TELEGRAPHIC.

SASSOUN MASSACRE.

Condition of Armenia Described by the Patriarch.

CALCULATED TO LEAD TO BLOODSHED.

Substance of a Memorial to the Russian Czar in Behalf of the People.

LONDON, March 3.—The correspondent of the Associated Press who was sent to Armenia with instructions to promptly investigate the stories told of the Turkish atrocities in that country, writes from Tiflis, Russia, January 16th, forwarding the following interview with the father of all the Armenians, Mgr. Khrimian. After a delay of several days, the reverend prelate granted the request of the Associated Press correspondent for a statement of the condition of Armenia and the causes which led up to the Sassoun massacre.

Additional weight is given to the statement by the fact that Mgr. Khrimian was at that time preparing a memorial on the subject to the czar of Russia, and it may be inferred that the substance of this statement contained in the memorial to the czar may be found in the interview.

The massacre in the Sassoun mountains was the result of a long period of Turkish misgovernment. In the Armenian provinces of Turkey a policy of cruelty and oppression has continued for a long time. I myself have been an eye-witness of all kinds of Turkish oppression. In fact, about fifty years ago the Armenians thought that their lot would be improved by bowing to a punishment for their sins. But later there came a change, and they saw clearly the real moral their position.

The reason for their change was the so-called Treaty of Berlin. Turkey in 1878, which ended so tragically for the Armenians, was received freedom and enfranchisement. The Armenians suffered from the misgovernment of the Turks, much more than the Bulgarians, who lived in the neighborhood of the western European powers, whereas the Armenians were at such a remote distance from the civilized world that their cries should not be heard. At the close of the Russo-Turkish war the Armenians, encouraged by the improved conditions of affairs, demanded the same guarantees which were given to that country. At each of complaints and petitions poured into the palaces of Constantinople.

In the meantime the European powers were consulted to sign the Berlin treaty. At this point I was sent with another delegate to the chief capitals of western Europe to plead the cause of Armenia. I visited London, Paris, Vienna, Rome and Berlin, but my mission did not produce satisfactory results. I pleaded in the Berlin congress memorial, giving full details of the Turkish atrocities in Turkish Armenia. However, there was printed in Berlin at the same time my description of new atrocities.

So what we had worked for was not gained, as, with reference to the Armenian question the Berlin congress stipulated that it known as the stipulation of the Berlin treaty, and, although the treaty was signed, it had no influence in lessening the pressure. Our hopes were in vain. The cruelty of the Turkish government did not cease. It merely took a new form. Instead of the old form of oppression, the Turks sought for some legal means of destroying their strongholds. What happened? The taxes became higher and all kinds of duties became greater, and the Turkish people received full power to tax Armenian peasants.

Regarding the Sassoun massacre, the Mr. Tuller said:

As every action brings its result or reaction, the same may be said of the oppression of the Armenians, who understood the actions of the Turks and began to revolt. It was then and only then that the Turks understood the danger of the position. As a result they had recourse to the Kurds, whose chiefs went to Constantinople, where they received instructions to form regiments of soldiers from their own tribes. This was the beginning of what is known as the Hamidian cavalry or Kurdish regiments. The Kurdish chiefs were based with favors and invested with the right to oppress the Armenians. The troops received no pay, but, what was better for them, they received permission to plunder the Christians.

Unable to obtain the worst form of oppression and torture, some Armenians revolted against the cruelty of their oppressors, while many chose to fly to foreign countries.

The Sasu result came to the massacre in the Sassoun mountains. What took place I know only from the statements of eye-witnesses and also from accounts published in the newspapers.

"Among the previous crimes perpetrated on the Armenians during the massacre, I will relate the following fact, during the leadership of the Turkish troops and their commander, Zeki Pasha.

When the Armenians had surrendered, 150 of them, including the priests, were thrown into a large ditch alive, despite the fact that they were unarmed. The reason that they were so thrown into the same spitters were sent to watch them until they had all perished. After this the massacre continued; many people, old and young, were killed, and many women and young girls were sent by the soldiers to Moush. The bodies of Armenians who were killed in large numbers together were buried in common graves, but the bodies of those who were killed in isolated places, were left unburied.

"In the Sassoun district there were about 114 villages and hamlets. In one of those villages lived Tatoulanian, a Turkish district chief. The whole number of Armenian families or 'hearths' as they were called in the district, was 1040. The Armenians, I may explain, have preserved the ancient tribal system. The numbers number in one of these 'hearths' is eighty persons. The war lasted for a hundred evenings, the number of lamentations in the district amounted to more than 10,000 souls.

"From the information brought to me I believe that the Kurdish and Turkish troops have turned in destroyed a number of cities or villages, and I estimate that the number of men, women and children killed in the Sassoun district amounts to 15,000."

With reference to the Turkish commission on inquiry, Mgr. Khrimian said:

"The chief interest at present centers in the Turkish commission of inquiry, but I look for no results from the commission, because it will only deal with the Sassoun district, which was only an incident in the oppression of the Armenians."

The correspondent of the Associated Press also interviewed several Armenian refugees at Tiflis. The stories they told of the massacre corresponed in every respect with what had been published in local Armenian papers.

CONVICTS WOUNDED

While Attempting to Escape From the Penitentiary.

FOLSOM, Cal., March 3.—A desperate attempt to escape was made by a band of penitentiary convicts today. As a result three convicts are in the prison hospital suffering from gunshot wounds. One is mortally wounded, another will probably die, and the third is painfully injured. This morning Captain Ellis and three guard Nicharson took fourteen prisoners out, crossed the American river and set the men to work in the quarry across the river.

