

4-29-2018

01 Confiscation - Restitution

Krikor Guerguerian

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DOSSIER
CXXXIV

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FOREWARD

The present book is only a part of a large volume: "Turkish Laws, Decrees and Edicts relative to the ^{crime} ~~Genocide~~" of the Armenian people in the Ottoman Empire 1914-19²³18.

It contains three categories of Turkish Laws and Edicts:

The first category comprises the laws of deportation of the Armenian people and confiscation of Armenian property (that had never been officially proclaimed by any government in the history of mankind.)

The Provisional Law of so ^{the} called "Abandoned Goods" of September ¹³26, 1915, which had been criticized even in the Turkish Senate as "incompatible with the human rights and justice...presently the sale of such lands will cause great prejudice to the owners". 1

The curtain of the deportation law promulgated under the pretence of military urgency covers only the secret orders of massacres dictated by the Turkish Government to the Military and Civil Authorities in the provinces of the Ottoman Empire.

The second category resumes:

a. the condemnation of the military and civil authors and accomplices of the ^{murder} Genocide of the Armenian people by the Turkish Court-Martial in the period of 1919-1921.

b. The proclamation of a Decree by the French Military

1. Turkish Senate, sessions of October 4 and 11 1915, in J. Lepsius, Deutschland und Armenien, Sammlung Diplomatischer Acten Stücke, 1919 Potsdam, pp. 163-64, the motion of Ahmed Riza Bey to postpone its coming into force one month after the peace treaty,

Authority on April 1³, 1919, ^{dictating} by way of administration, the restoration of Armenian property in Cilicia, French zone of occupation.

c. the publication on January 12, 1920 in the Turkish Official Gazette ^{Journal} Qakvimi Vakayı by the Turkish Government of a law providing the restitution of the Armenian property confiscated by both Turkish cabinets in the period of 1914-1918.

The third category comprises:

1. the rejection by the Turkish Nationalist Assembly of Ankara of the acts of the Turkish Court-Martial sentencing to death or hard labor the authors and accomplices of the ^{genocide} ~~of the Armenian people in the Ottoman Empire~~, and at the same time stating the innocence of murderers and plunderers.

2. A secret military pact concluded in Erzerum on April 15, 1920 by the Republican Government of Azerbaijan and the Turkish Nationalist Great Assembly of Ankara providing clauses and annexe for the annihilation of the Armenian people both in Azerbaijan and in Turkey.

3. the publication of new laws by the Government of the Turkish Republic relative to the confiscation of the Armenian property in Turkey or reviving the law of so called "Abandoned Goods".

4. the great indifference of the Western Powers in respect of their little Ally: Armenia.

Damages and losses incurred
by the Armenian population of Zeytoon district.
~~and villages.~~

Immoveable Property

Three monasteries burned or destroyed	75.000	P.T.	(2.625.000 dol.
Twenty churches burned or destroyed	140.000	T.P.	(4.900.000 "
Twenty schools burned or destroyed	80.000	T.P.	(2.800.000 "
Two residences for bishop destroyed	15.000	T.P.	(775.000 "
Four thousand houses destroyed	1.000.000	T.P.	(35.000.000 "
Three hundred stores destroyed	500.000	T.P.	(3.750.000 "
Six millions grape-vines burned	50.000	T.P.	(1.775.000 "
Fifty thousand fructiferous trees burned	25.000	T.P.	(875.000 "
Thirty mills	6.000	T.P.	(213.000 "
1 Bath	1.200	T.P.	42.000 "
1. building for pilgrims	1.000	T.P.	35.000 "

Moveable Property

Antiques, precious objects of Churches and monasteries	70.000	T.P.	(2.450.000 "
Furniture of churches and schools	75.000	T.P.	(2.625.000 "
Furniture of 4.000 houses	500.000	T.P.	(17.500.000 "
Lands income	50.000	T.P.	1.750.000 "
Vineyards income	50.000	T.P.	1.750.000 "
Merchandise in 300 stores	50.000	T.P.	1.750.000 "
Instruments and machinery	20.000	T.P.	700.000 "
Planks and wood	135.000	T.P.	4.725.000 "
45.000 goats	22.500	T.P.	787.500 "
5.000 horses, mules and donkeys	10.000	T.P.	350.000 "
15.000 cows and oxen	22.500	T.P.	787.500 "

2	report	2.888.200	91.087.000
35.000	chickens	5.000 T.P.	(175.000 dollars
Alabash-Arekni	37 villages		
Furnuz	13 villages		
In these fifty villages			
There were	2.537 houses	126.850 T.P.	(4.469.750 dol.
	Total	3.020.050	<u>105.701.750</u>

This is a résumé of a long report prepared in Aleppo, Syria, February 27, 1919, signed by 97 Armenian survivors of Zeytoon. The estimation is made by the editor in respect with the other ^{reported} ~~report~~ data without any exaggeration.

The original of the report is ~~en~~ preserved by Prof. Haig A. Aramian, Mühlbach Am Hochköngg, Land Salzburg, Austria.

Losses and damages incurred
by the Armenian population of Urfa district

Immoveable property

5000 houses of which 4500Ø destroyed

by the Moslem refugees	2.350.000 T.P.	(82.250.000 do
3000 vineyards	550.000 T.P.	(19.250.000 "
300 Gardens	150.000 T.P.	(5.250.000 "
150 villages	275.000 T.P.	(9.625.000 "
20 mills	20.000 T.P.	(700.000 "
500 stores	150.000 T.P.	(5.250.000 "
10 hotels	30.000 T.P.	(1.050.000 "
7 Churches	50.000 T.P.	1.750.000 "
<u>Moveable property</u>	20.000 000	.700.000 000 "
Total	23.575.000	825.125.000

The long report is preserved in Bibliothèque Nubar,
 Paris, prepared in Aleppo, Syria, February 22, 1919, and signed
 by 292 Armenian survivors of Urfa.

"They (organized gangs) ^{who} carried (Armenian) women away and stripped them from their effects, jewels and clothes..."

Mehmed Ali Effendi, Superintendent of Taxes in Trebizond, by order of Jemal Azmi Bey, Governor-General...carried out military requisitions and the sack of jewelry.

"Nuri Effendi, the Police Commissioner of Trebizond...as a member of the Committee went through the houses of the Armenians and seized their jewelry. As an organizer of the deportations, he seemingly to protect the belongings and furniture in the houses evacuated by the Armenians, did not take any ~~measures~~ police measures...He did not transport the personal belongings to the designated stores, and he did not register these effects in the book, on the contrary, he lended the power of his office in the ^b subsequent robberies and losses of these possessions, and through his police men he sent only a part of stolen possessions to the Military Court.

As curfew was in effect in Trebizond, Mehmet Ali (Superintendent of Taxes at the harbour), drawing profit from the Martial Law prevailing in Trebizond, took advantage of the curfew, and delivered the stolen possessions (of Armenian deportees) to Jemal Azmi Bey, Governor-General and his accomplices, through the service of his police men and gendarmes.

Agent Mustapha, promoted by Jemal Azmi Bey, became an officer in the harbour of Trebizond as well as an official of the deportations. By order of Jemal Azmi Bey, he transported over sea the possessions confiscated from Armenians...He delivered to Jemal Azmi Bey, Governor-General, a box full of jewelry and gold coins without any list...

In accordance with a piece of information, the chest which was delivered to Jemal Azmi, contained twenty thousand (20.000) Turkish Pounds (equivalent to 700.000 dollars) in currency, in addition to precious jewelry and diamonds and other objects belonging to Armenians." 1

1. ~~See~~ ^{Journal} Takvim-i Vakayi, Turkish official Gazette, No. 3616, the sentence pronounced by the Turkish Court-Martial on May/ 22, 1919

"He (Dr. Bahaettin Shakir Bey) headed the gangs he organized and carried out surprise attacks during the forced deportation of Armenians, had murders and plundering of properties committed...

