

HOW THE TURKS CHECKED BULGARS

Desperate Defense of Adrianople Saved the Capital.

UPSET PLANS OF THE ALLIES

Frederick Palmer Tells of the Furious Fighting by the Ottoman Armies That Balked Demetrieff and Ivanoff.

By FREDERICK PALMER, Staff Correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald in the Balkan War.

Mustapha Pasha.—The minarets of Sultan Selim!

Needle-like, I have seen them rise over the indistinct mass of Adrianople from the distant hills, then as substantial columns from the nearby hills, and again so close from the shellproof of an advanced infantry position that I could make out the tilings on the dome of the great mosque itself.

The simple grace of the minarets dominated town, and landscape, and scene. Weary drivers of the weary oxen of the transport and still wearier artillerymen, bringing up additional guns through seas of mud, saw them for the first time as a token of defiance, of work unfinished, of battles yet to be fought, and of lives yet to be lost.

Infantrymen in the advanced trenches saw them as the goal against a foe which had fallen back without any adequate rear guard section, but which had begun to fight desperately under their shadows.

That Turkish garrison, as it withdrew into the shelter of its forts, seemed to find something of the spirit of old Sultan Selim the Magnificent, for whom the mosque was named, but with this difference: Sultan Selim was not given to falling back on forts and minarets. He stormed forts; he went ahead to plant new minarets in the soil of Christendom.

Rouses Old Turks' Spirit From the first in this war the Turk took the defensive; from the first he accepted it as his part and portion of the campaign.

In Bulgaria, where many Turks still live under Christian rule, we had seen the Terrible Turk, the great fighting man of the past, whose soul was supposed to be above lowly toll, as a heaver of wood and a carrier of water. He did odd jobs in the absence of the Bulgarian at the front. The lion of the past had been trained to dog harness.

All the early victories of the Bulgarian army completed an impression of a one-time lordly race demoralized and enervated, who retained only the fatalism of "Kismet," in its lexicon.

The warrior's cry, "For Allah!" was lost forever. But at Adrianople "For Allah!" rose again to the dignity which abandoned bravery always commands.

The sheer, impetuous fearlessness of the Bulgarian, well drilled and coolly manipulated, was the first great revelation of the campaign, and the second was how, in the hour of hopelessness, his desperation aroused the old qualities of the Turk.

Every situation, every development in the war reverted to Adrianople. It was the nut to crack in the first plan of strategy of the campaign. It hovered over the first army before Tchatalja as a nightmare. It stood in the way of the prompt supplies of bread and bullets for the first army; it delayed the signing of the armistice for ten days; it has been the main subject of contention before the London peace conference; it was responsible for the treatment of the military attaches, who saw nothing of the war, and of the correspondents who saw little.

War Hinges on Adrianople. Even our plegmatic little English-speaking censor assistant at Mustapha would lose his temper at the very suggestion of any peace terms with Adrianople still in Turkish possession.

"We shall have a revolution if we don't get Adrianople," I have heard many officers say.

"We shall not go home without Adrianople," the wounded soldiers returning from the front kept repeating.

Such were the instructions which Dr. Daneff, the Ethib Root of the Balkans, took with him to London. Adrianople was graven on the minds of his countrymen. By diplomacy he must get a fortress which was not yet taken by force of arms.

Glance at a map and you will see that the whole success of the allies depended on bottling up the Turk on the peninsula, so that all the other Turkish forces from Scutari to Adrianople, from Kumanova to Hassona, should be cut off from communication. The Greeks, Serbs, and Montenegrins were the backs. The Bulgarians undertook to buck the line.

Bulgaria did not have to consider a reserve army. European public opinion and the jealousies of the powers acted as efficient substitutes, for the Bulgarian military statesmanship understood that if Bulgaria were beaten the powers would never permit Turkey to take an inch of Bulgarian soil. It was a case of "Heads I win, tails I don't lose."

Turks Awake to Crisis. The Turks knew this, too. It was an old situation to them. Successful

war meant no aggrandizement only that no more territory would be taken from them. This is enough, after some generations, to breed the defensive instinct in any soldier.