Ascertaining that they had more than they were needed, Nicharson started back to the prison with two of them. When he had gone three of the twelve men remaining made a break for liberty, assaulting up the rocky cliff. Ellis opened fire on them. He soon brought two of them to the ground, and the third, when wounded, threw up his hands and surrendered.

Must Keep Quiet.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 3.—Mose Gerrit, the well known sporting man whose appointment by Governor Markham as police commissioner of San Francisco started a wave of reform and investigation over the entire state, will continue to hold office in spite of the attempts to displace him. When Governor Markham came into power, a few days after Gerrit's appointment, Mr. Markham, his first official act was to remove Gerrit as police commissioner and appoint in his place Samuel Morgan, who represents the reform element. Gerrit refused to give up his position, and Morgan brought suit in the supreme court to oust him. Judge Garoutte today decided that Governor Markham has no power to remove a member of the police commission, though he has the power to appoint a commissioner, if a vacancy should occur.

Peace Negotiations.

TOKIO, Feb. 19, per steamship City of Peking, via San Francisco, March 2.—The Japanese government has published a series of documents exposing the pretenses of the Chinese peace envoys, and explaining the attitude and aims of the commissioners appointed to negotiate there.

The Chinese party, including Mr. Paton, sailed from Nagasaki for China on February 15th by a French mail steamer. The negotiations will soon be reopened in secret appears to be justified. Not by the circumstance that the Americans are now continuing in China's service, and still more recently in the crushing defeat at Wei Hai Wei.

In consequence of urgent representations by Count Ito, the Chinese government has ordered the abolition of all forms of torture, and proclaimed that beheading shall hereafter be the sole method of capital punishment for ordinary criminals, and shooting for those condemned by martial law.

SUGAR GROWERS.

Congress Appropriates Five Million Dollars for Their Purpose.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 2.—At the night session of the House the conference report of the Sugary Civil bill, which instituted the Senate provisions for the purchase of the Hawaiian site, the payment of the sugar bounty, the purchase of a printing office site, and the right of way. Mr. Sayers, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, was at the helm, and although the debate on the sugar bounty was at times almost furious, he held the bill from till long after midnight, when the bounty bill was carried by 132 to 124.

On motion of Mr. Bland a resolution was adopted congratulating the secretary of the treasury, superintendent of the coast and geodetic survey, and the director of the mint, a committee to investigate and report to the next Congress the advisability of the adoption of the metrical system.

At 8 which time the House resumed they re presented the conference report of the Sugary Civil appropriation bill.

The great contest came on the Senate amendment appropriating $5,000,000 for the payment of the sugar bounties for the fiscal year ending June 30th next.

Wilson, of West Virginia, in support of the bounty, said it was unfortunate that the question came before the House as an independent proposition, instead of being made one of the legitimate consequences of the tariff law. He was not willing to have his vote on this question go on record without an explanation. To be sure was a bounty more repugnant than to him. But a bounty having been given by the act of 1890 wrongly and certainly against the wishes of the sugar states, it became the duty of Congress to deal with things as they were found. In the spirit of justice and equity, dealing with a great industry, the ways and means committee believed the bounty should not be stricken down at a single blow, and today, acting with it in the same spirit, he did believe the growers were entitled to at least a proportion of the bounty they had earned in 1892 and 1894 under the existing law.

Cannon (Rep.) of Illinois taunted the Democrats who declared their unalterable opposition to a bounty to build up an industry and who tonight were ready to vote for a bounty that was an empty gratuity. He should never vote for it.

After some further remarks Dingley attempted to offer an amendment to the Senate amendment so as to pay that portion of the bounty earned before the new tariff act went into effect.

The chair held Mr. Dingley out in order until Mr. Robertson's motion to agree to the Senate amendment had been decided, and the vote was taken by yeas and nays.

The motion was carried, 132 to 124.

The House at 3:30 took a recess until 8 p.m. Before the recess the House agreed to a partial report on the Indian appropriation bill and it went to further conference.

THE SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 2.—The Senate resumed work at 8 p. m. The following bills were passed: To amend the act for the relief of certain volunteer and regular soldiers of the late war and the war of Mexico; to amend the act incorporating the American University; to amend the act as to fees of judgments and decrees of United States courts.

Consideration of the naval bill was then resumed.

Pettigrew attached the Hawaiian commission, and then yielded for the presentation of the conference agreement on the District of Columbia bill, which was confirmed. The conference report of the legislative, executive and judicial bill was also confirmed.

Lodge made a spirited reply to Pettigrew. He had a large map hung, graphically showing by various colors the British naval stations in the Atlantic and Pacific. By various lines he showed the comparative naval strength of the United States and Great Britain.

There was great interest in this, and the galleries broke into loud hand-clapping when Lodge dramatically said: "Let the United States once place its flag on Hawaiian soil, and no nation on the face of the earth will ever haul it down." The demonstration in the galleries lasted so long that the presiding officer threatened to clear them.

Blackburn's motion to recede was defeated—27 to 32—and the bill was sent back to conference.

In announcing the gales on the Hawaiian cable, Blackburn stated that Sherman had told him he would vote to recede, as he did not believe that either house should coerce the other. This brought the Senate to the item of building ships. The committee amendment reduced the number from three to two, to cost $4,000,000 each exclusive of armament. Adjournment was at 2 a.m. to resume a recess until 11 a.m. Sunday, but it was objected, and began a speech against battleships.

At 3 a.m., on motion of Gorman, the Senate took a recess until 2 p.m. today.

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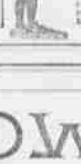

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