"(General) Vehib Pasha (Commander-in-chief) of the Third Army at the Caucasus front has testified as follows:

"The massacre and annihilation of Armenians and the plundering and confiscation of their possessions within the area of the jurisdiction of the Third Army (Trebizond, Erzerum, Van, Bitlis, Diarbekir, Mamuret-ul-Aziz and Sivas) have been decided by the Committee of Union and Progress.

Vehib Pasha continued his testimony:

"Dr. Bahaettin Shakir Bey has organized and headed the 'Butchers of men' (Kasap taburu) /y 'ipden kazıktan kaçmış' ^{kulturü emuş} escaped from hanging and place of execution".

1. ~~See~~ ^{Journal} Takvim-i Vakayi No 3771, sentence of the Court-Martial, delivered on January 13, 1920.

COPY.

AMERICAN CONSULATE

TREBIZONDE

July, 28, 1915.

Honorable Henry Morgenthau,
American Ambassador,
Constantinople.

Sir:

I desire to write to you confidentially in regard to the events which have taken place here recently. I realize that it is absolutely essential for this consulate to maintain good relations with the Vali (Jemal Azmi Bey) and other local officials otherwise it will not be in a position to render any service whatever it will not be interests confided to it ~~it~~ to protect. This taken in connection with our isolated position and the ^{al} generous spirit of the Turks here which is very hostile to all outside suggestion and interference in their internal affairs, and a feeling that they are now masters of the situation, makes it necessary that one should be discreet and prudent.

It seems to me however that you should be kept fully informed of what is going on here although it may not interest us directly, being an affair between the Ottoman government and its own subjects.

Official Proclamation

Our Armenian fellow countrymen, who form one of the Ottoman racial elements, having taken up with a lot of false ideas of a nature to disturb the public order, as the result of foreign instigations for many years, and because of the fact that they have brought about bloody happenings and have attempted to destroy the peace and security of the Ottoman State, of their fellow countrymen, as well as their own safety and interests, and moreover, as the Armenian societies now have dared to join themselves to the enemy of their existence, and to the enemies now at war with our state, our Government is compelled to adopt extraordinary measures and sacrifices, both for the preservation of the order and security of the country, and for the continuation of their existence and for the welfare of the Armenian societies. Therefore, as a measure to be applied until the conclusion of the war, the Armenians have to be sent away to places which have been prepared in the interior vilayets, and a literal obedience to the following orders, in a categorical manner, is accordingly enjoined upon all Ottomans:

1. With the exception of the sick, all Armenians are obliged to leave, within five days from the date of this proclamation, and by villages or quarters, under the escort of the gendarmery.

2. Although they are free to carry with them on their journey the articles of their movable property which they desire, they are forbidden to sell their landed and their extra effects, or to leave them here and there with other people. Because their exile is only temporary, their landed property, and the effects which they will be unable to take with them will be taken care under the supervision

of the Government, and stored in closed and protected buildings. Any one who sells or attempts to take care of the movable effects or landed property in a manner contrary to this order shall be sent before the Court Martial. They are only free to sell to the Government, of their own accord, those articles which may answer the needs of the army.

3. To assure their comfort during the journey, hans and suitable buildings have been prepared, and everything has been done for their safe arrival at their places of temporary residence, without their being subjected to any kind of attack or affronts.

4. The guards will use their weapons against those who make any attempts to attack or affront the life, honor, and property of one or of a number of Armenians, and such persons as are taken alive will be sent to the Court Martial and executed. This measure being the regrettable result of the Armenians having been led into error, it does not concern in any way the other races, and these other elements will in no way or manner whatsoever intervene in this question.

5. Since the Armenians are obliged to submit to this decision of the Government, if some of them attempt to use arms against the soldiers or gendarmes, arms shall be employed only against those who use force, and they shall be captured dead or alive. In like manner, those who, in opposition to the Government's decision, refrain from leaving, or hide themselves here and there, if they are sheltered or are given food and assistance, the persons who thus shelter them or aid them shall be sent before the Court Martial for execution.

6. As the Armenians are not allowed to carry any firearms or cutting weapons, they shall deliver to the authorities every sort

of arms, revolvers, daggers, bombs, etc, which they have concealed in their places of residence or elsewhere. A lot of such weapons and other things have been reported to the Government, they will be under heavy responsibility and receive severe punishment.

7. The escort of soldiers and gendarmes are required and are authorized to use their weapons against persons and to kill who shall try to attack or to damage Armenians in villages, in city quarters, or on the roads for the purpose of robbery or other injury.

8. Those who owe money to the Ottoman Bank may deposit its warehouses goods up to the amount of their \neq indebtedness, Only in case the Government should have need thereof in the future are the military authorities authorized to buy the said goods by paying the price therefor. In the case of debt to other people it is permitted to leave goods in accordance with this condition, but the Government must ascertain the genuine character of the debt, and for this purpose the certified books of the merchant form the strongest proof.

9. Large and small animals which it is impossible to carry along shall be bought in the name of the army.

10. On the road the vilayet, leva, kaza and nahieh officials shall render possible assistance to the Armenians.

13/26 June, 1915. /1331

American Consul Oscar S. Heizer, on June 28, to Ambassador
Morgenthau, Constantinople

On Saturday, June 26th, the proclamation regarding the deportation of all Armenians was posted in the streets.

On Thursday, July 1st, all the streets were guarded by gendarmes with fixed bayonets, and the work of driving the Armenians from their homes began.

Group of men, women and children with loads and bundles on their backs were collected in a short

page 2.

cross street near the Consulate

and when a hundred or so had been gathered they were driven past the consulate on the road toward Gumushhané and Erzingan in the heat and dust by gendarmes with fixed bayonets.

They were held outside the city until a group of about 2,000 were collected then sent on toward Gumushhané. Three such groups making about 6,000 were sent from ~~Trebizond and the vicinity sent later~~ here the first three days and the smaller groups from Trebizond and the vicinity sent later amounted to about 4,000 more.

The weeping and wailing of the women and children was most heartrending.

Some ~~were~~ of these people were from wealthy and refined circles. Some were accustomed to luxury and ease.

There were clergymen, merchants, bankers, lawyers, mechanics, tailors and men from every walk of life.

The Governor General (Jemal Azmi Bey) told me they were allowed to make arrangements for carriages but nobody seemed to be making any arrangements.

I know of one of wealthy merchant, however, who paid Ltq.15 (6600dollars) for a cariage to take himself and wife to Djevizlik and when he arrived at the station whgre they were being collected at Deyermendéré, about 10 minutes from the city, they were commanded by the gendarmes to leave the carriage which was sent back to the city. The whole Mohammedan population know these people were to be their prey from the beginning and they were treated as criminals.

In the first place from the date of the proclamation June 25, no Armenian was allowed to sell anything and everybody was forbidden under penalty (see the text of the proclamation) to buy anything from them.

How then were they to provide funds for the journey?

For six or eight months there has been no business whatever in Trebizond and people have been eating up their capital.

Why then should they have been prohibited from selling rugs or anything they had to sell to

page 3.

secure needed money for the journey?

Many persons who had goods which they could have sold if they had been allowed to do so were obliged to start off on foot without funds and with what they could gather up from their homes and carry on their backs.

Such persons naturally soon became so weak that they fell behind and were bayoneted and thrown into the river and their bodies floated down past Trebizond to the sea, or else lodged in the shallow river on rocks where they remained for ten or twelve days and putrefied to the disgust of the travelers who were obliged to pass that way.

