

The Outlook

APRIL 5, 1922

WHO COMMANDS THE ARMY?

WE are glad to know that Congress is not trying to become Commander-in-Chief of the military forces of the United States. In some of our neighboring republics there are, it is said, more generals than privates. We understand that this arrangement does not work very well in case of serious warfare. We do not pretend to be military experts, but we suspect that there would be no great success for a military organization with over six hundred commanders-in-chief. The Army Bill, as it was before the House Appropriations Committee did some blue-penciling, provided that appropriations should not be spent on troops on the Rhine, and only limited appropriations on those in China, Hawaii, and the Canal Zone. We can imagine Congress taking command of a campaign in this fashion: All troops which advance on the left wing will be deprived of appropriations for maintenance; and all troops which retire over the river in the center will be given a bonus of a dollar a yard. Happily, the Constitution, which makes the President of the United States Commander-in-Chief, stands in the way of experiments along this line.

DEBTS, REPARATIONS, AND TROOPS

A GAIN Germany is outraged by the demand of the Allies that she make some real effort to pay for the damage she has wantonly done. That means that Germany is expected to tax her people in order to pay her debts. This is something that the German Government does not want to do. In order to make the German Government want to do it, the Inter-allied Reparations Commission has decided to grant Germany provisionally a moratorium for the payments due this year. The failure to levy the taxes would mean the withdrawal of the moratorium and the application of sanctions. To see that the taxes are imposed and collected, an Allied commission, it is proposed, will have general supervision of Germany's fiscal affairs. This proposal would put a virtually bankrupt nation into the hands of a receiver.

In the meantime America, who has little direct financial interest in securing reparations from Germany, and is concerned in the matter mainly as a measure of justice and future protection, has announced that her troops now on the Rhine will be withdrawn by July 1.



(C) Keystone

THE AMERICAN SOLDIER IN COBLENZ WHO NOW PATRONIZES A TRANSPLANTED AMERICAN INSTITUTION—THE SODA WATER FOUNTAIN—WILL SOON SEE THE HOME ARTICLE

There has been some, but not any great, protest at this decision. In fact, it has seemed for some time that our troops had outstayed their welcome. This became evident when the Allies openly showed their unreadiness to have the American troops paid out of money collected from Germany for the purpose of supporting the armies of occupation. Inasmuch as the presence of our troops on the Rhine was solely for the convenience and the support of our Allies in the war, if they now find it inconvenient, it has become superfluous. As our troops go out their places will be taken by French troops. The doughboys on guard there have found their experience enjoyable and educative. They have served as a symbol of Allied unity; but if that symbol is no longer highly valued by our European friends it is just as well to have it removed. The symbol may be gone; but we hope the unity will remain.

PLACATING TURKEY

THE ordinary American, who reads in newspaper despatches from Paris that there is grave doubt whether the Turks will accept the conciliatory proposals suggested by Great Britain, France, and Italy to the Turkish Nationalists, will start with surprise. Germany's ally, Armenia's devastator, the Sick Man of Europe, is not entitled to sympathy. Nor is it sympathy or friendship that proposes to revise the Treaty of Sèvres in Turkey's favor. It is partly the need of placating Mohammedans in

India and elsewhere who care little for Turks as Turks, but who cling to the idea of the caliphate as a combination of spiritual and temporal authority in the Sultan of Turkey as nominal head of Islam. It is partly also because the Allies have difficulty in uniting in a common policy for the Near East. Greece has failed to deal with Turkey in a military way as regards western Asia Minor; France has decided to withdraw from Cilicia; the question of protecting the Armenians is difficult and momentous. Accordingly, a placatory policy has been adopted toward Turkey—whom nobody trusts—and the diplomats are worrying as to whether the concessions are big enough!

One despatch from Paris, for instance, says: "Should the Turkish Nationalist leaders find the proposed modifications of the Sèvres Treaty do not go far enough, it is pointed out that nothing has been done in Paris which would stand in the way of continuing the negotiations."

It is not proposed to give Adrianople back to Turkey (and this is why it is feared that Turkey will refuse), but to oust Greece from Asia Minor, including Smyrna; to give the Turks civic control of Constantinople, but to keep the straits open under naval control of the Allies with a merely nominal possession of Gallipoli by the Greeks; to give up to Turkey the larger part of Thrace; to leave Armenia a Turkish province; to establish Turkey's independence as to financial control. There is plenty of rea-

son why Greece should be sad, but Turkey gets a new hold on a life she has deserved to lose. An editorial writer in the New York "Tribune" comments: "The near extinction of Turkey was justifiable on moral grounds. But it was unworkable politically. The successor of the Caliph comes back not through any merit of his own but through the unflinching devotion to his cause of millions of French and British subjects."

The League of Nations has a difficult task laid on its shoulders by this proposal. It is to see that Armenians are not slaughtered by Turks, and to make of Armenia, not a nation nor even a state placed under a mandatory, but something called beautifully but vaguely "an Armenian national home."

