

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THE BALKAN WAR.

It is now conceded that the prospect of peace in the near East is very remote and that the war between Turkey and the Balkan States will go on until the dispute is settled by the force of arms. The immediate dispute is between Turkey and her dependent states but the territory involved is large, sympathies and commercial relations with other countries are closely interwoven and neither the end of the struggle, its outcome nor the powers that may become involved can be foreseen with any definiteness.

So far Montenegro is the only one of the states that has declared war but the others are known to have the same aims, the same grievances and the same grudge against Turkey and that they will all pounce on the old enemy as soon as an opportunity offers.

The struggle is an old one, centuries old. It is the Moslem Crescent against the Christian Cross, and the Crescent won centuries ago but the strife never ended. The peoples of the little states although beaten were never subdued and one after another, when the time was ripe, struck a blow that resulted in concessions, in some cases in a species of independent autonomy and in still other cases in complete independence, but never in friendliness or sympathy with the arch enemy, Turkey. Those which remained subject to Turkey lived from generation to generation in the hope that some day the hated yoke would be thrown off and this hope resulted in frequent risings that have kept Turkey in a continual state of unrest. No one knew when these states would combine in an attempt to realize the dream of long years, a Balkan Confederacy with autonomy for Albania and Macedonia, over and over again Turkey promised to reform the grievances complained of but the reforms never came.

In 1908 the Young Turk party came into power and the long promised reforms were confidently looked for. The hope was vain. The Macedonians were disarmed and their rifles given to Moslems. Then the latter, ran amok, the Christians were massacred when they were powerless to defend themselves. In October 1908 Bulgaria declared her complete independence. Another advance occurred in July 1911 when Prince Ferdinand, the ruler, was confirmed King of Bulgaria.

While Turkey had her hands full in the struggle with Italy the States thought the time opportune for a struggle that would rid them forever of Moslem rule. Serbia, a land locked state saw the chance of getting a seaboard in Macedonia, Bulgaria saw an opportunity for aggrandisement on her part also in that territory, a large proportion of the population of which is Bulgarian. Montenegro has designs on Albania and Greece, which wants to attach Crete, shares Montenegro's indignation at the Turkish outrages in that region.

With the fight now on fiercely, this is about the condition of affairs. As to the relative strength of the contending forces it is difficult to arrive at definite figures. Turkey has an army of half a million and claims that, if left alone, she can quell the rising. The States arrayed against her have, on paper at least, armies aggregating over six hundred thousand, all well equipped. Added to this strength there is the strength of religious bitterness on both sides. That the struggle will be fierce, cruel and prolonged must be expected. Confined to the states immediately interested it will probably make some changes in the map. Should it draw other nations into the vortex it may mean a conflagration the end of which it were folly to speculate upon.

MARKET TOLLS.

There is a good deal of agitation at present over the recent increase in market tolls. On comparing the revised list with that formerly in force we find that the actual increase is not as revolutionary as the agitation in some quarters would lead us to believe. The list of articles subject to toll is a long one. Many of the articles mentioned never find their way into the market and on

those which do there have been reductions as well as increases.

On beef, mutton, lamb, veal and pork, there has been an increase and also a change in the manner of selling. Under the present regulations "no meat shall be sold or offered for sale on the market premises except within the market building." To provide for this the city has fitted up at considerable expense a suitable section in the building where meat can be sold in a sanitary condition. Under the former regulations meat could be sold and was sold in the drift of the dust from the streets, under a broiling sun or a down pour of rain. The Board of Health, mercifully and not before time put a stop to that and few will complain of the change. An extra charge of three to five cents, a quarter, or one fiftieth to one hundredth of a cent per pound, should not be too much for the difference between comparatively clean meat, and meat sold in the dust and dirt on the market square.

On butter in tubs or crock, over 20 pounds, which is scarcely ever seen in the market, there is an increase from 4 to 12 cents. On fresh butter, five pounds or under, the shape in which butter invariably comes, there is a decrease from 2 to one cent, and on quantities over five pounds a decrease from 2 to 1 cent. On lard and tallow there is a decrease from two to 1 cent. On potatoes and the other larger vegetables there is no change; on green peas there is a decrease from 3 to one cent. There is no change in eggs, the toll on which is one cent for 3 dozen. On fowl there is an increase from one to two cents each.