I have talked with eyewitness who state there were many naked bodies to be seen on snags in the river fifteen days after the affair occurred and that the smell was something terrible.

On the 17th of July while out horseback riding with the German Consul(Dr. Bergfeld) we came across three Turks digging a grave in the sand for a naked body ~~as though it had been in the water nearby~~ which we saw in the river near by.

The corpse looked as though it had been in the river for ten days or more.

The Turks said they had just buried four more bodies further up the river.

Another Turk told us that a body had floated down the river and off into the sea a few moments before we arrived.

By July 6th (Tuesday) all the Armenian houses in Trebizond about 1000, had been emptied of inhabitants and the people sent off.

There was no inquiry as to who were guilty or who were innocent of any movement against the government. If a person was Armenian that was sufficient reason for being treated as a criminal and deported.

At first all were to go except the sick who were taken to the municipal hospital until they were well enough to go. Later an exception was made for old men and women, pregnant women, children, those in government employ and Catholic Armenians.

Finally

page 4. it was decided that the old men and women and the Catholics must go and they were sent along towards the last.

A number of lighters have been loaded with people at different

times and sent off towards Samsoun. It is generally believed that such persons were drowned. During the early days before the deportation commenced a large caique or lighter was loaded with men supposed to be members of the Armenian committee and sent off towards Samsoun.

Two days later a certain Vartan, a Russian subject and one of those who left in the boat, returned overland to Trebizond badly wounded about the head and so crazy he could not make himself understand. All he could say was "boom, boom".

He was arrested by the authorities and taken to the ~~mosh~~ ~~pitak~~ municipal hospital where he died the following day.

A Turk said this boat was met not far from Trebizond by another boat containing gendarme who proceeded to ~~mk~~ kill all the men and throw them overboard. They thought they had killed them all but this Vartan who was a big powerful man was only wounded and swam ashore unnoticed.

A number of such caiques have left Trebizond loaded with men and usually the caiques return empty after ^{a/}few hours.

Tots, a villag^e about two hours from Trebizond is inhabited by Gregorian and Catholic Armenians, and Turks. Boghos Marimian a wealthy and influential Armenian together with his two sons, according to a reliable witness, were placed one behind the other and shot through.

Forty-five men and women were taken a short distance from the village into a valley. The women were first outraged by the officers of the gendarmerie and then turned over to the gendarmes to dispose of.

According to this witness a child was killed by beating its brain out on a rock. The men were all killed and not a single person survived from this group of 45.

It is believed that Apik Missir, the drogman of the French Consulate and an Agent of the Paquet S/S Co. at Trebizond together with his mother and relations who were spending the summer at Tots were included in the above group. Mr. Missir was married in Paris about two years ago and his wife and sister are now in Russia.

The plan to save the children by placing them in schools or orphanages in Trebizond under the care of a committee organized and supported by the Greek Archbishop of which the Vali was President and the Archbishop Vice President with three Mohammedans and three Christian members has been abandoned and the girls are now being given exclusively to Mohammedan families and thus scattered.

† The suppression of the orphanages and the scattering of the children was a great disappointment to this Consulate and ~~to~~ to the Greek Archbishop who had worked hard for the plan and secured the support of the Vali, but Nail Bey the head of the Committee of Union and Progress who was opposed to the plan succeeded in thwarting it very quickly.

Many of the boys appear to have been sent to Platana to be distributed among the farmers. The best looking of the older girls who were retained as care takers in these orphanages are kept in houses for the pleasure of members of the gang which seems to rule affairs here.

I hear on good authority that a member of the Comm. Union and Progress here has ten of the handsomest girls in a house in the central part of the city for the use of himself and friends.

Some of the small girls have been taken into respectable Mohammedan houses. Several of the former pupils at the American Mission are now in Mohammedan homes near the Mission and have been visited by Mrs. Crawford but of course the majority of them are not so fortunate.

The thousand Armenian houses are being emptied of furniture by the police one after the other. The furniture, bedding and everything of value is being stored in large buildings about the city. There is no attempt at classification and the idea of keeping the property in "bales under the protection of the government to be returned to the owners on their return" is simply r i d i c u l o u s.

The goods are piled in without any attempt at labelling or systematic storage. A crowd of Turkish women and children follow the police about like a lot of vultures and seize anything they can lay their hands on and when the more valuable things are carried ~~of~~ out of a house by the police they rush in and take the balance.

I see this performance every day with my own eyes.

I suppose it will take several weeks to empty all the houses and then the Armenian shops and stores will be cleared out.

The commission which has this matter in hand is now talking of selling this great collection of household goods and property

in order to pay the debts of the Armenians. The German Consul told me that he did not believe the Armenians would be permitted to return to Trebizond even after the end of the war.

Large herds of cattle which have no doubt been collected in the villages from the Armenians for the army have been driven through Trebizond by soldiers.

Armenians with Russian, Persian and Bulgarian passports have all been sent away regardless of the representations made on their behalf. The Arabians who claimed British protection were also deported. John Arabian the drogman of the British Consulate here was sent with what he could carry in his hands.

If the soldiers could not find food on the Erzeroum road, and many are reported to have died of starvation, how could from 6,000 to 10,000 Armenians who were looked upon by the Mohammedans as their legitimate prey expect to secure food?

I have just been talking with a young man who has been performing his military service on the "inshaat tabouri" (construction regiment) working on the roads out towards Gumushhané. He told me that fifteen days ago all the Armenians, about 180, were separated from the ~~rest~~ other workmen and marched off some distance from the camp and s h o t. He heard the report of the rifles and later was one of the number sent to bury the bodies which he stated were all naked having been stripped of clothing.

A number of bodies of women and children have lately been thrown up by the sea upon the sandy beach below the walls of the Italian Monastery here in Trebizond and were buried by Greek women in the sand where they were found.

Oscar S. Heizer, the American Consul at Trebizond as well as the German Consul Dr. Bergfeld, could report to their respective Embassies or Governments, in 1915, only the information they could get, while in 1919, the Turkish Court Martial, searching evidence through a great number of official documents and testimonies, sentenced to death Jemal Azmi Bey, Governor General of the province of Trebizond and Nail Bey, the Executive Secretary of the Union and Progress Party of Young Turks in power.

The following is a quotation from the judgement of the Turkish Court Martial: "Apparently they 1) had supposedly to deport (Armenians), but following secret orders 2), they had, in order to slaughter and annihilate the Armenians, organized gangs composed of a certain category of evil and scoundrel persons and many times recidivist criminals 3) who were sent with the caravans of Armenian

1) "They"; i.e. Jemal Azmi Bey, Governor General of Trebizond, and Nail Bey, Executive Secretary (in Trebizond) of the Union and Progress Party of Young Turks in power. ✓

2) One of the secret orders read as follows: "...Transport them (Armenians) to the provinces of Mosul and Bagdad, and annihilate them en route or elsewhere", Article 1st of a project prepared in 1914.

3) Marshal Vehip Pasha, the Commander of the Third Ottoman Army on the front of Caucasus, in a report quoted by the Turkish Court Martial, characterized these criminals as the butchers of men "escaped from rope and impalement" (i p t e n ^{ve} k a z i k t a n k a m i s).

kulturnel müş

deportees accompanied by gendarmes who, seemingly to protect the caravans of deportation, were the accomplices of those criminals, helping them to carry out their business of annihilation...

"After deliberations, the Court concluded that, to Kemal and Nail will be applied the provisions of the Article 45...

"In accordance with the provisions of this Article, Kemal Azmi and Nail are sentenced to death...and their property shall be seized"...4)

4) This sentence was delivered on May 22, 1919 by the Turkish Court Martial and published in the Turkish Official Gazette "Takvim-i Vakiye", No.3616.