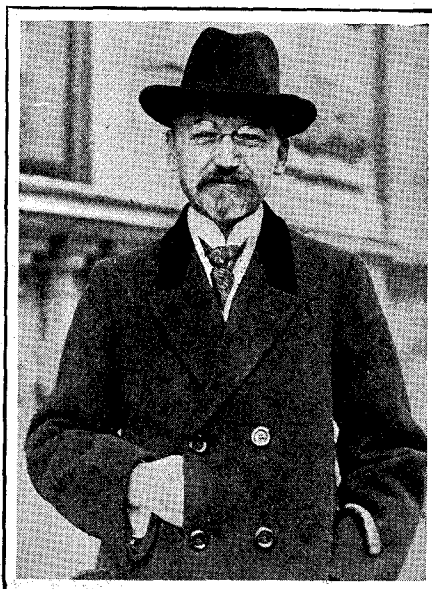
Americans are fortunately not a party to the settlement of the Near East complications. They do, however, feel strongly that the civilized world must prevent a recurrence of the horrors committed over and over again against Armenia by "the unspeakable Turk." If we cannot aid by diplomacy in preventing wholesale massacre, we may at least help by plainly expressed protests against shilly-shallying and debating in a case where action is demanded by every appeal of common humanity.

LAWLESSNESS IN IRELAND

AGAIN the British Premier has initiated an attempt to restore law and order in Ireland through a conference in London. He lately summoned to meet him for that purpose Michael Collins, the head of the Provisional Government of the semi-existent Free State of Ireland; Sir James Craig, the Ulster Premier; and Arthur Griffith, head of the still active Dail Eireann, or Parliament of the shadowy Irish Republic. Theoretically at least, the Dail Eireann should work in unison with Michael Collins, as it has by a majority vote pronounced in favor of the London agreement for the Irish Free State; and, in fact, Griffith and Collins are in thorough sympathy, but De Valera's adherents still agitate for a Republic.

A large part of the present restlessness in Southern Ireland is due to the fact that British rule has practically ceased, while the Irish Free State is not yet fully in control. This condition will continue until the voters of Southern Ireland have selected representatives for a Constitutional Convention and Parliament, and this will not take place until the end of May. Thereafter, if the delegates elected are of the party of Griffith and Collins, it is to be hoped that the continued agitation for an Irish Republic will stop.

The other cause of trouble is the ingrained and hateful hostility between Protestant and Catholic factions in



Wide World Photos

OTTO WIEDFELDT, THE NEW GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

Ulster and on the border. Winston Churchill declared in the House of Commons the other day that the situation in Belfast was worse than anywhere in Ireland, and that it might be necessary to establish martial law. Fifty-six persons were killed in Belfast riots in four weeks in March.

What with raids by Sinn Feiners over the Ulster border and the almost wholesale murders and other crimes, some perpetrated by armed motor gangs, which have terrorized Catholic districts, it would certainly seem at this distance that the way to restore order would be to put British troops (not Irish constabulary) on the border and to enforce martial law in Belfast. Collins declares that Sir James Craig is maintaining an

inimical attitude both toward the Provisional Government in the south and the helpless minority in Belfast.

The gravity of the situation is recognized on all sides, but this time the danger is not political, but criminal. It will need a strong hand and firm action to keep the outbreaks of long-continued factional hatred from developing into something very much like civil war.

THE NEW AMBASSADOR

OTTO LUDVIG WIEDFELDT has been appointed German Ambassador to the United States. The Ambassadorship has been vacant since February, 1917, when Count Bernstorff left Washington. Since the resumption of normal relations between Germany and America the question of naming the new Ambassador has been a peculiarly interesting problem.

The German Government has solved it, not by sending a well-trained diplomat, such as Count Bernstorff was, but an entirely new man with different ideals and experiences from those in the diplomatic service. The Government has turned to commerce, not to diplomacy, for representation.

Dr. Wiedfeldt is practically without diplomatic experience. He has been for some time connected in various official capacities with the Krupp Works at Essen, and has also had years of commercial service in the Orient.

This is not Dr. Wiedfeldt's first visit to America; he was here for several months before the war.

It is believed that the new Ambassador has those personal, official, and, above all, commercial qualities desirable for the kind of foreign representation needed by Germany at this time.

THE UNHOMERIC HOMERIC

TWENTY-EIGHT hundred years ago, on a Grecian isle, Homer sang of "red-cheeked ships" and of the ten years' wandering of Ulysses. He describes in detail the building of the wonderful craft which bore his hero away from the isle of Calypso.

Could the bard have gazed into some crystal and beheld his modern namesake, with what amazement would he have been filled!

Early in March the new Homeric, pride of the White Star Line, docked in New York on her maiden voyage. With flags fluttering from every mast she moved gracefully into her pier, a huge floating city with a length from bow to stern of three New York City blocks.

She can accommodate over 2,500 passengers and a crew of 750—a fair-sized community in itself.

At the forward end of the deck, under the navigating bridge, is a drawing-room, with large plate-glass observation windows. In turn come the reading and



A COLONADE IN THE HOMERIC'S LOUNGE
(The room is 43 x 97 feet)