

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
PEARS, CONSTANTINOPLE.

M. N. Pinar
Bosphorus

Reflections re BC policy
Argument that we alienated Turkey wrong.
Event shows they liked GB & hated Germany.
My statement that they approached Howell & wanted control
10, Rue Merteby, I thought
Constantinople.

28th July 1908. 19

Noel E. Buxton Esq.,
3, Princes Gate,
London.

Dear Mr Buxton,

I have left your letter a week unanswered, because as you will have seen we are in the throws of a pacific revolution. The most remarkable thing about it is its spontaneity. The whole country has been so filled with the gun powder of discontent, that it really only wanted a spark to fire it off. The game of the leaders of the movement, upon which they very strongly insist, is to detach the Sultan's name from the misdeeds of his Government, and there is very much to be said in favour of this view. Of course, there will be a reaction, because the Palace Gang, who have now been sent, or are about being sent to the right about, have still a powerful following. I think, however, that there is a reasonable chance of the Constitutional Regime establishing itself. I fear danger, however, from the returning exiles, from men like Fuad and a number of others, who smarting under gross injustice may be capable of reprisals. Much of the success of the movement will depend upon the way it is regarded by the foreign Powers and especially by England. Our country is universally taken to be favourable to free institutions for Turkey, while on the other hand, Germany is regarded with aversion. The general feeling is that England

(with name)
X While I am I learn that Nedjib pasha, the brother of Selim, is to be proposed to the Committee. Nedjib is the man as to whom the Sultan had made a promise for all his worth as ambassador to London. All the 3 brothers are about the worst specimens of Christians I have seen.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
PEARS, CONSTANTINOPLE.

*will Reform remain?
YT might join by expelling Powers support
but also imply having Powers support
M. Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.*

*Halil
97 Uffrance.
Praise YT's hope they'll relieve us -
show infatigability
10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.*

(2).

28th July 1908. 19

done

will bless and Germany will curse the movement. I believe that it would be of the greatest use if Asquith or Grey would drop a few words of sympathy for those who are trying to establish a parliamentary system in Turkey.

*Better wage autonomy
as Samos.*

But now to our principal point. What is to be done in Macedonia?

Injurious negoti w YT.
My impression is that you may get the whole of the Committee's project carried through with a little careful management. The negotiations that I would suggest would be that Macedonia should send her quota of members to the Turkish Parliament, but that in presence of the difficulties that have existed there during the last few years, the other special provisions regarding the appointment of a Governor with the consent of the Powers and of holding office etc, as was proposed by Sir Edward, should be adhered to: also, of course, the financial scheme and the enlargement of the Gendarmerie project. The important point to *make* comply with in negotiations with Kutchuk Said, who must be taken as *the organ of the Ottoman Committee* of order and progress, is that seeing the wonderful way in which the Third Army Corps has arranged for the suppression of the Bands in Macedonia, the proposal for a flying column may be abandoned. *on consideration of the acceptance of the other proposals* A carefully thought out project on these

pic!

lines, would I feel sure be favourably received by the new Government.

*But logically Ministers w'd not be responsible, any more than for Libanon or Egypt.
you wd lose benefit of present reconcili' w Bulgars, Serbians, & Albanians.
All others except Bulgars wd work agst a separate Macedonia
What good wd be made for Samos or Libanon
wd be impeding to the Turkes + necessary to the Powers.
If Gov responsible to Cabinet, why not let alone. If to Powers, why have deputies? [CRS
for a makeshift, a blind*

P.T.O.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
PEARS, CONSTANTINOPLE.

Mr Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.

10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.

(3)

28th July 1908. 19

In conclusion I have only to say that if any question occurs to you on the matter where my experience may be of use, I shall be very glad to reply to you.

The salutation during the last three days has been :

“ Vive la Constitution ! ”

and with this I conclude,

Very sincerely yours,

Edwin Pears

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
PEARS, CONSTANTINOPLE.

1 Enclosure.

Mr Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.

10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.

13th August 1908. 19

N. E. Buxton Esq.,
2, Princes Gate Street,
London.

Dear Mr. Buxton,

I enclose herewith a letter which has appeared in all the papers to-day from the "Committee." The point to which I specially wish to call your attention to is that marked in blue.

I hope that the Havas telegram is a flam. The last paragraph of the proclamation is one which I understand the newspapers here are very properly going to complain of.

I duly received your letter of the 6th. I hope Moore will find his way here.

