

possible for either to agree that the other shall take complete charge of Turkey

Rev. C. F. Gates, president of Robert College, Constantinople, who has lived in Turkey for forty years, is among the American writers best qualified to discuss the Turkish question, and he has contributed a valuable article upon the subject to the New York Times. He believes that the United States betrayed the Christians in the Turkish Empire when it failed to accept a mandate for Turkey as it was urged to do. Had the United States been a member of the League of Nations the Allies would have been perfectly satisfied that the United States should handle the Turkish problem. This it is better qualified to do than any other nation. The United States was not at war with Turkey; the United States is not burdened with a great empire; the United States has the necessary money and the necessary force to do what development is necessary and to compel the Turks to treat such races as the Armenians fairly. But the United States stands aloof, and the result is that its Government's remarks to Europe on the subject of Turkey are mere scoldings, which have no good effect.

So the Allies have fallen back upon old treaties and have proceeded to divide the Turkish Empire, Mesopotamia and Palestine going to Britain with a protectorate over Arabia, Syria, Cilicia and the territory north of Cilicia as far as Sivas goes to France; Italy was to have Idalis, and Greece Smyrna and the adjacent islands.

The trouble is not so much that the Allies purpose dividing up the Turkish Empire among themselves, which might not be agreeable to some of the "fourteen points". The trouble is that the Allies have not employed sufficient force to carry out their plans. Until a few days ago Britain had hardly any troops in Turkey, and the French forces in Asia Minor are small. In the face of any determined Turkish advance they would have to fall back. The writer points out that there are only two ways of dealing with Turkey: force and conciliation. It would be extremely difficult to reconcile the Turks to a dismemberment of their empire, and sufficient force has not been employed to do without conciliation.

Dr. Gates condemns the suggestion that the United States should recognize the independence of the Armenian republic and permit it to secure arms and recruit in the United States. He says that if this were done the Turks would probably fall upon the Armenians and exterminate them before help could come, knowing that in any event they would not be themselves massacred later on. The only way to secure the independence of the Armenians is to go immediately to their aid. As regards Constantinople, he does not consider it is a matter of vital importance where the Government of Turkey is. The important thing is

what it is. Nor does he have much respect for the official British view that to put the Turk out of Constantinople, would result in Indian disturbances. He points out that, as such, the Sultan of Turkey has no hold upon the Moslems of the world. It is by virtue of his position as Caliphate of Mohammedanism. This is purely a religious question, and the Allies ought to make it clear that they do not intend to interfere with the Caliphate. If the Oriental mind is as subtle as it is supposed to be it will have no difficulty in grasping the distinction between the two functions of the same human being.

What shall be the form of the Turkish Government if it is transferred to Asia? This he believes to be the most important of all the questions involved in the Turkish treaty. If the Turks are left to govern themselves as they please they will resent the loss of the capital their chauvinism will be intensified they will easily unite with the Bolsheviks, and will prove bad neighbours to the small principalities which have been separated from the Turkish Empire. The Turks will have to be controlled. Who will control them? If the United States does not help, the responsibility will have to be shared by Britain and France otherwise the Armenians will be exterminated. The Near Eastern situation is more than grave; it is alarming; it is far worse today than it has been at any time since Turkey asked for terms of peace.—*Barbados Globe May 17th.*

RED CROSS NOW HELPING ARECIBO FIRE SUFFERERS

Ten Portable Houses to be Erected at
Arecibo on Land Purchased for
Those who Lost Homes

At a recent meeting of the executive committee of the Porto Rico chapter of the American Red Cross, a sub-committee was appointed, consisting of Dr. W. F. Lippitt and Emilio del Toro to look into the needs of the fire sufferers in Arecibo. They were at the same time authorities to get in touch with local chapter of the Red Cross at Arecibo with a view to bettering the condition of these people as soon as possible.

As a result of the work of this committee it was decided that ten of the small portable houses, which were originally sent here for the earthquake sufferers should be sent to Arecibo. The dimension of these houses is 21 x 48, and will help out considerably in the housing of families. It was also decided that \$600 be used from the Red Cross funds to buy two acres of land on which to erect the houses, and that \$3000 be used for the laying out of streets and sewerage in the new village.

This work has already been started, and many of those who have been living

in tents for so long will be housed, within a short time.—*Porto Rico Progress.*

MANY CHILDREN READ AND WRITE.

According to the Literary Census taken under the Department of Education to ascertain the exact number of children there are in Porto Rico under ten years of age who are able to read and write acceptably, it was that the figure reaches 45,797.

This would make a considerable difference in the general literacy census of the island.

A striking feature of this census is the fact that Ponce has 2645 children under ten years of age can read and write while San Juan has only 1964.

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CENTRAL AGUIRRE SUGAR.

Central Aguirre Sugar Co., with the output of the Central Machete property included, should this year made well up towards 60,000 tons of sugar. Last year's production of Aguirre alone was 44,682 tons, admittedly a small crop. The company normally grinds into June.

In January Central Aguirre bought a 72½% interest in the Central Machete together with the standing cane and some surrounding acreage. Owing to the unprecedented flight of raw sugar quotations it is entirely possible that this property will pay its entire cost this season.

The Central Aguirre management never speculates with its sugar, but sells it only as shipped. Such a policy works admirably in a rising market. The result is that the company has obtained an average selling price so far this season which is probably exceeded by no other producer, with Porto Rico raws selling last week up to 20 cents a pound. There are 150,000 shares of stock outstanding. On a production of 60,000 tons every cent a pound profit would be equal to \$8 a share on the stock, and unless the raw sugar market breaks down badly a profit of five cents a pound after all charges is entirely within the bound of possibility. In other words, Central Aguirre may do even better than \$40 a share on the present capital, which it may be remembered represents five shares for one outstanding a year ago.—*Ibid.*

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