Certainly the American Consul could not have this evidence while preparing his reports sent to the Embassy at Constantinople.

Sevkiyat hakkındaki kanun ber-veçhi âtidir.

Madde 1

Vakti seferde ordu ve kolordu ve fırka kumandanları ve bunların vekilleri ve müstakil mevki kumandanları ahali tarafından herhangi bir suretle evamiri hükûmete ve müdafaa-i memlekete ve muafaza-i asayişe müteallik icraat ve tertibata karşı muhalefet ve silâhla askarî tecavüz ve mukavemet görürlerse derakap kuvayı askeriye ile şiddetli surette tedibat yapmağa ve tecavüz ve mukavemeti esasından imha etmeğe mezun ve mecburdur.

Madde 2

Ordu ve müstakil kolordu ve fırka kumandanları icabatı askeriye mebni veya casusluk ve hinayetlerini hissettikleri kura ve kasabat ahalisini münferiden veya müctemian diğer mahallere sevk ve iskân ettirebilirler.

Madde 3

İşbu kanun tarihi neşrinden muteberdir.

İşbu kanunun murayat ahkamına Baş-

Madde 4. Kumandan vekili ve Harbiye Nazırı memurdur.

Meclis Umuminin içtimayında kanuniyeti tekellif olunmak üzere işbu lahiha kanuniyenin nevkutan muvahhat murayat ve zimni ve kuvveyin devleti ilavesine irade eyledim.

13 Recep 1333, 14 Mayıs 1331.

Mehmet Reşat

Başkumandan vekili ve Harbiye Nazırı: Enver,

Sadrizam: Mehmet Sait.

Takvim-1 Vakayı, numara 2189, 18 Recep 1333, 19 Mayıs 1331,

Sali, sahife: 1, column 1, 2.

Excerpts from National Archives

Washington D.C.

867/4016/187

August 7, 1915, Miss Mary L. Graffam from Malatia
to Mr. Henry Morgentau, Constantinople.

p.1 ...The gendarmes would go ahead and have conversations with the villagers and then stand back and let them rob and trouble the people until we all began to scream, and then they would come and drive them away. Yorgans and rugs and all such things disappeared by the dozens

page 2. and donkeys were sure to be lost. Many had brought cows, but from the first day these were carried off one by one until not a single one remained. It is needless to say that we get accustomed to being robbed...

page 3. ...the Müdür (Sherif of the village), a regular scamp came around with gendarmes and began to collect the men saying that ~~it was not~~ Kaimakam wanted to write their names and that they would be back soon, but the night passed and only one man came back from those who were taken, to tell us the story of how every man was compelled to give up all his money and were taken to prison. The next morning they collected the man who had escaped the night before and retorted forty five liras (1575 dollars) from our company on the promise that they would give us gendarmes to protect us. One company was supposed to be from one thousand to three thousand persons. Ours was perhaps two thousand and the greatest number of gendarmes would be five or six. In addition to these they sewed a red rag on the arm of a Kurdish villegger and gave him a gun and he had the right to rob

and bully us all he pleased, when we complained they would explaine that other villagers could sew red rags on their arms and come ad and do what they pleased.

page 4. ...As soon as the men left us the Turkish Arabajis (coachman) began to rob the women saying "you are all going to be thrown in to the Tokma Su (a river), so you might/as well your things to us and then we will stay by you and try to protect you". Every Turkish woman that we met said the same thing.

...These robbing murdering Kurds are certainly the best looking men I have seen in this country. They steal your goods but not everything. They do not take your bread or your stick.

page 6. ... I came here and went at once to the commander a captain who they say has made a fortune out of these exiles.

page 8. ...The great style having given enormous bribes in Mezereh for safe conduct to Ourfa. One family had thirty-two donkey loads, of goods. When they arrived here the women were put into the Khan and the men into prison, some say in the school building. The men were taken from here secretly by the night and the women were robbed of their money and started on the read.

X 867/4016/269.

Consul Leslie A. Davis, American Consulate

Mamouret-Ul-Aziz (Harpout), June 30, 1915

To Henry Morgentau, American Ambassador, Constantinople.

page 4. It is quite probable that many of them will be robbed

and murdered en route as the roads are now filled with bands of pillaging Kurds.

page 5. ... Money has been sent here for different onces but no one of them has ever appeared to claim it. (From Erserum to Harput).

page 7. Robbery and looting were never undertaken in a more wholesale manner. Turkish men and Turkish women are entering the houses of all the Armenians and taking things at almost any price. As nearly half the population are leaving they have to take what they can get. This is rarely more than five or ten per cent of the value. All the furniture in a house costing originally one or two hundred pounds, will be sold for ten or fifteen pounds. Rugs that cost five or ten pounds are sold for ~~fr~~ fifty or seventy piastres. The people are glad to get anything at all for their merchandise or effects. The streets are full of hamals (porter) carrying of the loot and of rich Turks and Turkish women dressed in their finest gowns, who are making a holiday of the occasion. The scene reminds one of a lot of hungry vultures hovering over the remains of those who have fallen by the way. A more disgusting sight than

page 8. which is taking place here now can scarcely be imagined.

....The Vali said there was no objection to our buying things from them or having them leave their money in our care. The Kaimakam has interfered in carrying out this purpose....

During the last three days crowds of people have visited the Consulate and the American Mission for help of some kind. Many have wanted financial assistance, while others have wanted to leave things in our care. They have brought money, documents,

jewelry, furniture, and many other things. I have taken documents and some money, while the missionaries have taken much more than I have. Some have left money to be paid in any case to relatives in America, but most have left it on condition that if nothing is heard from them in four or six months it is then to be sent to their relatives.

page 9.

I have never seen a more pathetic or tragic scene. All feel that they are going to certain death and they certainly have good reason to feel that way. Their confidence in the American missionaries and in the Consulate is touching. Some of them don't even want to count the money they are leaving. They hand over the savings of a life-time with the simple request that if they are not heard from after a few months to send their money if possible to their relatives.

XI All real state belonging to Armenians will be confiscated by the Government. Many people will be unable to dispose of their personal property and will probably walk out leaving their huoses and stores with all their contents. Those who have made fortunes will lose everything. Some will, of course, take a moderate amount of money with them, but all, fear being robbed and a ~~few~~ very few will dare take much money with them. For those who are feeble and have no money at all, it (is) a question what will become of them. The Government has offered to furnish donkeys for them, but charges an enormous price per day for every donkey. A man who starts out with only one or two liras will find after a few days that all his money is gone and will be absolutely stranded.

The effect industryially and commercially of the expulsion of

the Armenians from this region is going to be throw it back in the middle ages. It is officially stated that ninety per cent of the trade and of the business carried on through the banks is that of Armenians. Business of all kind will now be destroyed beyond the possibility of its being retored. In some trades there will be no mechanics or workmen at all. It is difficult to understand how those Turks who have had any taste of

page 10. civilisation at all will be able to ~~enjoy~~ live unless exceptions are made and there does not seem to be any indication of that. There will be no banks, no Christian schools, no Christian churches. With one stroke the country is set back two three hundred years. The same will be true of Diarbekir and of all other parts of this consular district.

.... With the destruction of all business and the departure of the Missionaries, there will be no object in maintaining a consulate either here or at Diarbekir or in any other part of this region.

X 867/4016/127

American Consulate, Mamouret-ul-Aziz (Harput),

June (July 11, 1915.)