There are some signs that things are getting out of hand. The meaning of the Constitution to the working men is simply more wages, but the Committee is still powerful and awake to the danger. I am still of opinion that in spite of the Constitution, the small reforms that were promised to the Powers in Macedonia should be maintained, especially the financial control, and while there might be a certain anomaly in having parliamentary control as well as one responsible to foreigners, it would be useful in the interest of Macedonia to have it. Moreover the Powers might perfectly well take up the position that though they ~~might~~ sympathise with the revolutionary movement and wish it all success, they have a duty

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
PEARS, CONSTANTINOPLE.

M^r Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.

N. E. Buxton Esq.

10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.

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13th August 1908. 19

towards Macedonia which they could not neglect. Something was gained by the late reforms and it would be folly to abandon them.

The revolutionary movement is absolutely sincere & for the moment all Turks think that they can grant equality to the Christians. You no doubt saw my interview with the Sheik-ul-Islam. I believe that he and the hierarchy really believe that Christians can be so treated.

Personally I am sure they never ^{India? Borneo?} have been in any country and I very much doubt whether they can be here. If the proposal is adopted that they should be liable to serve in the Army, ^{he thinks possible} such a step would do more to produce equality than any other. In fact, I am disposed to regard this as a test of how far a Moslem majority will consent to go.

Very sincerely yours,

Edwin Pears.

Postal Service Ltd.

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
PEARS, CONSTANTINOPLE.

*Return
rather mixed!*

*M. Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.*

10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.

20th February 1909

Noel Buxton Esq.,
2, Princes Gate,
London, S. W.

Dear Mr. Buxton,

Your letter of the 10th, which ought to have reached me at the latest on the 15th, did not arrive, owing to the storms in the Black Sea preventing the Constanza boat leaving, until this morning :-

The "Levant Herald" is the only paper which has a weekly edition. I will send one off to you. I will also arrange that a "Kalen" shall be sent to you.

It is hardly correct to speak of a "struggle" between the Embassy and the Committee of Union and Progress. The fact is that the arrangements of the Committee make it very difficult for the Embassy to communicate with them. As you know, the Committee are anonymous. They are the power behind the Throne and the Chamber, but the Ambassador is credited to the Sultan and by inference, of course, to his Ministers and the proper person to communicate with him is the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He is put in an awkward position, as he was at the beginning of this week, when a Member of the Committee endeavours to make him an official communication. Leather has no

Noel Buxton Esq.

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
PEARS, CONSTANTINOPLE.

10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.

M^r Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.

20th February 1909.

PK
means of knowing whether the person represents the Committee or
only himself, and the irregularity of the proceeding amongst
other inconveniences would make mischief with the other
Ambassies. At the same time it would be a blunder to make
enemies of the Committee and I do not think it likely that the
Embassy is likely to do that. There is, of course, considerable
annoyance ^{there} at losing Kiamil and at the manner of his dismissal.
Ahmed Riza, the President, ought not to have allowed him to be
called a liar etc. The fact also must not be overlooked that ~~he~~
^{Kiamil} is very old and that the friction between him and the Committee
has been steadily increasing.

You will be interested personally in the following which I
heard ~~the week you left~~, from Said, Kiamil's son, and heard again
last night from our Embassy:

X
The Committee first invited the Balkan Committee to dine
with the Grand Vizier before they had asked his permission. He
refused saying he did not know you and that you had not called
upon him. Thereupon the dinner was postponed, as you will
remember, and you with the rest, myself included, visited him
at the Porte. ^{the visit} I recall as somewhat curious ^{because} that he then

Noel Buxton Esq.,

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS

PEARS, CONSTANTINOPLE.

M. Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.

10, Rue Mertebany,

Constantinople.

Thought we had
all supposed
the invitation
two days
definite
earlier

20th February 1909. 19

asked us to dine with him that evening. I learned last night for the first time that in the interval ~~that~~ he had enquired of Fitzmaurice who the Committee were and of course the references were satisfactory. Still, the old man naturally resented that he should be ordered to give a dinner. There are several other matters in which the friction between him and the Committee was shown. He himself, however, had caused Hilmi to be brought up ^{from Salonica} in the hope that by making him Minister of the interior, as he did, he could train him to take his, Kiamil's, position after a while. Before leaving Salonica Hilmi, ~~however~~, was required to take a special oath to the Committee, revolver on table. All this contributed to ^{friction} ~~hostility~~ between the Committee but the great cause of hostility was the development in the Committee of a nationalist spirit, nationalist in this sense meaning purely Turkish to the exclusion, not only of Christians, but of Arabs and Albanians. This is the great fact at the present moment and it requires to be very carefully watched.

I do not think that there is any danger of the English Embassy failing to sympathise with the Committee in maintaining a Constitutional Regime, but it is the nationalist side that requires watching.

