

TELEGRAPHIC. GROWS WORSE DAILY

The Situation in Armenia Described by a Correspondent.

ROBERT, OUTRAGE AND MURDER.

Revolutionists Waiting to See What Great Britain Will Take in the Matter.

VAN, Armenia, May 30.—From the correspondent of the Associated Press to Armenia.—The advance guard of the revolutionary party, which announced a week ago, was intrusted to the Turkish government by the leaders of the revolution on the night of Sunday, May 19th, is now in prison in the city of Van. Only one member of the party escaped, and he, at the earliest possible moment and at great risk to himself, put himself in communication with the correspondent of the Associated Press. The latter is now in possession of a communiqué from the revolutionaries, but has not yet disposed of further data to the Turkish government as long as there remains the slightest chance that these men may escape death, he feels, for the present at least, a considerable part of the facts concerning them.

The men had been hiding in the mountains, waiting for reinforcements, making plans for carrying on their work, and the weather having turned cold and wet, they had decided to return home and dry their clothing. Hando was supposed to be friendly to the Armenian cause, as he was a Turk, and great numbers of his fellow-countrymen had been massacred by the Turkish government in 1892.

Upon arriving at Hando's house the men staked arms in the center and gathered about the fire. While there, Hando's son, a Turk, entered his room, and said to the men, "I know that they have handed over to the Turkish government. The serbs threatened to denounce Hando to the government unless the men were betrayed." Hando then called together a force of Kurds and Turks, and ordered them to leave the country. The willing ones went into the rooms one by one, and took part in the conversation.

At a signal they setted the guns, and commanded the men to surrender. Taken by surprise, the revolutionaries were unarmed, save what they had on them. Of the fourteen members in the party only one was armed. Each man had a handful of cartridges.

The prisoners were taken to Sari the next day, and tortured, and then were marched eastward to Van, where they arrived Wednesday evening. Their arrival was watched by a large number of Turks and Armenians. On the way they were beaten by gun butts and clubs, and with stones, and suffered much pain. As soon as the last member of the party was unable to walk the whole distance, he was given a horse to ride the last twenty miles. The Englishman told the officials that he was Harry Williams, of 12, Orange Street, Liverpool, Lancashire; his father was William Williams of the same address. He had with him a photograph of a young woman, and an English passport, made out to Harry Williams, dated Jan. 15, 1895. He declared that he was a correspondent of a telegraphic agency of London, and that his card of credentials was made out to the name of Paul Queenen. He was, he said, on his way to the Moush and Abovian districts to report the Armenian situation. His trusted compatriots were in his party, and guards against attack by Kurds.

The other prisoners held the same story. All were well dressed, and none were described as being poor. An Armenian, who subsequently, under pressure of torture, admitted that he could, after a week of experiments with various kinds of persuasion known to the English, get the government to release him, was released. Another, the governor of Van and his wife, were held for everything. Nobody selected him. Up to May 20th Williams had been unable to see the British vice consul at Van, although Mr. Hallsworth, went as far as to tell the government officially to release him. The request was refused. All of the time the region was tortured during the week, and their persons have been violated by the prison officials in the most revolting and disgusting manner.

In the city of Van the Armenian grows wild. The Armenian press is constantly in receipt of stories of robbery, outrage and murder. The outrages of the Armenians have been worse during the past six months than ever before. Even in the city of Van soldiers have been placed at guard at the Armenian churches, the officials fearing an uprising.

The correspondent had a talk yesterday with the leader of the revolutionaries in the province of Van. He stated that the revolutionaries, the revolutionaries will hold their hands until it is known what Great Britain will do. He admitted also that the capture of Williams had very seriously undermined the revolutionary party for the time being. No other leader is at present available.

An Armenian revolutionary prisoner who was intrusted to the Turkish government at Tbilisim on May 20th, was taken from the prison at Van and sent to Ankara, July 2d, and started on his way to Constantinople by order of the sultan. No one knew how he was to be transferred till they had left Van, the order having come from Constantinople last Friday night. Considering the long distance to go, the order was measured out carefully.

The Associated Press correspondent is now in a position to say that a second revolutionary band is in existence across the Persian frontier, but of course it is not known exactly where it is. The leaders of this band were among those met by the revolutionaries in the Russian city early in May.

Two people are worse off now than they have ever been at any time in their history, and the persecutions are daily on. The government is now controlling the whole field of affairs, which is a most unusual and unprecedented. The demand is accounted for by feelings and bayonet threats. The men of power are dying on roofs and grasses, and on the Mount plains the wretched

sons are literally starving to death. The priests of Great Britain and America have fallen on extorting and despotic ways. That the Turks have no desire of carrying out any sort of reforms is evident by the daily increase of pressure now being applied upon the helpless Armenians. Eastern Turkey is surprisingly full of revolutionary agents. This is undoubtably the critical time in the Armenian situation.

REPUBLICAN PROGRAM.

To Be Carried Out in the Next National Convention.

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