Consul Leslie A. Davis to Henry Morguertau, American Ambassador
Constantinople.

page 2. To watch them (Armenians) one could hardly believe that these people were human beings.

page 3. When they left Erzeroum they had money, horses and personal effects but they had been robbed of everything, including

even their clothing. They said some of them had been left absolutely naked and others with only a single garment. When they reached a village their gendarmes obtained clothes for them from some of the native women.

page 4.

The system that is being followed seems to be to have bands of Kurds awaiting them on the road to kill the men especially and incidentally some of the others. The entire movement seems to be the most thoroughly organized and effective massacre this country has never seen.

page 5.

No distinction has been made between those who had paid their military exemption tax and those who had not. Their money was accepted and then they were arrested and sent off with the others.

...During all this time they were without food or water. All their money and much of their clothing had been taken from them.....

page 10.

....My attention has just been called to the fact that the post-office at Mamouret-ul-Aziz has refused to pay money to the Americans that has been sent them from Erzeroum and Erzinjan for the exiles who have come here. It is probable that the Government will confiscate this money. I do not know whether the Embassy would care to take any measures about this or not. The money is addressed to the Americans, but it is intended for the Armenian exiles.

Consul Leslie A. Davis to Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Harput

July 24, 1915.

page 1.Any doubt that may have been expressed in reports as to the Government's intention in sending away the Armenians have been removed and any hope that may have been expressed as to the possibility of some of them ~~them~~ surviving has been destroyed.

It has been no secret that the plan was to destroy the Armenian race as a race, but the method used have been more cold-blooded and barbarous, if not more effective, than I had at first supposed.

It was apparent that very few would ever survive the journey from here to Ourfa or to any other place at this season of the year. As a ^{m.} matter of fact, it has been quite unnecessary to consider the difficulties of such a journey. It seems to be fully established now that practically all who have been sent away from here have been deliberately shot or otherwise killed within one or two days after their departure. This ~~is~~ work has not at all been done by bands of Kurds but has for the most part been that of the gendarmes 1) who accompanied the people from here or of companies of armed "tchetes" (convicts) who have been released from prisons for the purpose of murdering the Armenian exiles.

page 2.

.....I do not believe there has been a massacre in the history of the world so general and thorough as that which is now being perpetrated in this region or that a more fiendish, diabolical scheme has ever been conceived by the mind of man.

1. They were not gendarmes, but condemned criminals, released from prisons by order of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of the Justice, and disguised especially in gendarme uniform to kill and plunder the Armenian deportees.

That the order is officially and nominally to exile the Armenians from these Vilayets may mislead the outside world for a time, ^{u/}but the measure is nothing but a massacre of the most atrocious nature. It would be that even if all the people had been allowed to perish on the road. As the greater part of them, however, have been actuaaly murdered and as there is no doubt that this was done by order of the Government, there can be no pretence that the measure is anything else but a geeneral massacre.

page 3.

Orders were given that all arms of everykind must be surrendered to the authorities. People were tortured until they confessed that they had a gun or revolver or something when they actually had none at all. Then they ^would pay some Turk a fabulous price for some ^{a/}king kind of/weapon which they might surrender to the police. Liberal promises were made that if everybody would surrender their weapons there would be no further troubl.

page 5.

Then, practically all the Armenian men had been gotten out of the way and every weapon surrendered or found by the police, it was announ~~ce~~ced that all Armenians must be deported. Effective resistance to such an order was impossible. The whole scheme was planned so cleverly that the police and gendarmes were able to carry out with no risk at all to themselves....

X An incident that has proved the fate of those who have left is the death of the bishop or Archbishop. I believe, Msgr. Israelian, of the local Armenian Catholic Church.... July 14th... ~~They came back~~ Their wagons were turned and came back for about half an hour....

page 6-7 The shooting and killing of people a few hours after their departure from here is barbarous and shown that the real intention of the Government is not to exiye them but to kill them.
page 8.

...The whole country is one vast charnel house, or, more correctly speaking, slaughterhouse.

...When one sees men and women seventy and even eighty years old, lame, blind and sick, innocent women and children and helpless babies sent away to be killed or die and actually sees them dead and dying all around, it is impossible to conceive of any justification that can be urged for a measure so severe.

Yet the local authorities are now trying to find some way of justifying what they have done. The Chief of Police called on me on July 16th and requested me to write the Embassy about the shooting of two or three gendarmes in a neighboring village by some Armenians.....

^ 867/4016/225.

Consul J.G. Jackson, Aleppo, Syria, to Secretary of State, on October 16, 1915. On the first June 3000 people, mostly women, girls, and children, left Harpoot, accompanied by 70 police-men and A certain Turk of influence, name Faike Bey. The next day they arrived at Hankeuy, safely. Here Faike Bey took 400 livres (14,000 dollars) from the people, in order to keep it safely, till they arrive at Malatia and promised to accompany them, for their protection up to Ourfa, but that same day he ran away with all the money.....

X The 9th day they came to Izoli where the horses, hired and entirely paid for the journey up to Malatia, were taken and sent

back. So they had again to hire ox-carts to carry them to Malatia. Here many left without any beast of burden, only a few being able to buy donkeys and mules which also in turns were stolen. ...

The 13th day the caravan was in Malatia, but for one hour, for they returned to the village of Chutlug (Chiftlig), two hours from Malatia. Here the policemen deserted them altogether, after tolling ~~them~~ from them 200 liras (7.000 dollars), for the protection they had given them, that far. ...

On the 15th day...another caravan of exiles, only 300 of which were men, from Sivas, Egin, Tokat joined ~~them~~ that from Harpoot, thus making a bigger caravan, 18.000, all counted...

On the 40th day the caravan saw the river Mourad, a branch of the Euphrates. Here were seen the bodies of more than 200 men, floating in the river, and traces of blood and blood stained fezes (hat) clothings and stockings on the banks.

The chief of the village, near by, tolled one lira from each man, as a ransom for not being thrown into the river.

On the 52nd day they arrived at another village, here the Kurds took from them every thing they had, even their shirts and drawers and for five days the whole caravan walked all paked under the scorching sun. For another five days they did not have a morsel of bread, neither a drop of water. They were scorched to death by thirst. Hundreds over hundreds fell dead on the way, their tongues were turned to charcoal and when at the end, of the fifth day they reached a fountain, the whole caravan, naturally, rushed to it, but the policemen stood in front of them and forbade them to take even a ~~single~~ drop of water, for they wanted to sell the water, from one to three

liras the cup (35 to 165 dollars the cup), and sometimes even giving the water, after getting the money.....

They had found some ways to keep the little money they had. Some kept it in their hair, some in their mouths and some in their wombs. And when the robbers attacked them, some were clever enough to search for money in those secret places and that in a very beastly manner, of course.....

On the 70th day, when they reached Haleb (Aleppo), 35 women and children were ~~x~~ remaining from the 3000 exiles of Harpoot, 150 women and children from the whole caravan of 18,000.

X 867/4016/269 N. A.

Consul Lezslie A. Davis, Mamouret-ul-Aziz, on December 30, 1915, to Henry Morgenthau, American Ambassador at Constantinople:
page 2.

No one knows ~~whet~~^hether the few who have escaped thus far will be spared in the end or whether those who are perpetrating this crime, the most awful, probably, that has ever been committed ~~##~~ against any race of people, will continue until the last Armenian in the country has been killed.

...A few did succeed in coming back without having been given permission by the authorities. The way in which they did it was by paying Kurds large sums of money, often fifty or hundred Turkish liras, to bring them here at night....

page 3.

One of the most remarkable incidents in the terrible tragedy that is being enacted has been the sale by the Government at public auction of great quantities of second-hand clothing that

them but apparently all those from the villages were massacred.
page 7.