Noel Baxton Esq.,

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,

PEARS, CONSTANTINOPLE.

Mr Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.

10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.

20th February 1909. 19

X
Since you were here there has been a curious development even in the Committee itself. Most of the Members call themselves "Nationalists," by which they mean that Turkey must be ruled by the strictly Turkish party to the exclusion of Arabs, Albanians and even the Christians. Those (among the Committee?) who take a more liberal view are spoken of as "Liberals." Sabaheddin, who was mentioned while you were here as the head of the decentralization, or as it is now called, the Liberal Party, appears a very poor creature and has nobody's confidence. But the more intelligent Turks accept the liberal theory which is that ^{full} representation must be given to Christians ~~as well as~~ ^{as well as to Turks strictly so called.} ~~Arabs and Albanians~~ ^{Arabs and Albanians}. They are, in my opinion, absolutely right and I am strongly of opinion that the Balkan Committee should not only be kept in existence but should watch the development of the Committee of U. & P. with the object of giving the policy of the country a liberal direction.

It is significant that the Sheikh-ul-Islam resigned and though pressed very hard, refused to continue his support to the Nationalist policy and party. The extreme Nationalists represent Moslem bigotry in its worst form. The Liberal section is the one deserving of sympathy and guidance. After all,

Noel Buxton Esq.,

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
PEARS, CONSTANTINOPLE.

M. Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.

10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.

20th February 1909.

one must not forget facts. The Christian element have always supplied the brain of Turkey and will continue to do so. The Armenians in particular have thrown in their lot heartily with the Young Turks but always with the hope that they would receive fair treatment. Now in the Chamber this day fortnight, as I tell you in confidence, they and the other Christians were simply terrorised into silence and voting. There exists an angry feeling in the Community which is not confined to Christians only and this makes the situation a dangerous one. In writing to the Daily News I do not think it expedient to mention this aspect of the case but you ought to know it.

2

I still believe in the usefulness of the Committee but I am afraid its interference may be mischievous. Mazim Bay not only the best soldier that the Turks have, but one who was trained in France, the other chief soldiers having been trained in Germany, is at present sulking, but I have reason to believe he will resume office. The experts admit that he has improved the position of the 2nd Army Corps wonderfully, but the 3rd is by the same account good for nothing.

Noel Fuxton Esq.,

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS

PEARS, CONSTANTINOPLE.

M^r Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.

10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.

20th February 1909.

Miss Isabel Fry worked well while she was here and saw the right sort of Turkish ladies. Though she wrote to me only a fortnight ago, she did not let me see what are the details of her project. My suggestions to her were the formation of a Committee of Turkish Ladies who should do two things, first appoint visiting committees of ladies to supervise what goes on in Turkish girls' schools, and second, to get up a few lectures to ladies in winter time on education and other practical subjects, the lecturer being a suitable Frenchman or Swiss, the latter by preference. Of course I informed her that any assistance that I could render here was at her disposal.

By all means keep your Committee together so as to stimulate the Turkish Committee towards progress and granting the just rights of all members of the Turkish Community.

Very sincerely yours,

Edwin Pears

P.S. I will write you on the matter of your P.S. on Monday.

PS₂ There are several statements here which I skinned not like to be attributed to me but they are for your guidance & I am sure will be used with discretion &c.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
PEARS, CONSTANTINOPLE.

M^r Edwin Pears,
Barrister at law.

10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.

15th. March 1909. 19

Noel Buxton Esq.,
2, Prince's Gate,
London.

Dear Mr. Buxton,

Thanks for yours of the 8th.

I am sending you the "Kalem" and the "Levant Herald" weekly edition. I will let you know what the subscription is in due course.

In reference to the Committee of Union and Progress, you will be glad to hear that the attitude taken up by the "Times" and by myself in the letter which appeared, I think, on this day fortnight in the "Daily News" has had a useful effect.

You must not think for one moment that objection has been made to the action of the whole of the Committee. The Committee themselves are divided on a question of principle, and the announcement made in the English newspapers that practically British sympathy will be extended towards the Committee so long as the rights of the non-Turkish subjects are respected, has had a very good effect. "Turkish" here meaning the exclusion of Arab & Albanian Moslems ^{as well as all Christians}

A friend of mine, who speaks Turkish like a Turk and has great tact, rubbed into several of the leading members that the attitude of England was intended only to prevent their ^{acting only on behalf of} ~~being the representatives of~~ a minority. The members, and I have spoken to three or four of them on the subject, take it very well and some of the extremists have distinctly changed their attitude. They were talking of the immediate suppression of the Post Offices

Nà Buxton Esq.,

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,

PEARS, CONSTANTINOPLE.

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10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.