The Turk must have his back against the wall in order to fight well. His attitude is that of the mad bull against the treader; and a very mad bull, we know, sometimes gets a horn into the treader's anatomy and tosses him over the palls. This happened in a way at Adrianople.

"Victory is to the heaviest battalions," Bonaparte said this, but after Caesar said it after some general of Egypt, Babylon or Nineveh.

The allies knew that their success depended on speed in a fall campaign—speed and the shock of masses pouring over the frontier. Theirs was a hundred-yard-dash chance.

The Serbs at Kumanova, their critical battle, had odds of at least four to one.

The Greeks never had less favorable odds, usually much higher.

As for the Montenegrins, who had a small show, what they did in one way or another did not matter. They had work to keep them fully occupied, as it developed in the siege of Scutari.

The only one of the allies who disengaged modern organization, their failure to make any headway again emphasizes the wide difference between a body of men with rifles and an actual army.

Bulgars Bear War's Brunt. So the Bulgarians took the great and telling work of the war on their shoulders. You have only to know the Bulgarians to understand that this was inevitable.

There is stubborn and aggressive character enough in Bulgaria to spare for all southwestern Europe.

Bulgaria made a hundred-yard dash with ox cart transportation, and made it around an obstacle—Adrianople. The main railroad line and the great Constantinople highway ran by Adrianople. It was on the direct line of communication from the center of the Bulgarian base to the center of its objective.

In the center of Thrace, it was the only real fortress on the way to Constantinople. Kirk-Killiseh, or Losen-grad, as the Bulgarians call it, despite their willingness to allow an impression of its formidability to be spread abroad, was not in any sense well fortified.

Now, the first thing was to surround Adrianople; that is, to strike at it from all sides, as the key to the position. A branch of the main Sofia-Constantinople railroad line runs to Yamboli. With this as its base, Demetrieff's, or the First, army swung around Kirk-Killiseh, which was taken in the first splendid arduous of the campaign. With its fall anyone can see from a staff map that any battle line of defense with Adrianople as a part of it was impossible for a force of the numbers of the Turkish main army.

Two or three hundred thousand men who were homogeneous might have held on, but not half that number when badly organized. Therefore, Nazim Pasha had to fall back to a new line and leave Adrianople to care for itself.

Reveals Bulgar Courage. The next step was the decisive battle on the line from Lule Burgas to Bunnarhisar.

There, again, superiority of numbers, as well as organization, counted; that superiority, which makes a heavy turning movement possible while the enemy's front is engaged.

In short, the Bulgarians had the Turks going. They gave the Turks no rest, and they had a sufficient numerical preponderance, in addition to the dependable courage of their infantry to guarantee success.

So there was nothing wonderful about the strategy of the campaign, nothing new, nothing startling. The old principle of the swift turning movement had been applied to the situation in hand.

By the flank the Japanese kept putting the Russians back from the Yalu to Mukden. By the flank Grant put Lee back to Richmond.

There was just one, and only one, startling feature in this war—Bulgarian courage. That enabled Demetrieff to gain at Kirk-Killiseh and Lule Burgas in a hurry what with most armies would have required much more time.

Demetrieff had willing flesh for a necessary sacrifice. He threw his infantry against frontal positions in a cloud, into shrapnel and automatic gun fire, without waiting to silence the enemy's batteries.

Expected to Take Adrianople. And after Lule Burgas the next step would have seemed the storming of Adrianople. When peace negotiations should begin, it was a vital point in their favor in the negotiations to have Adrianople in their possession.

The Bulgarian treatment of the correspondents is one of the many indications that the Bulgarian staff did at one time expect to take Adrianople by storm.

It was argued by serious correspondents who did not feel that they ought to waste their time or the money of their papers in idleness, that the Bulgarian government ought not to have received any correspondents at all. But this was not logic to the government. The press represented public opinion. It could serve a purpose, and all the college professors in the land who spoke any foreign language found their work in the common cause, no less than grandfathers found his in driving an ox cart and the women in making bread.

The plan was well thought out, and the regulations, which would fill a column, left nothing that occurred to officers or college professors out of consideration. No mention was to be

made of the wounded, nor even of the weather, if it were bad, for bad weather might tell the enemy that the roads were bad.