There may be other increases which we have not noted but if there are they will not very seriously affect either buyer or seller. The most trouble from either increase or decrease will generally be found in the fuss made about it.

And now there is another side to the story, the market building as a business proposition, and this is the side that many of our citizens are beginning to look at very seriously.

On reference to the statistics available we find this:—The market building was erected by the city at a cost of \$60,000. It costs the city yearly, in round numbers, including interest, insurance, etc., \$5,800. The receipts, including rents, tolls, and weigh scales amount to \$5,420 leaving a deficit to be provided for yearly by

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the city of \$380. The tax-payers of the city are paying \$380 a year for the privilege of buying their butter, eggs, fowl, vegetables and a few other necessities, in the market building on two days of the week, instead of buying them, as they need them, in the regular grocery and meat stores, and many of them are asking if it really pays and whom it pays.

It was, we understand, because of the persistence of this question that the city fathers at a recent meeting decided on the effort to make revenue and expenditure meet, in other words, to try make the market self-sustaining. It will be understood that the are getting no rake-off from the increased tolls and that they were working disinterestedly in the interests of the city, which, for the time being, has entrusted them with its business. Should the city desire that the tolls be reduced or abolished entirely we presume the City Council would carry out the mandate.

As already remarked, the question is being persistently asked, does the market pay and whom does it pay? The city pays \$380 to keep it up. In return they have its picturesqueness, its uniqueness, its value as an advertisement to the province—for it is one of our attractions to visitors—and they have the privilege of buying certain necessities there twice a week and, usually, the privilege of paying more for them than they would in the regular stores.

The country, or that part of it which chooses to avail itself of its advantages, have the privilege of bringing their goods there twice a week, to display their goods in comfortable quarters provided for them at the city's expense, to sell their goods for what they can get and, if they cannot sell, to take them to the

NOTES.

The Guardian's comments on the Patriot's blue ruin article were in type before the Patriot's admission that it had its eyes opened to the error of its way was received, otherwise we would gladly have chronicled the fact. We can assure our contemporary that our comments were not inspired by any unkindly feeling but by amazement that the Patriot should see blue in one of the best and most progressive spots on the face of the earth. We are glad to know that the Patriot is again in normal relation to its environment and that it has faith enough in the country to buy a new press.

Rev. A. D. McIntosh of Souris, writing to the Guardian says:—"I think every citizen here, except those engaged in the traffic, will admit that there is a great deal of illegal liquor selling in this community and in isolated houses in the country." Notwithstanding this and similar statements from others there is still not a word of any attempt being made by the Prosecutor to stop it. The fact that there is no more rowdism in Souris than in other towns

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Mother! Don't scold your cross, peevish child! Look at the tongue! See if it is white, yellow and coated! If your child is listless, drooping, isn't sleeping well, is restless, doesn't eat heartily or is cross, irritable, out sorts with everybody, stomach sour, feverish, breath bad, has stomach-ache, diarrhoea, sore throat, or is full of cold, it means the little one's stomach, liver and 30 feet of bowels are filled with poisons and foul, constipated waste matter and need a gentle, thorough cleansing at once.

Give a teaspoonful of Syrup of Figs, and in a few hours all the clogged up waste, undigested food and sour bile will gently move on and out of its little waste clogged bowels without nausea, griping or weakness, and you will surely have a well, happy and smiling child again shortly.

With Syrup of Figs you are not drugging your children, being composed entirely of luscious figs, and aromatics it cannot be harmful, besides they dearly love it delicious taste.

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of its size in the province, has been put forward as proof that the Prosecutor is doing his duty satisfactorily. We take it that this is an evidence of the efficiency of the police rather than of performance of duty on the part of the Prosecutor. Souris, it will be remembered, is the only incorporated and policed town in the province, outside of Charlottetown and Summerside, so that the liquor drinking and order of other towns of its size, can properly be compared only with the liquor drinking and order of Souris plus its police. What would Souris and its admitted illegal liquor selling be without its police? Where does the prosecutor come in?

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No 3

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