Mr Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.

15th. March 1909/19

of the Capitulations; of the privileges enjoyed by the Greek and other Patriarchs ^{at} for upwards of four centuries. At the same time they refused to allow the Arabs and Albanians to have their proper share in the Government. All this was purely mischievous, and meant, if successful, reaction. The same men now recognize that the rights of this minority (who taken collectively are a majority of the Empire) must be respected.

Sir Ernest Cassell is here and his project, to which the Committee attach very great importance, is practically approved.

British influence has certainly not lost by the attitude taken up by our Press, but in this I do not count the " Levant Herald " which in its attacks upon the " Tanin " has said many foolish things.

I certainly think that the Balkan Committee may still openly support the Union and Progress.

All things considered, I believe the Turkish Government is now doing as well as can be expected. ^{but} The condition of the Provinces requires much attention, and there is a practical conspiracy on the part of the newspaper Correspondents, myself included, and newspapers here, not to allow the worst of this position to be known.

Very sincerely yours Edwin Pears.

P.S Many thanks for your postscript & the letter from V.N. That matter must take its course. It was not begun on my initiative though I should like it to go through. SP.

PERA,

CONSTANTINOPLE.

2 Feb 1910

Dear Mr Burton

Heartly congratulations

on your election to parliament.

Last night I met Talaat
Bey, Javid Bey, Bayeddin and two
or three others whose names I could
not recall & when I mentioned the
fact, one of them knew it, they
asked me to join to ~~the~~ them in
my congratulations.

There is a certain
division at present in the Committee

2

of U. & P. & Suworby & other prominent
 members have been asked to go to
 Salonica to meet & decide upon con-
 mon action. All the members are
 somewhat mysterious about it but
 one told me - what I believe is
 true - that the division is between
~~the~~ a party wh. wishes to act
 more in the line of Constitutionalism
 & another wh. wh. has had the
 upper hand, in governing on the
 Talaat cancelled the extreme sentence &
old line. They made a blunder
 in taking Somdeinski in with them
 & thereby alienated the moderate
Bulgarians who had backed the
Constitution heartily. The

of the men who had been brought from
 Monastir & put in the hands of the
 government

position is extremely interesting & hopeful.

I am sending today a short letter to Mr
D. N. Col. in the vicinity a conversation yesterday
with Stephens (the Skommi) & Snodgrass, Mr. Balgob
then with Talapat, Shi, & the now.

Be more very sincere congratulations
Yours sincerely
Edwin Sears

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS.

PEARS, CONSTANTINOPLE.

1 Enclosure.

10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.

Sir Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.

11th February 1914.

FD 11/11

Dear Mr. Buxton,

I send you herewith an article from the
"Jeune Turc" of yesterday the 10th which speaks for itself.
The "Osmanische Lloyd" ^{also} has been attacking the Committee
with its usual virulence. It is simply infamous that a
great Power like Germany should subsidize a paper which
defends German interests so unscrupulously.

Very sincerely yours,

Edwin Pears.

Noel Buxton Esq.,
2, Princes Gate,
London.

PERA
CONSTANTINOPLE

21 Febr 1911

Dear Mr. Buxton

In reply to yours of
the 15th I send you the most venomous
article which has appeared in reference
to your last visit. I also It is in
the Hayd Ottoman of the 25th Jan^y?
I also send you the number of the
23rd containing the lecture which
the doctor discourses on the 25th.
The article is so utterly un-
scrupulous that I thought of
replying to it but on second
thought considered it better to

is a Zionist banker in Cologne.

It is therefore at once a Zionist &
a German organ.

I do not think you need
trouble in the least about what these
people say. Your visit was useful.
You told the Tinkers of their blunders
but you also left the impression that
you wished to help. Your visit in
Salonika was followed by one from
Riza Tevfik who I am informed on
excellent authority took up the position
that the C. & P. had alienated
England & France; that people in those
countries knew what was going on
& that misdeeds could not be con-
-cealed. There are many — an

let it remain unnoticed. The paper
itself—subsidised by the German
embassy, as it openly avowed &
generally believed—is so grossly im-
scrupulous in regard to everything
British that it defeats its own
ends. To take any notice of it
is merely to play its game of
notoriety. The only other paper
wh. has been disagreeable was
La Jeune France of which I sent
to 2 Pennes ~~or~~ two or three
cuttings. It had a foul article
headed Perfidie Albion on

Sunday the 12th. It has been so serious
anti-British that I got hold of a Jewish
member of the C. of U. & P. and asked
for an explanⁿ: for though the paper
is owned by a Turk it is managed
notoriously in Jewish interests. He
told me that it receives £1000 per
month from the Zionists. The
Jews here are divided, the Spanish
as a rule being violent Zionists; the
German & Prussians mostly anti-
Zionists. Both rage furiously
betⁿ them. But why should the
Zionists be anti-British? I asked.
The answer is that the chief managers

5

increasing number - who take up a
similar position. They believe that
young J. G. should be backed but
told of their blunders. My experience
is that they listen & attend to complaints
made by those in whose friendship they
have confidence.