While many an imaginary account, because it had the similitude of narrative which characterizes all convincing fiction, was hailed as real war correspondence, the Bulgarian staff, when it came to actual reports of actions (exclusive of massacres), was scrupulously exact and exasperatingly late and brief.

All praise by the press kept the ball of the prestige of victory rolling. It helped to convince the powers and the Turk that the Bulgarian army was irresistible. The stage climax of the whole campaign would be the fall of Adrianople. Therefore were the correspondents moved to Mustapha Pasha just as Lule Burgas was being won; and Constantinople, being then supposedly defended only by a demoralized army, which could not make a stand, every report from Mustapha Pasha which showed that Adrianople was on the point of capitulation added to the stage effect of Bulgarian triumph.

Turks Defy the Bulgars. As the first Bulgarian army drew near the Tchatalja lines, the mise en scene was complete; but Nazim Pasha, making use of the elapsed time to fortify the Tchatalja lines, rather than submit to the humiliating terms offered, bade the Bulgarian hosts "come on."

Success had turned the heads even of the Bulgarian staff. They had begun to think that the old fighting quality was out of the Turk, and so willing was the Bulgarian infantry to undergo slaughter that it was only a case of recording another charge of flesh against shrapnel and automatic gun fire, and the day was won.

Alas, an old principle of war, dealing with an impossibility of the same order as squaring the circle in mathematics, was now to bring generalship back from the clouds to solid earth.

You can take strong positions in front only with time by sapping and mining and all the weary operations of a siege, as the indomitable Grant learned by the failure of his dash rush



General Demetrieff.

at Vicksburg and the indomitable Nogi learned by the failure of the first dash attack at Port Arthur.

In a week, any army that has spades and a few of the resources of material which should be part of the storehouse at its base should make such a position as that of the series of rising hills back of Tchatalja fully tenable against any but siege attack, unless there was room for a flank attack.

Turks Turn the Tables. And the breadth of the position open to infantry approach in any attempt at storming was only 16 miles, while from either sea side of the narrow strip of peninsula the Turkish navy could bring into play more powerful guns than any Demetrieff had at his disposal.

At the same time there is to be kept in view the generally accepted tenet that you must not send infantry against any well entrenched position until its batteries are silenced or it is known that they can be kept under control during the infantry attack by a well concentrated fire of your own batteries.

Demetrieff used his guns for a day in trying to develop the strength and location of the enemy's batteries. But the Turks would not be drawn. At last the tables were turned.

Meanwhile Adrianople also was telling. You may discuss as much as you please whether the original plan of the Bulgarian staff was to mask this fortress or to take it by storm, the fact remains that the only result was to mask it, and the lesson was that any garrison in the rear of an advancing army, though it is held securely in investment, remains a mighty force in being for the enemy's purpose.

Nature meant Adrianople to be a fortress. Past it on the south flows the Maritza river, taking its origin in the Balkans and plowing its way across the alluvial lowlands of Thrace to the sea. A strong bridge crosses it on the line of the Constantinople highway at Mustapha Pasha, some twenty-five miles from Adrianople.

This bridge, which is not far from the Bulgarian frontier, the Turks left intact, a characteristic piece of carelessness in the earlier part of the war in keeping with all other signs of Turkish demoralization and wrongheadedness, which might easily lead the Bulgarians to think that Adrianople would not resist a brilliant onslaught.

Mustapha Pasha became the headquarters of the second Bulgarian army,

under General Ivanoff, who was to have the thankless task of the operations around Adrianople. While easy glory was to be the fortune of Demetrieff, who commanded the first army—until the first army had to take positions in front without any opportunity for flanking, which was the nature of Ivanoff's task from the start.

Ivanoff Wakes Up.

It was Papastepe and Kartaltepe which wakened Ivanoff from his dream of a final brilliant stroke in keeping with the earlier ones of the war, just as Tchatalja brought Demetrieff down from the clouds of overconfidence. Papastepe is one of many hills in the narrowing rib of the 203 Meter Hill of the siege. With guns in position there, Adrianople would be under bombardment. The Bulgarians took it by sending in the usual cloud of infantry and losing about a thousand men. But the Turks took it back again. Four times, I am told, it changed hands in the course of those night actions which we observed only by the brilliant flashes in the sky above the hills.