The term of "Slaughterhouse Vilayet" which I applied to this Vilayet in ~~my~~ last report, ~~men, women and children, were massacred~~ upon this subject (that of September 7th) has been fully justified by what I have learned and actually seen since that time. It appears that all those in the parties mentioned on page 15 of that report, men, women and children, were massacred about five hours distance from here. ...

It is somewhat difficult to understand the plan by which people were brought all the way here from Trebizond, Ordou, Kharassou (Kerasunde), Zara, Erzeroum and Erzinjan, only to be butchered in this vilayet. During the second week of September several hundred Armenians who had taken grain to Mush for the Government returned here with their ox-carts. Nearly all of them were then put in prison and a few days later were sent out and killed.

page 8.

...A striking feature of the present situation in this vicinity is the large number of immigrants who have arrived from the direction of Van, Mush and Bitlis. Many of the Armenians' villages that were entirely depopulated during the summer are now filled with these Moslem immigrants. It is ~~thought~~ by some that one reason for destroying the Armenians was to make room for them. At any rate, there seem to be enough of them to fill the ~~of~~ vacant places. As they appear to be a very poor class of people, it remains to be seen what the effect will be industrially of this change in the population of this region.

Of nearly a hundred thousand Armenians who were in this Vilayet a year ago, there are probably not more than four thousand left.

~~page 9/x10x~~

86700/803

American Consulate, Port Jefferson, New York,

October 19, 1917,

Consul Leslie A. Davis to the Secretary of State:

page 4.

...Economic conditions in Turkey, and especially in the interior of Asia Minor, are decidedly bad. The principal

page 5.

industry

there is agriculture and as much it had formerly been carried on by Armenians, nearly all of whom were killed or deported, including even the women who did much of the work in the fields, there were few persons left to cultivate the lands. Then, as most of the Moslem men were taken for military service, that left the country with hardly any farming population.

The result is that most of the lands are abandoned and the agricultural products are wholly insufficient for the needs of the people. The supply of wheat in the spring of this year was so limited that oftentimes no flour or bread could be found in the market and the masses of the population, both Mohammedan and Christian, were literally starving. Barley was likewise almost unobtainable. Meat was so scarce that none except the high officials and the very rich could have it at all and much of the time they could find none.

X Trade and commerce of every kind has been at stanstill, of

course, since the beginning of the war. Nearly all the merchants and business men in the Harput consular district were Armenians. More than ninety per cent of the deposits in the banks in Harput were those of Armenians. It naturally follows that in exterminating the Armenians the Turks practically destroyed all the business of the country, and, as they are not business men themselves, there is not much opportunity for it to be revived in the near future.

What is true of the Harput consular district is probably true to a large extent in many other parts of Turkey....

867.4016/807, N. A. and Treatment..b pp 271-277

...The Gendarme Commissary Hussein Effendi and the other Turks with him beat us and forced us under threat of death to give them all our money and ornaments. They said that, if we did not give them up, they would violate us and exile us to different places. We were afraid, and gave them everything we had. Then they gave us back from five piastres (10 d.) to one mejidia (3 s. 2 d.) each, at the same time stating that our money and everything else would be returned to us at Diarbekir, and that they had only taken our jewelry and money for safety.

The ninth day, they took us to the top of a mountain, and same Effendi and the other gendarmes searched us all over in a shameful manner; they took all-stuffs and everything else of value in our clothes and bedding. Half-an-hour later we reached a Kurdish village. There...

(Near Diarbekir) the gendarmes that were with us took away all our cows and cattle...

867/4016/148

Consul J.B. Jackson, Aleppo, Syria, to Henry Morgenthau, Ambassador, Constantinople, August 19, 1915.

page 1.

The Armenian community of Aintab is the wealthiest of the kind in this part of the Empire, offering a splendid opportunity for pillage. Their household belongings were left behind to be taken by the first plunderer to arrive. Most of the merchants of the city being Armenians, their stocks are likewise disappearing. It is a gigantic plundering scheme as well as a final blow to extinguish the race, this notwithstanding the

page 2.

existence of a Commission appointed by the Government to safeguard the interests of the Armenians....

On the 17th instant an order arrived from the Minister of the Interior to permit the Armenian Protestants to remain where they were, but on the 18 another order came that all Armenians without distinction should be deported.

867/4016/227

Consular Agent Charles E. Allen, Andrianople, October 23, 1915, to American Consul General, Constantinople:

.....page 2.....the requisitioning of every thing requisitionable, regardless of its suitability for the munitioning of the army, again took its principal toll from the non-musulman population... ~~in~~ this last law (Provisional Law of Abandoned Goods) anticipates the removing of these stricken people from the nothing which they now possess, and the sending of them to wander in some strange country, without money, without food, without anything, the old men and boys ^{beaten/} and the women and girls violated by the Gendarmerie.

page 3.

I am in a position to state that this pillaging has extended to the Greek population throughout the border district and that many of them have been driven from their homes and Musulmans installed in their places.

867/4016/95

Committee of Dashnaktzoutioun , Section of Balkans,
Sofia, 25 June 1915, to Henry Morgenthau, American Ambassador.

page 2.

We do not speak here of the horrible exactions, violent acts, arbitrary arrests and brutal rapes which have been committed in the villages of the vilayets of Erzeroum, Butlis, Sivas, Van, Diarbekir, Cilicia, and the details of which have been officially communicated to the Sublime Porte as well as to the German Embassy at Constantinople.

page 3.

X
Armenian conscripts make their military service not as soldiers but as simple workmen, for the construction of roads, for all sorts of ^{corvees} ~~services~~, and especially in the vilayets of Armenia, as dray animals. Men and women are compelled to transport on their back military materials as far as the frontier, having thus to make a trip of 10 to 12 days, and those who have the good fortune of ever returning safe and sound are only 20/25%. ...

page 6.

To deliver themselves from these torments, the peasants are obliged to sell the only cow they possess, and often their food, and with the money thus received they buy arms from their

Circassian neighbours and deliver them to the Government. They protest in vain against the Government giving the names of the Circassians from whom they bought their arms.

page 7.

In our province there are 3,000 policemen who are ruffians rather than agents of public safety. The Armenians have undergone during the incidents of Tamar losses rising to Ltq. 10,000.

page 8.

X The perquisitions go on with an unheard of brutality. More than 900 Mouhadjirs (Moslem refugees) have been sent to Zeitoun to take the place of the deported Armenians.

Sofia, June 15, 1915.

page 2.

X The Government...has began again its perquisitions and its brutal persecutions. Houses in all the Armenian villages have been made to be burned.

Sofia, June 29, 1915.

page 1.

The vilages that have been abandoned have either been pillaged or occupied by Turkish immigrants, who are free to commit all sorts of brutalities. While en route, these unfortunate men who have been driven out of their homes, are once more robbed of all that they have on them by the bands organized by the Union and Progress.

page 2.

X The vilages that have been evacuated are pillaged by order of the military commander.

page 3. 160 merchants are already en route with their families.

The government has confiscated their goods en account of debts.

page 3. (signed: E. Briquet.) No 5, despatch No 370.

As soon as the Armenian refugees left their houses, mouhadjirs (Moslem refugees) from Thrace (refugees) took possession of them. The former had been forbidden to take anything with them, and they themselves saw all their goods pass in their hands. There must be about 20-25,000 Turks in Zeitoun now,.....

Sofia, July 7, 1915. Balkan Section to Ambassador H. Morgenthau:

page 3.

Erzinjan, May 25th. (Extract from an official). The Government has taken from the Armenians, under the pretext of requisitions, ten times more than what it has taken from Turks. It has seized all it could find in our stores, even things had nothing to do with the needs of the Army. After having emptied the stores and the safes, they started to search the houses in most revolting conditions. They have even searched the personal effects of women to look for bombs and arms. These searches were always followed by arrests and tortures.

pages 3-4.