Southers give their first
diplomatic dinner this week. It is
improbable that public snowing, or
private too, have virtually closed
the embassy which Germans &
Austrians have been receiving ministers
& members of the C. & A. every
week.

Do not hesitate to write
whenever you think there is anything
I can do for you

Very sincerely yours

Edw. Sears

10, RUE MERTEBANY

CONSTANTINOPLE

28 Feb 1911

Dear Mr Boston

The "resolution" of the Balkan Committee
seems to me admirable. Your letter to the Times also
just saw the right thing.

A few days ago I learnt that Talaat
Bey had sent you or caused to be sent an "answer" to
your summary of statements. Having done so he saw my
son-in-law John Thomson and gave him a copy with
a request that he would ~~show~~ show it to me and also
to P. Graves of the Times. As an answer it is of
course very poor and after consulting together Thomson
saw him and the man who drew it up - an Albanian
whose name escapes me - & pointed out that it was
extremely ^{trivial} local & would if published do more harm
than good to the Y. I. cause. He specially called attention
to the cases wherein men were sent for trial ~~but~~
& pointed out that no results were given. Talaat's

Treat
this as
private
please.

2

Reply was that he had nothing to do with trial or punishment, the matter passed out of his hands into those of the military Commission. My advice was not to publicise it or make a ~~summary~~ summary of it. Moreover I got a young American who is conspicuously kindful to see Thomson & give the results of his personal investigation in Macedonia which tells a terrible story.

Damon

I have no doubt that it was ~~the~~ in large part the military party who was guilty of the brutalities & that to some extent Talaat was hardly responsible.

Now, as to the results of your visit. I am quite sure that it is good. The G. Ts recognize the Bal. Com. as friendly but determined that they must know that British sympathy is conditional on government being on civilized lines. Halil

by, the successor of Talaat has issued a circular letter which, reading between the lines, means that he recognizes the blunders that have been made

3

I wish to avoid them.

I posted you the "perfidious Albion" article in the Jeune France. I am happy to hear on good authority that the author responsible editor was sent for & properly scolded.

Women may be useful. I am told the Ministry recognizes its mistake in not accepting the proposal put forward by Kamil & subsequently by Hilmi to establish one or two autonomous provinces & that they have agreed with the Arab deputies to accept it. But, to appease public opinion, they must have a pitched battle, defeat the enemy on the plains which they will probably do easily & then raise a big shout of victory throughout the empire & proclaim their generosity — following — as one of the members of U. & P. told me — "the example of England in S. Africa."

Pears
May 11

THE CYPRESSES,
PRINKIPO.

Pera
Constantinople

22 May '11

Dear Mr. Buxton

In reply to your letter, I
would suggest that you do nothing yet. I
like & respect Bonchies but do not agree
as to his present advice.

Today there should arrive in
England an article by me written at the
request of Bunting for the Contemporary
I hope it will be in time ^{for June}. It conveys
my view of the ~~bad~~ situation. The Turks
have blundered ^{badly} but all things consid-
ered are I believe improving.

I intend leaving for

England on Saturday next the 27th & shall
stay till the end of June. If the annual
meeting is within that period I shall be at

your service. We are on a wave of pessi-
-mism but there are many good signs.

I will let you know when I arrive.

My safest address in London will be
at the Reform Club.

Very sincerely yours
Edwin Sears.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
PEARS, CONSTANTINOPLE.

Amber 2?
*applied at
mitted at
22 Nov 1911
EGP*
Private

Sir Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.

10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.

21st December 1911. 19

Dear ~~Mr~~ Mr Buxton

The question raised in your letter as to giving Germany leave to become the Protector of Asia Minor has long occupied my attention before "The Spectator" made the suggestion to which you refer. There are two points to be considered in regard to it : -

1. Is it desirable, and
2. Is it practicable.

65 The accounts that come in from all parts of Asia Minor are unsatisfactory, and though I am convinced that the Committee of Union and Progress are very desirous of keeping order, I fear they will not have power to do so. The Kurds are a constant source of trouble and are likely to continue so, and whatever happens it will be the duty of our Government, in accord with Russia, to make representations in regard to the misgovernment of North-Eastern Asia Minor; and I quite recognize that if ^{A.M} it were under the protectorate of Germany order would be substituted for chaos.