Far up the valley in the mist was Kartaltepe, that other important hill which commanded the river bottom of the Arda. We took Kartaltepe in November and a month afterward, in one of their splendid sorties, the Turks, so far as I could learn, had taken it back; but it was as untenable for them as Papastepe was for the Bulgarians. Possibly because it was again ours and very evidently ours permanently, the Bulgarian censors had kept it worth while to confound skepticism and persistent unfriendly rumors by allowing the correspondents to enter the promised land of their dreams, where for weeks, between the batteries on the hills and the infantry in the muddy river bottom of the Arda, hell had raged in the winter rains.

We did not know then, as we were to know a few days later, that beyond Kartaltepe in the direction of Delegation was another force isolated from the Adrianople garrison and the main Turkish army, that of Taver Pasha with 10,000 men, caught in the literal flood of that 100-yard dash of the ready, informed, prepared aggressor against the unready enemy taken unaware and hastening reinforcements to the scattered garrisons and trying to adjust itself for the blow to fall with the crash of a pile driver released from its clutch.

Discloses War Secret.

But Taver Pasha's 10,000 were still a force in being, with guns and full equipment—a force in a box; a force in desperation.

Do you see the Adrianople garrison (which was in touch by wireless with the Turkish main army) striking out to connect up with Taver Pasha? Do you see Taver Pasha trying out lines of least resistance in a savage effort to reach Adrianople or the main Turkish army?

Something to stir the blood, this, in the way of a war drama, while not a single foreign correspondent or attaché knew even of the existence of Taver Pasha's command until its surrender.

The news of this was conveyed with the official assurance that now no other Turkish force except that of Adrianople remained in Thrace, when we had been under the impression for over a month that it was the only one! The censors did not smile as they posted the bulletin, but some of the correspondents smiled—at themselves.

No, after the first rainbow hope of a successful general attack was over, Ivanoff was fully occupied in holding Adrianople safely in siege. That battery of old Krupps, which fired over the advanced Serbian infantry position, while a battery of Creusots in turn fired over it, added their items of evidence to the same end.

These Krupps were taken by the Russians at Plevna in the war of 1877-78 and given to the little army of the new nation of Bulgaria. Bulgarian recruits had dragged them through the muddy roads and over the pastures and beautifully employed them, and were working them against the enemy with boyish pride. But the world was thinking only of the modern Creusots and their brilliant showing.

The Bulgarians almost proved that you can make bricks without straw. They won the war by the bravery of their self-confidence as well as by their courage.

Adrianople, which was about to starve if it did not fall, had, I am convinced, two months' supplies when the armistice was signed. With the 19 and 20-year-old conscripts already on the way to the front, with a casualty list that is easily one-fifth of the whole army, there was no sign of weakening. The square chin of the stoical Bulgarian was as firmly set as ever. I wonder what would happen in Europe if it included in its borders a nation of 100,000,000 Bulgarians!

Ancient Science.

It is generally supposed that those who combated the opinion that the earth was a sphere when Columbus proposed his great voyage were only giving expressions to opinions that had always been entertained. But the fact is that long before the Christian era the Greek and Egyptian philosophers entertained the idea that the earth was round and knew vastly more about eclipses, the motions of the moon and other astronomical matters than many do even today. The idea of Columbus had been anticipated by the ancient philosophers by more than sixteen centuries.

Seemingly Good Evidence.

"Is your son happily married?" "Yes, I'm afraid he is. I've done my best to convince him that she isn't worthy of him, but he won't believe me."

Small Boy Again.

"Bobby, do you see that bright star overhead, at the top of the big cross?" "Yes." "Well, that's Deneb. It is nearly three quadrillions of miles away." "Huh! Then how do you know its name is Deneb?"

Speak Guardedly.

Speak not at all, in any wise, till you have somewhat to speak; care not for the reward of your speaking, but simply and with undivided mind for the truth of your speaking.—Carlyle.

