in a recent speech, raised a storm of indignation all over the country, assured me to-day that nothing was farther from his intentions than to create sensation, and that he had not spoken on the impulse of the moment, but that he was firmly convinced of the truth of what he had said.

"We English," he said, "have never been in the habit of submitting gracefully, even to the most friendly criticism, a fact which is one of our greatest weaknesses.

"We are still fond of imagining that the words 'British made' stamped upon an article are synonymous with 'non plus ultra,' though the fact is that the time has long ago passed when this was so. The curse of wanting to make money too quickly has taken hold of our employers, work of all kinds has been dehumanized, a fact which has exerted a baneful influence on our workers, who are furthermore being gradually ruined physically by the unnatural and unhealthy conditions of town life. Moral conditions are even worse, for the workman now seems to have resolved to retaliate by living comfortably on taxes paid by others.

"Unless conditions change very quickly," he concluded, "England's days as the workshop of the world are numbered and the tramp of industry and wealth and power to Eastern Asia will soon be the logical sequel to the European labor movements."

True to their threats of creating disturbances in Ireland, in case home rule for that country should be passed by the government, His Majesty's loyal opposition, is loyally preparing to provoke civil war between Ulster and the other districts of Ireland.

Great quantities of rifles are being bought from Continental manufacturers and sent to Belfast, but, although there is no law to forbid the importation of arms, the agitators silently recognize the shameless trade in which they are engaged, for the cases containing Mausers have repeatedly been found to have been marked "spelter," and whenever such a discovery has been made the consignees have refused to accept the goods, claiming that some mistake must have been made.

The authorities do not intend to place the slightest difficulty in the way of the loyal importers of arms, but they want to know who are receiving them, that the responsibility may be fixed in case the worst should happen.

BALANCE OF POWER LIKELY TO CHANGE

Berlin Press Discusses Possibilities Growing Out of War in Tripoli.

COMPENSATION FOR TURKEY

Clauses in Settlement Regarding Morocco Cause Disquiet in Belgium.

BY FREDERICK WERNER.
[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]

Berlin, December 9.—The Berlin press is discussing the possibility of a change in the balance of power arising out of the war in Tripoli. In a recent editorial the Kreuzzeitung says:

"Every alliance between two States implies a certain equality of forces, interests and responsibilities. . . . Such equality between Turkey and any of the Western world-powers cannot be spoken of. The latter, in view of the manifold and sharp frictions of the Ottoman states with all the imaginable open and disguised political aims of neighboring powers, and in view of the complicated international problems arising from the motley racial composition of Turkey and her patronage over all believers in the Koran, would undertake obligations the burden of which would be altogether out of relation to any possible benefit from the connection, unless, indeed, the Porte were to give its partner very special 'geographical or economic advantages,' as Said Pasha expressed himself.

"These, it is argued, Turkey is not likely to offer to Great Britain in return for the right to retain a shadowy suzerainty over to provinces of as little value as Tripoli and Cyrenaica. Therefore the Ottoman empire will reconcile itself to the loss, but the effect will be 'the creation of extensive friction surfaces between Italy on the one hand and France and England on the other,' owing to the change in territorial distribution in the Mediterranean.

"Moreover, the Consulta will have to think of a military backing against her two rivals on the sea, which she will hardly seek elsewhere than in Germany and Austria-Hungary. Consequently, instead of loosening the ties of the Triplice, the war will rather strengthen the alliance and bind its members all the closer together.

"Italy's two partners will find it necessary to increase their armaments, and for Germany the much-discussed armored cruiser problem will become a burning one. As for Turkey, it is quite conceivable that her enemies of to-day will hold out their hands to one another. The role of reconciling mediator would naturally fall to Germany, and from that would result the possibility of a satisfactory solution of a problem so important for the entire Oriental policy, namely, that of establishing in the Mediterranean a position of international equipoise in place of the present one-sided preponderance of the entente powers."

It is not believed here that success will attend the efforts of the powers to secure the localization of the Turko-Italian war to the African coast line or hinterland. The object of war is to force upon the loser a peace advantageous to the victor. But if Italy were confined to warfare in Tripoli, which is already costing millions of francs a day, Turkey, spending nothing there, is in a position to refuse the terms of peace demanded for an indefinite period, during which the existence of an open sore would threaten the peace of mind of all European nations. England with them. On the other hand, the moment the war ceases to be localized—that is, the moment Italy endeavors to force peace upon Turkey by attacking more vital points of the Ottoman empire than Tripoli—the fatal Eastern question is raised again, and the world, as crystallized after the Napoleonic upheaval by the 1815 series of treaties, is once more in a state of solution. Under such conditions anything might happen.

In Russia the press is urging on the government the view that Turkey is seeking compensation for the loss of Tripoli in the disputed territory on the Turko-Persian frontiers about Lake Urmia. Russian agents have recently been over the ground, and in concert have carefully investigated Turkish proceedings there. In official circles no apprehension whatever is felt as to Turkish intentions in that region at present, because the number of Turkish troops sent there from time to time is small.

In any case Russia will never allow Turkey to establish herself on Persian territory, for the simple reason that the position outflanks all the defenses of Russia's southern frontier. And Russian opposition to the Turkish attempt at aggrandizement is fully supported by England.

Although the Belgian press has been displaying great caution in its comments on the Franco-German settlement regarding Morocco, I am in a position to state that the clauses of the arrangement relating to the Congo and Ubangho are causing great disquiet in the Belgian official world.

Belgian statesmen are fully convinced that the Kaiser's government has cast longing eyes on the Belgian colony, of which Germany has become the close neighbor by the agreement with France.

The latter's refusal to assent to any change in the status of the Congo without consultation of all the powers who signed the Berlin treaty concerning the Congo basin is not considered in the least reassuring. It simply transfers to the European concert the question as to whether France is to be allowed at any time to part with her right of pre-emption over the Belgian Congo, and according to the views held here, such a question should not even be raised, as the right was only granted to France personally, in exchange for equivalent advantages and as a favor untransferable to any third power. Indeed, the late King Leopold II. only conceded such a privilege to France because he especially trusted in her good faith and was convinced that she would not attempt to exercise it unduly and force Belgium, by violence or threat, into the sale of its colony.