Sir Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.

10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.

21st December 1911.

But now comes the second question, Is it practicable?,

But before answering it I may tell you that it remains my firm opinion
that in the time of Sir William Wh^{ite} there was some kind of an "Entente,"
or at least an approach to one between the British and German Governments,
^{only} possibly between the Sovereigns of such Governments. It would take too long
^{tho'} to tell you the story of the evidence which led me to this conclusion. I
may add, however, that shortly after I had formed it, I met in England a
distinguished member of the Cabinet under the Rosebury ^{Contract}, and spoke
to him on the matter, telling him that I believed there was an arrangement
by which Germany should be allowed to have the Bagdad and other Railways
and should not be interfered with by England. ^{in any big projects in A. M., I gave him my reasons.} He replied that though of
course he could tell me nothing of what had passed in the Cabinet if anything
had been said, he could assure me without hesitation that nothing of the
kind had been suggested. ^{while he was in it or to his knowledge} But, he added, I am not prepared to say that an
arrangement to let Germany have a free hand in Asia Minor would be a bad thing.
Since then I have watched the matter very carefully. The advantages to

Sir Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.

10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.

21st December 1914⁹

England would be first, that upon Germany would fall the brunt of
resistance to a decent ^s upon Constantinople by Russia, and second, that
there would be good government substituted for anarchy. As to its
practicability, such an understanding would be opposed by Russia, who,
as you will remember, put her foot down in a very remarkable manner upon
the project ^{by Germany} to construct railways in the North and North West of Asia
Minor, and concluded a ^{When? X} Treaty, ^{qz they are g. + v h 4 +} which is still in force, to the effect that
no concession for a railway should be given in that direction to any than
a Russian subject or with ^{put} Russia's consent. Then France would probably
oppose the arrangement unless Palestine were placed within the sphere of
her influence. These would be the chief difficulties. I think, however,
they are not insurmountable. Any arrangement of the kind, ~~however~~, would
clearly have to be the subject of a European arrangement.

What would be the advantages to England of an arrangement by which
Germany became the Protector of Asia Minor strictly so-called?

The ensuing good government would largely ensure the increase of trade

X 'Potsdam' Agreement, Dec. 1910.

Sr Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.

10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.

21st December 1914.

to Britain provided that by treaty the door were kept open. Therefore to the merchants in the place, to British traders generally, no harm would be done. The only railway line ^{now} owned by Englishmen is the Smyrna Aidin, all the rest belong to Germany except the Smyrna-Cassaba in which they have a large, and probably at any time might obtain a dominant, influence, and the shortline between Jaffa and Jerusalem.

Schmidt
Among the disadvantages might be counted the fact that the United
1. Armies of the "Triple" would have that of the Ottoman Empire added, say half a million men. But per contra these men might be regarded as the
but opponents of ~~any European understanding~~ to Russia's taking possession of
2. Constantinople. The great advantage would be that Germany would find an outlet for her superfluous energy and might think also (though I do not believe it) of her superfluous population.

In the general interest of humanity I believe such a step would be advantageous, but as you will see the question bristles with difficulties.

I have been thinking for some months of writing an article on the

Sir Edwin Pears,
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Constantinople.

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subject in the "Contemporary," but two objections only have ^{made me hesitate} delayed me;
first, that I should manifestly put my head into a nest of hornets, which,
however, alone would not deter me, and second, because in spite of their
blunders and crimes I have not lost hope of the Committee of Union and
Progress. They are at the present moment passing through a very serious
crisis, and I am assured that the big thing they wish to take in hand is the
question of putting the Kurds in order and making them surrender the lands
which can be shown to have been stolen from Armenians. That they are
honestly trying I have no doubt; that most of them recognize the terrible
blunders that they have made in Albania, the Hauren and Yemen is also
pretty clear to me. The Treaty published a few days ago with "Yahia"
grants far better conditions to him; that is to say, makes him much more
independent than he has ever been before. Having practically swallowed
up the 100,000 men that were sent - the Adrianople Division - in the
deserts of Arabia, the Turks recognize that they must get rid of all
troubles arising from the Arabs. In the same way, I believe, all recognize

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though they are destitute of the moral courage to say so, that Tripoli
is gone.

*Really? You did not urge in 1908 as IOTB did
autonomy work? without troops? a back it?*
As to Macedonia, my suggestion is that you should not dream of
abandoning your organization for that country. The question now is
simply whether it shall become an autonomous state, which would be the
best solution, or be taken by Austria. I fear Austria and Russia, the
question being whether Austria can offer sufficient compensation to Russia
to allow her to go down to Salonica. But disregarding this question (over
which public opinion in England can have little control,) for Heavens sake
do not lose sight of the Macedonian question, and advocate a stringent real
real policy of pacification or autonomy.