At Metni (village), Suleyman Effendi, Captain of gendarmerie, accompanied by 20 gendarmes, has asked the villagers to pay him immediately 100 pounds Turkish. After having settled that affair, he has ordered to serve him chicken, 2-3 sheep, liquor as well as music band... This is a village that annually contributed more than 2,000 pounds (70,000 dollars) as taxes to the Treasury....

The same atrocities have been committed in all other Armenian

villages. At Meghouadjik, the same Suleyman, with the help of 40 gendarmes and the cruel sub-governor Adil Bey, after having exacted a sum of a hundred pounds and some arms, has forced the peasants to buy arms from their Turkish neighbours and give them to him as things though they belonged to them...

At Ergan, they have not only exacted an important sum of money, but have taken watches, ear-rings, rings etc. belonging to the women.

X 867/4016/103

Trebizond, American Consul Oscar S. Heizer, to Henry Morgenthau, July 7, 1915.

page 2. Dr. and Mrs Crawford received about 300 children into their school from parents who were being sent a way. Some of these children were very small and there were a few babies.

In some cases the parents left money or jewelry to cover the expenses of the children, or for safe keeping. Of course this was all contrary to the proclamation ~~in~~ which had been posted by the government.

The Governor General (Azmi Bey) sent words to Dr. Crawford that he would be required to give up the children as the authorities were prepared to take care of them but nevertheless left the children a few days until arrangements could be made for them then sent and took them all away. The authorities also called upon to turn over all money and articles of any kind deposited by Armenians in contravention to the proclamation.

X 867/4016/210, Consul Oscar S. Heizer to Ambassador Morgenthau, 25 Sept. 1915. The Public Debt Inspector Mr. Beylikdjian, was arrested on August 13, 1915. He secured a vesika (safe-conduct)

from thi Vali Jemal Azmi Bey, paid Ltq. 100 (3,500 dollars) in advance for a motorboat to Constantinople. He, his wiwe and son of 12 years of age, were killed and thrown into the sea.

867/4016/159

October 4, 1915, Morguenthau to Secretary of State:

Several hundred thousand Armenians have already been destroyed or so placed that their destruction is inevitable. Armenian quarters of towns and villages where they lived have been entirely evacuated.

Much of the Armenian property has been absorbed by officials or their Turkish neighbors and the Government sequestrating the remainder. The injustice, grief, poverty, starvation, resulting therefrom are terrible.

The greatest wealth of the Armenians is centered in Constantinople and I fear that it is but a question of time when the cupidity of some of the Turkish leaders and the desire of others to complete their nefarious scheme of practically destroying Armenians in Turkey will to treat Constantinople Armenians as they have the others....

I shall not relax my efforts to help to avoid this calamity always remembering to do nothing that will jeopardize American niterests which until now have been safeguarded.

867/4016/259.

American Consular Service in Samsoun, Turkey, Decemebr 4, 1915,
to Ambassador H Morguenthau. (Text in French)

Several Armenians deposited with me, before their departure money and jewelry etc. and I received from time to time requests

by telegraph for money from the deported or their families from Hama, Kangal, etc.

The Turks know of course nothing of these deposits, but they must suspect it from these telegrams, which must make them furious.

Far be it from me to interfere in the internal affairs of Turkey, but in these circumstances- based simply upon robbery and assassination- one must save whatever can be saved.

867/4016/106.

American teacher at College of Marsovan, July 1915, to Ambassador H Morgenthau.

page 1.

In many cases the last ~~last~~ bit of money was given to fit out the departing soldier leaving the family in a pitifully destitute condition. A number of Armenians were quite well off and paid their military exemption fee. A much larger number escaped in one way and another so there were more Armenians than Turks left in the city after the soldiers had gone. This made the government suspicious and fearful....

page 2.

On Saturday June 26th at about 1 A.M....Armenian men...were imprisoned...sent on foot, and many were robbed of shoes and other articles of clothing. Some were in chains....

Through the intervention of a Turk, the College was able to free those of its teachers already taken, and obtain a stay of proceedings against all of its teachers and employees, by the payment of the sum of Two hundred and Seventy-five Turkish Liras.

Later this same Turk said that he believed that he could obtain

the permanent exemption of the entire College group by the payment of ~~the~~ a further sum of Three Hundred Liras. The money was promised but after some negotiations which showed that no definite assurance of exemption would be forthcoming, the matter was dropped....

page 3.

On the 3d ~~and~~ or 4th of July the order was issued that the women and children should be ready to leave on the following Wednesday. The people were informed that one ox-cart was to be provided by the Government for each house, and that they could carry only one day's food supply, a few piastres, and a small bundle of clothing. The people made preparation for carrying out these orders by selling whatever ~~household articles less than 10% of their usual value~~ possession they could in the streets. Articles were sold at less than 10% of their usual value, and Turks from the neighboring villages filled the streets, hunting for bargain. In some cases these Turks took articles by force, but the Government pursued all cases when detected.

page 4.

They wished (Armenian women) the College to accept the gift of these household articles "lest these too should fall into the hands of our oppressors". Some jewels were taken on deposit by the College, but most articles were refused. In many cases the owners simply dropped them at various places on the College premises. Many bundles of clothing and other articles were thrown over the walls into the College Compound.

When it became ^{known/}that the College was buying some articles hundreds of Armenians came with goods for sale. This aroused angry feelings among some of the Turks, who felt that thus a great deal

24 p.5.

of the booty was slipping through their fingers. Other Turks said "~~that~~ "What's the difference. We'll get the College next." Following this, the Government sent up an order that we must stop receiving such articles, whereupon the gates were ~~x~~ closed.

pp. 5-6

It was feared that the women and children were taken some distance from the city, and left to the mercy of these men (criminals released from prison). However that may be, there are provable cases of kidnapping of attractive young girls by the Turkish officials of Marsovan. One Moslem reported that a gendarme had offered to sell him two girls for a medjidieh (7 dollars).

page 7.

Those who do survive the hardships of the exile will be absolute paupers, as they were obliged to leave them all of their possessions. At least a dozen of these men were the owners of properties at over Twenty-five Thousand Turkish Liras (875,000 dollars).

/Dr. White's letter/.

867/4016/292. page 2.

Dr. J.K. Marden, from American Board of Missions

Our situation is in Marsovan in the province of Sivas about sixty miles north of Samsoun. The American Board of Foreign Missions has a college and a girls' school and a hospital valued at some Dollars 250,000. The college had 4000 boys and the girls' school 250 girls and the hospital averaged about 70 to 80 patients.

page 4.

In the town of Marsovan, from 13,000 Armenians, over 11,500 were deported and about 1,500 accepted Mahomedanism as an alterna-

Or the 10th of May, 1916, our compound was surrounded by gendarmes and the Governor and his staff came up and informed us that the property was to be requisitioned and that the Armenians were immediately to leave, the excuse being that an order had come from the general commanding the ²first army corps to this effect....

Many buildings were immediately sealed; the safe was taken over, but as a special courtesy and in view of the fact that we had children in our circle and that it was necessary to prepare for such a long journey overland, we were allowed ~~morning~~ to wait until next day in our houses. The following morning officials went up to make an inventory of our possessions, but it was done in very hasty manner and was very incomplete....

Our houses were left open and

page 5.

we were compelled to deliver the keys to the Kommandant...The hospital was taken over by the military doctors and they said the whole compound was to be used for hospital purposes....