IS PROUD OF CANAL

TAFT REGARDS IT LARGELY AS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF HIS ADMINISTRATION.

WHO PUT IN THE SOLDIERS?

Question for Future Historians to Answer—Splendid Work of Goethals, Gorgas, Gaillard and Sibert Will Be Rewarded.

By GEORGE CLINTON.

Washington.—President Taft's journey to the Panama Canal Zone constitutes what will probably be the last extended trip which he will make while president of the United States. Some persons have wondered why Mr. Taft cared just at this time to go to the Isthmus of Panama and have wondered if it might not be that his trip was planned largely for the purpose of taking a rest and having a little enjoyment prior to his separation from the highest office in the land.

The real reason why he is going to the Isthmus of Panama is that he wants to assure himself personally as well as he can that "All's well with the Isthmus" and that the project is to be left to his successor in office with every assurance that the present administration has done its duty by it. Mr. Taft is known to feel an intense personal interest in the work on the Panama canal. He regards it in a large measure as being the work of his administration, although his so regarding it does not prevent him, it is said, from acknowledging that the preliminary plans which made it possible were laid by a previous administration.

The president's personal interest in the canal dates back to the time when he was secretary of war, and when civilian engineer after civilian engineer was appointed to the work of building, only to resign one after another. It will be remembered that one of these engineers received a personal verbal castigation from William Howard Taft that he probably holds in ear-tling memory today.

Who Put the Soldiers In?

The canal, it seems to be assured, is going to be a success and the question which the future historian after proper investigation must answer is "Who was responsible for taking the digging operations out of the hands of civilians and putting it into the hands of the soldiers, Theodore Roosevelt or William H. Taft?"

Col. George W. Goethals a virtually has promised that water shall be turned into the canal throughout its entire length in April next. This it is believed will be the beginning of the end of successful accomplishment. After it was decided to put a soldier in charge, it was Secretary of War Taft who suggested to Theodore Roosevelt that Colonel Goethals be given control of the work on the Isthmus, but the question which no one has answered yet definitely is whether it was Mr. Taft who insisted that the civilians should get out and the soldier should get in, or whether it was the suggestion of his chief, Theodore Roosevelt.

Rewards for the Builders.

No one knows yet definitely what reward is to be given Colonel Goethals for his great engineering triumph. It is possible that he will be put in charge of the great canal commission which will be responsible for the operations of the canal and for its maintenance. Again it is possible that he may be made a full general of the army, a rank which has been held by only four men in the history of the government, Washington, Grant, Sherman and Sheridan. The most likely reward perhaps is that Colonel Goethals will be made chief of engineers of the United States army, a position which he will hold until the time of his retirement at the age of sixty-four years, which will give him nine years yet of active service.

Among the others to be rewarded for their work on the Isthmus will be Col. William C. Gorgas, who made the zone inhabitable from a sanitary standpoint; David B. Gaillard and William L. Sibert, lieutenant colonels of engineers, who have been charged with the immediate supervision of the work on the Gatun dam and at the Culebra cut. Gaillard and Sibert were chosen as associates in the canal work by Colonel Goethals.

In just what form congress will show its appreciation of the work of Gaillard and Sibert is not known, but it is possible they may be promoted to the rank of brigadier general when vacancies in that rank shall occur.

Tariff Revision Prospects.

Before very long Representative Underwood, chairman of the house committee on ways and means, and his Democratic colleagues of that body, probably will have a full understanding of the views of President-elect Woodrow Wilson on the subject of tariff revision. Mr. Underwood will confer with Mr. Wilson and will in turn impart the information received to his committee colleagues.

During the campaign Woodrow Wilson said that he wanted the tariff revised in such a way that business would not be disturbed. The Democrats in congress differ to some extent as to the amount of cutting which can be done in the schedules and yet avoid "scaring business." The Democrats here understand that the president-elect will make a close study of the bills which were put through the house at the last session under the supervision of Mr. Underwood and that changes in these bills will depend upon the results of conferences between the incoming president and the congressional leaders of his party.

May Not Resemble Former Bills.