Wishing you all the compliments of the season,

Very sincerely yours,

Edwin Pears.

X Turkey wd not withdraw troops.
Austria wd not want it.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
PEARS, CONSTANTINOPLE.

Sir Edwin Pears,
Barrister-at-law.

10, Rue Mertebany,
Constantinople.

4th April 1912. *19*

Noel Buxton, Esq,
and, Arthur G. Symonds, Esq.,
The Balkan Committee,
10, Adelphi Terrace,
Strand,
LONDON. W. C.

1912

Dear Sirs,

I have allowed your letter of the 12th March to remain unanswered because on several points I am doubtful what answer to give.

You are quite right in waiting until the Elections are over. They are not yet finished, but are so far complete that one can recognize that the result will be that the Committee will simply sweep the country. The utter lack of organization amongst the "Ententists" has caused them to cut a very bad figure. In fairness also it must be said that the work of the Committee in abolishing internal passports, in pushing on the organization of the Gendarmerie; in preparing the way to make roads, and to effect municipal improvements, has left a much more favourable effect on the population, especially of Anatolia, than English people realise. In the "Nation" which arrived yesterday there is a letter in which my name is mentioned, from a Mr Maurice. I have no idea ^{or where} who he is, but his opening sentence strikes the note of an observer in Anatolia. I am quoting from

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
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memory, but he starts by saying that the work of the Committee looks very different to a villager in Anatolia than to an editor in London. Various circumstances have combined to make the Committee the winning party. I fully believe that the elections have not been fairly managed, and that great pressure has been brought to bear upon the people to vote for the candidates of the Committee. But allowing for all this, I am disposed to believe that if the elections had been perfectly fair, the deputies elected in favour of the Committee would at least have been as numerous as those in the dissolved Chamber. Dr. Mizzi, who has been in to see me while I am writing says, that he has shoals of letters complaining of injustice and denouncing the present condition of things, and that though he is bound in honour not to give me copies of such letters, and his paper would be suppressed if he were to publish them, I have no reason to doubt the truth of his statement.

I think ~~also~~ that in reference to Macedonia, the Committee should wait for the return of the Commission sent there. As you are aware Robert Graves is a member, and personally I should attach great importance to anything that he would say on the subject.

All things considered, I believe that probably the condition of Macedonia is worse than that of any part of the Empire.

But now comes the question as to which you think well to ask my

Sir Edwin Pears,
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advice.

I would suggest that before arriving at any decision, you should await the return of the Commission and see what is the programme which the Committee will put forward. It is probably reasonable to hope that there may be a distinct difference ^{from} ~~in~~ the Committee having matters their own way. They cannot pretend with the large majority they possess that they are hampered by an Opposition. But, until their programme is known, and the report from Macedonia presented, it appears to me that it would be premature for the ^{Balkan} Committee to put forward ~~part of their~~ ^{its} programme. Personally I believe that the wisest ~~worst~~ course for the Turks themselves to adopt would be to establish an autonomous government for Macedonia, and I believe that the Powers, if represented by a strong Ambassador here, would be able to persuade the Committee that it is in the interest of Turkey to grant autonomy. I fear, however, that the real opponent ~~to~~ such a course would be Austria. I do not see why Germany should oppose it except under the necessity of supporting Austria. At the present moment, however, I think it would be inopportune to put such a question forward. The concert of Europe might be re-established if Austria were contented. The withdrawal of Tcharykoff means that Russia wishes to be on good terms with that Power, and may be a good sign. But until events are further developed, I think it would be premature for ^{your} the Committee

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to do more than watch ~~over~~ ^{of the Porte} events, call attention to ~~the~~ notable
abuses and to avoid formulating a programme of autonomy.

Probably two or three months time may throw light on the situation.

In conclusion I have only to say that the pessimistic view
taken by Dr. Dillon, and quite honestly taken, and unfortunately *largely*
justified by a host of facts, only represents one side of the question.

Any further questions which you care to submit to me, I will
answer to the best of my ability, only asking that my letters should
not be printed.

Very sincerely yours,

Edwin Pears.





Wednesday

20/X/15-

Dear Mr Burton

I think I once mentioned
to you that I had a friend in London who built
the road from Kesham to the Bulwin lines.