After 8 days of travel, our American group reached Constantinople. Our Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Philip, telegraphed to the State Department, giving not only the facts with reference to Marsovan, but Sivas and Caesaren, which missions had received quite similar treatment...

page 6.

According to the best information we could get in Constantinople 600.000 or 800.000 Armenians have been deported from their homes and have died either directly or indirectly from this deportation.

Their property has been taken over by the Government, but has

been so plundered by gendarmes and local officials that little remains after the claims brought against these people by the Mohammedans. The Governor and the Gendarme-Kommandant of Marcevan made some Liras ~~8.000~~ 8.000 or 10.000 (350.000 dollars) a piece from the bribes they received from the Armenians who were obliged to give this amount to be saved from the deportation and become Mahommedans.

The Governor (Muammer Bey) of the province came to our region a few days before the deportation and to ^{a/}group of Mahommedans he said: "You have no hesitation about killing a chicken; can you have any hesitation about killing these people, - the enemies of your country. They do not deserve the consideration that a chicken does".

867/4016/220

of Samsoun/
Consular Agent W. Peter/to Ambassador H Morguenthau,

August 26, 1915.

page 3. I told them...that two families at least have to remain to survey the whole since more than Ltq. 75.000 are invested in those institutions.

Referring to my telegram of the 12th instant, I beg to report that Enver Pasha telegraphed the same thing to Emin Bey in Merzifoun (this is strictly confidential) asking him to follow the matter and to give him information immediately. Emin Bey got information from the College and took

page 4. from three Armenians who were still there, and who had given their share to the Ltq. 275, the following receipts:

Mihran Daderian	Ltq. 15
Boghos Piranian	5
Missak Ispirian	5

The other Armenians who had given money, namely Prof. Mannisadjian, Profs. Dahlian, Hisarlian, Hagopian, MM. Mirakian, Ketchoyan, Nerse, Gurekian, were no longer there and had all been sent to the Interior.

Emin Bey took receipts from other persons and telegraphed accordingly to Constantinople. As ~~the~~ the Ltq, 275 were paid by the Armenians I telegraphed to ask you to wait for my letter of this day, because in my report of the 12th instant I had written that the Americans had advanced that money, and that was a mistake.

867/4016/252.

Report of Miss Francis^e C. Gage, covering August 10 to September 6, 1915, from the Young Women's Christian Association, on the situation of the Armenians in the interior of Asia Minor.
page 5.

X ...but they have been robbed as the others and are full of uncertain fear of what may be coming to them has brought them so little.

X They take all money and weapons (even razors) from them for the same reason.
page 6.

...We learned...that they, (our people) had been separated from their wives at Zille a few days before and that the women had been robbed on this mountain only 40 hours before.

We reached Yeni-Khan about nine that morning - only the second morning from Amasia. Went immediately into the town for news though we were apparently only interested in the famous rug-industry of the place. While I was discussing this interesting industry with a man,

a woman told Miss Villard to hasty to the ~~nd~~ deserted factory, that our girls were there and in danger. My man had already proposed to take us there. We found no rugs and no girls. The former had been confiscated by the government and the latter had gone only two hours before toward Sivas, five hours away. A friend turned up in the street who told us the girls had had a hard time here and that

page 7. we better go directly to the Kaima-Kam.

page 9.

Bribe taking has been enormous in some places notably in Marsovan, many have paid 2.000 liras (70.000 dollars) to save their lives and then been sent on exile practically without a para (cent).

Report of difficulties in Armenia:

page 2. When Turkey entered this war the Armenians were conscribed with the Turks but a large number of the people had money with which to pay the 200.00 dollars which would exempt them from soldier service. In Marsovan. From the 5.000 soldiers which were sent away, 4.000 were Turks and 1.000 Armenians, while the population of Turks and Armenians in that place is about even. It meant of course that many more Armenians^e man were left in the place than Turks. The Turks claimed that this was a menace to the safety of the city and also of the country.

X They began,....to oppress the Armenians by requisitioning from them large quantities of cloth for clothing the Army and of food. Their stores were practically emptied of everything that could be used by the Army. Horses, wagons, donkeys were all taken, and no money was paid; a promisory paper was given, but no one valued it.

page 3. What was going on in Harsovan was being duplicated in all other cities.

page 5.

Ox-carts were provided and in some cases wagons, by the Government, but the people had to pay the carriage hire, if not they had to walk, some people could get donkeys but of course the poor went on foot. It was difficult to get wagons and carts and so the people were not all sent out at once. The Government listed the houses of those who were to go in each company and gave them notice 2 or 3 days beforehand.

The Government soon said they must clear the promises. Some of the professors were arrested and imprisoned but by money arrangement with the Government, the native friends were able to secure for them their release. It was soon learned that the Armenian people in the town were beginning to offer large sums of money for their protection and permission to remain. These offers were accepted. The women gave their jewels to the wives of the Government officers and obtained promises that they should not be

page 8.

sent away, although in every case they were obliged to become Turks.

X 867/4016/173-4.

German memorandum To Ottoman Government, August 9, 1915:

By its memorandum of the fourth of July the German Embassy has had the honor to notify to the Sublime Porte the point of view of the German Government on the subject of the expatriation of the Armenian inhabitants of the Anatolian provinces, and to call its attention on the fact that this measure had been accompanied in

many places by acts of violence such as massacres and plunders which could not be justified by the aim that the Imperial Government was pursuing.

X 867/4016/119x63.

Cablegram of Droschak Organe Daschnaktsoutioun, May 7, 1915, to Foreign Department, Washington, D.C.

News from authentic source in Armenia very alarming. Turkish Government and Moslem people unjustly hold Armenians responsible for the disastrous war. Barbarous fanaticism has broken loose, the rabble Kurds, brigands and Turkish regulars carry on work of plunging the whole of Armenia in to desolation and mourning forced requisitions, murder, rape, systematic plunders spread terror, destructions, despair everywhere....(The original is in French).

X 867/4016/119.

Letter dated July 13, 1915, from Constantinople, to Lord Bryce, who transmitted it to the Secretary of State through the American Ambassador, Walter ^H Stines Page, in London. The author is Zaven, Armenian Patriarch.

Page 1.

X Already they permit the Musulmen^e to occupy the page 2. land and the houses abandoned by the Armenians.

They have not permitted the exiles to take anything whatever with them. Besides in those districts occupied by the military there remains nothing to take away- the military authorities having themselves speedily removed all that they were able to find there.

These unfortunate people are obliged to travel over

page 3.

country which, even in times of peace, is known to be dangerous and where one is exposed to robbery and assault. Now that the Turkish bandits, as well as the police and the civil officers enjoy absolute limerty, the exiles will undoubtedly be robbed on route and the women and young girls exposed to most a dishonorable treatment.

page 4.

The churches and convents have been plundered, profaned and destroyed. The bishops even have not been spared...

page 5.

The village around Van and Bitlis have been plundered and the inhabitants have been slain.

X 867/4016/287 1/2

Boghos Nubar, President Armenian National Delegation, Paris, June 15, 1916, to Robert Lansing, Secretary of State, Washington D.C. and Robert Lansing to the Embassy, Constantinople via Copenhagen, June 16, 1915.

Reports have reached the Department that situation of Armenian exiles in Mesopotamia is daily becoming worse -that great numbers are dying of hunger and sickness- if true, and children are sold openly in markets.....

Testimony of Widow Victoria Khatchadour Barutjibashian of Baibourt:

Our party left June 1 (old style), fifteen gendarmes going with us. The party numbered four or five hundred persons. We had got only 2 hours away from home when bands of villagers and brigands in large numbers, and robbed us of all we had. The gendarmes took my three horses and sold them to Turkish Mouhadjirs, pocketing the money and that from my daughter's neck, also all our food.