Few Republicans and few Progressive Democrats in Washington believe apparently that the next Democratic tariff bills will bear any close resemblance to those formulated by the ways and means committee at the last session. Some of the Democrats hold to the views of the opposition in this matter, although they content themselves with saying that the wisdom of the ways and means committee can be trusted.

At the last session the Democratic tariff bills which passed the house were sanctioned by the senate only after their form had been changed. The compromise in the senate was effected by a combination of the Democrats and some of the Progressive Republicans who are known as moderate protectionists. If the Republican aid had not been forthcoming the bills which Mr. Underwood's committee framed and which the house passed never would have reached the passage stage in the senate.

President Taft interposed his veto of the Democratic-Progressive Republican measures of the last session and there are some critics of the congressional action who say that the bills would not have been passed unless it was known that the president was certain to intervene with a veto. At the extra session which Mr. Wilson will call for the purpose of revising the tariff, the customs bills which are passed are almost certain to be signed and therefore the men who are responsible for their passage must be prepared to take the full responsibility for the laws when they go into effect.

Lever Bill in Senate.

At the last session the house of representatives passed a bill framed by Representative Asbury F. Lever of South Carolina which has for its object what may be called in a sense a subsidy by the government in behalf of the agricultural interests of the United States. In congress agriculture has been spoken of as the "greatest profession," and the idea of the bill is to combine a government appropriation with an equal appropriation from each state which will grant it for the purpose of paying agricultural demonstrators who will go to the different farms in their allotted territory to give to the farmer the benefit of experience and advice in the matter of intensive agriculture.

The Lever bill is now before the senate, and if it passes and is signed by the president, as it probably will be, it will virtually at once become a law. If, however, the senate fails to pass it at this session the measure will fall and work on it must be begun all over again if it is the intention of the promoters to continue their labor in its behalf. All bills die when a congress dies, and this congress dies on March 4 next.

Farmers Should Study Bill.

The Lever bill has been mentioned in these dispatches prior to this. There has been a good deal of interest in the measure, but it is suggested to the agriculturists of the country that they get copies of the bill, study it and find out if it meets with their approval in all its details. Congress is apt to pass a bill which is backed by letters of approval from the men and the communities supposed to be benefited by it, and it is likely to kill a bill if the letters concerning it show marked disapproval or if approval and disapproval are about evenly divided.

The Lever bill for a federal appropriation of \$3,000,000 to be extended over a period of ten years, with the states of the Union subscribing an equal amount. The author of the bill says that Belgium and other European countries through the introduction of intensive farming methods are producing from two and one-half to three times as much per acre as America. Mr. Lever says that were this country to approach the European scale it would be equivalent to the discovery of a colony equal in size to the present territory of this country.

The support for the Lever bill comes from both parties in congress, a fact which is true also of the opposition to it. It is proposed to pay farm demonstrators salaries, one-half to be paid by the state and one-half to be paid by the National government. The appointment of the demonstrators and the control of their work is to be entirely in charge of the authorities of the agricultural colleges of the states in which the demonstrators work.

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The Lever bill is now before the senate, and if it passes and is signed by the president, as it probably will be, it will virtually at once become a law. If, however, the senate fails to pass it at this session the measure will fall and work on it must be begun all over again if it is the intention of the promoters to continue their labor in its behalf. All bills die when a congress dies, and this congress dies on March 4 next.

Farmers Should Study Bill.

The Lever bill has been mentioned in these dispatches prior to this. There has been a good deal of interest in the measure, but it is suggested to the agriculturists of the country that they get copies of the bill, study it and find out if it meets with their approval in all its details. Congress is apt to pass a bill which is backed by letters of approval from the men and the communities supposed to be benefited by it, and it is likely to kill a bill if the letters concerning it show marked disapproval or if approval and disapproval are about evenly divided.

The Lever bill for a federal appropriation of \$3,000,000 to be extended over a period of ten years, with the states of the Union subscribing an equal amount. The author of the bill says that Belgium and other European countries through the introduction of intensive farming methods are producing from two and one-half to three times as much per acre as America. Mr. Lever says that were this country to approach the European scale it would be equivalent to the discovery of a colony equal in size to the present territory of this country.

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