

THE CANADIAN IN EGYPT

LEADS THE SUBLINE PORTE TO MAKE
APPEAL FOR AID

France, Russia and Germany Asked to Intervene, But the Result Likely to be Accomplished is Increased Activity on the Part of England

Associated Press Special Wire.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 25.—As a result of an extraordinary cabinet council, which lasted throughout Saturday, the Turkish government has issued an appeal to France and Russia, asking them to intervene with the Egyptian government, to make representations to the Marquis of Salisbury, but their tenor is not known. It is declared that the action of the Porte is due to the counsel of French and Russian governments, which countries, it is claimed, have submitted that the present is an opportune time for Turkey to raise the question of the Egyptian canal, Egypt being practically usurped by Great Britain.

There is no doubt that considerable annoyance is felt in the Porte at the fact that Turkey was not consulted in regard to the advisability of dispatching a British-Egyptian expedition up the Nile, and the feeling of irritation has been increased by the khedive also ignoring the Porte entirely. Reproaches have, in consequence, been addressed to the Ottoman commissioners in Egypt for not taking steps to prevent the organization of the expedition, as it is feared that the effect of the advance up the Nile will be felt elsewhere than on the Egyptian reserve fund, it is generally understood that nothing short of armed interference of those two nations will prevent Great Britain from pushing the Sudan campaign. Indeed, there are people who think that the Porte is not prepared to France, Russia and Germany to intervene will have an effect in Great Britain contrary to the one which is desired. It is known that a great enthusiasm exists in England over the prospects of another bloody and expensive campaign in the Sudan, the Egyptian government, however, declared enemies of Great Britain for intervention may arouse the war spirit of the British Isles, and so the Sultan may wish to avoid such a result.

It is true, it is argued, that there are only about 5,000 purely British troops in Egypt, but this number could be increased by the British government, and the British of Egypt, as suggested by the more fiery of the French newspapers, might be more difficult than calculated upon by them.

If the ostensible object of the Anglo-Egyptian Nile expedition is to be accomplished, namely, to reach the Sudan, which will relieve Kassala, it must be done speedily. The distance from Wady Halfa, the southern boundary of Egypt, to Dongola is about 300 miles. The most arduous one even for the black troops of Egypt and especially so at this period on account of the low water of the Nile, necessitating the employment of immense numbers of camels for transportation and the possible building of a light railroad. Then, admitting that Dongola is reached without delay, it is not likely by no means certain, that place is not likely to capitulate easily. A long siege may be necessary and the 20,000 to 30,000 men the British government possibly under Osman Digna, may prove more than a match for the 20,000 British Egyptian troops which will reach Dongola after a most wearisome march from Wady Halfa. Then even with Dongola fallen, Kassala is not necessarily relieved, and the capture of the latter place by the derelict would threaten Sudan and Egypt. The possession of Dongola, it is explained, is necessary in order to defend Egypt against the Sudan campaign. It consists of a fortified town in a district of the same name. Locally the place is known as El Ordeh and was the headquarters of Sir Herbert Stewart's expedition. An advance from there in the direction of Berber had hardly been made until August or September. Therefore the Sudan campaign, it is said, would be in vain if the British had not been allowed to take its own course, but intervention would be likely to make what is originally a party measure a national question.

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