

MACEDONIA NOT PACIFIED

The Situation There Regarded as a Very Dangerous One.

Peasants Driven to Desperation and Likely to Join the Rebels — Pan-Slavists Becoming More Active.

LONDON TIMES—NEW YORK TIMES
Special Cablegram.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—In spite of the present apparent tranquillity in Macedonia, says a dispatch from Salonika to The Times, all the factors making for disturbance are still actively at work. Well-informed people consider the actual state of affairs full of danger, and as threatening increasing gravity unless effective remedies are applied in the next few months.

The correspondent says that a large number of armed bands still hold the field, unchecked by the authorities. They obtain food and shelter in the more remote villages, and exercise in many districts a kind of independent jurisdiction. Murders and other crimes continue, and are seldom punished.

The principal danger, however, says the correspondent, lies in the state of desperation to which the naturally submissive Christians are reduced. The peasants, for a long time the victims of iniquitous taxes, are now harried on the one hand by the insurgents and on the other hand by the troops and gendarmes. Their homes have, in many instances, been pillaged and burned, and, not having more to lose, they will probably show in the future a greater readiness to join revolutionary movements.

The only means to avert the coming danger, declares the correspondent, is the early adoption of measures to relieve the suffering population. There is little time to lose. If the powers are sincerely anxious for the maintenance of the status quo and the preservation of Turkish rule they must exercise collective pressure on the Porte, and establish effective European supervision in Macedonia, securing the equitable administration of the existing laws and some measure of justice for the population.

The Vienna correspondent of The Times says that the Russian Foreign Minister, who is now at Livadia, will shortly visit the Austrian capital. This announcement, following as it does the Russian communiqué in regard to the Balkans, is interpreted as a further sign of the gravity of the Balkan situation, and as an indication that special efforts may be necessary to deal with probable disturbances next Spring.

The foregoing view of the Macedonian situation confirms statements which have been appearing in various European papers. A letter from Vienna, dated Nov. 25, said: "Trustworthy information which reaches me from different quarters leaves no doubt that there is a revival of apprehension as regards the situation in the Near East. From what I hear on the subject it looks uncommonly as if things were gradually drifting to a climax.

"According to intelligence received from one reliable source the possibility of sporadic disturbances on a small scale during the present Winter has to be reckoned with, the object being to maintain that unrest which caused serious anxiety throughout the Summer. Should this plan be successful, it is considered all but certain that in the coming Spring the powers will have to face a far more dangerous state of affairs in Macedonia than has hitherto been the case.

"It may be well to mention that, according to credible accounts received here, the Russian Pan-Slavists, who have for a long time been kept in the background—owing, no doubt, to the Czar's well-known love of peace—are now beginning to recover their former influence. I cannot say to what extent this may be the case, but I hold the fact on excellent authority. It is also of interest to note that Russia is believed to have in some measure modified the attitude of absolute reserve toward the Balkan States which she maintained during the Far Eastern crisis."

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