Hearing the confusion of tongues as to
what we are going to do there, it occurred to
me to see him in order to learn whether the War
Office had consulted him — as he had given my
name & that of my son as referees. They have
not done so. I have just left him & he
tells me that Northcliffe expressed a strong
wish to hear him. He is trustworthy & as
he was born in or quite near the Dorsetshire,

his information should be carefully taken on
account especially of his local knowledge.

As I have seen you here with one whom
I take to be K's secretary, will you let me
know whether you'd such see I wd care
to meet him here on Friday. If the expediⁿ
is going on - as I sincerely hope it is - it will
be criminal both if he is not seen by a
reputable person. I am convinced he knows
more of the actual locality than any other
man. He is trustworthy

In very great haste as I have
a meeting in ~~London~~ place

Sincerely yours

Wm Sears

Inter
P. comes in
17.12.16.

Sir Edwin Pears on Constantinople.

His statement about neutralization of Straits made before Trepoff announced to Duma that Allies had promised them to Russia. Sir E. considers that Dardanelles Constantinople would be not a reward, but worse than a white elephant to Russia.

[His Reports put into British Blue Book influenced Gladstone's Turkish policy.]

Yet "a bargain is a bargain" & Russia must have Straits if Allies have promised them.

Skobelev told Sir E. that Ra wd not dare to come to Constantinople until after she had smashed the power of the States lying along the Danube.

The Geography of situation increases danger of war (storming of Black Sea - only 2 harbours of refuge - 300 miles of Roumanian & Bulgarian land between Russia & Constantinople).

Russia would lose reputation of being deliverer of Balkans (she has that today even in Bulgaria, the Bulgarian people did not want to fight against her & will probably desert to other side when Russian armies enter Bulgaria).

Same state of affairs in Greece - ancient prophecy that there will be another King Constantine in Constantinople. If this traditional hope of Greeks is destroyed, ~~Greeks~~ ^{Greeks} will hate Russia. It is almost axiom of Russian Statesmen that they must not lose confidence of Balkan States -

If Russia blocked Danube commerce by fortifying Straits, she wd be attacked by every nation in Central & E. Europe.

A Russian Constantinople would stop Berlin Bagdad dream - but importance of this route overestimated.

Suez canal much more important ^{quicker & shorter}; Germans will soon drop the idea.

Constant ple will never be important commercially - she has no hinterland.

Russian sentiment towards Constantinople - perhaps this wd be satisfied by an independent ^{in place of Mahometan}

Mr. Edmund Dean

Pl return to

1.

Mr. Hamilton

Copy.

Pears
→

Yours of the 28th ulto. arrived yesterday. Curiously enough I had a long visit yesterday from who had, previous to the arrival of your letter, had informed me that he had consented to be a Member of the Royal Commission in question, and we discussed some of the points which will probably come before the Commission.

I am quite convinced that our service is less efficient than that of other countries, and I believe that the wealth test and the society^{test} is one of the principal causes. Of course, I do not forget that for diplomatic purposes the ambassadors and secretaries ought to be gentlemen in the sense of having agreeable manners. But I am quite clear that this object cannot be obtained merely by the test of wealth. The greatest cad that I have known in the diplomatic service (happily not in ours) was a man of great wealth. General intelligence is the first desideratum, and if a man possesses that, the chances are that two or three years' experience in the diplomatic service in this country will rub off any angularities which may in the first case have existed. As to the attainments which ought to be insisted on before entering the service, the possession of a degree in any Brit

ish University, ought, except perhaps in exceptional cases, to be necessary. But in addition to that there ought, in my opinion, to be an examination in Commercial law and in such commercial subjects as the London Chamber of Commerce insists upon in its examinations. Quite remarkable ignorance exists in reference to commercial subjects, and there is no point where the difference between those men in the British Diplomatic service and the men belonging to other embassies, especially to the . is so marked and so unfavourable to our men. I knew a man who was so foolish enough to say that he knew nothing about trade and took no interest in it.

When a man has once entered the service, it is desirable that a free hand should be given to the Foreign Office for his promotion, by which I mean, that while promotion by seniority should be the rule, the F.O. should not be bound by it, and that a man might be taken from other services, or even an outsider, for the higher posts. I would also strongly insist upon the necessity of examinations of attaches and secretaries upon the present condition, government and politics of the countries in which they are serving. The tendency is, especially in a country like Turkey (where it would be unreasonable to expect these offi-

cials to have a working knowledge of the Turkish language) not to trouble about political questions, or the progress or decadence of the country and simply to idle their time away and have generally "a good time."

A point ~~to~~ which I attach the utmost importance to is, that the Consular ^{and} Diplomatic Services should be co-ordinate.

In certain cases I would send a young diplomat to act as Consul, and what is of more importance, I would pass men in the Consular Service into the Diplomatic. I have reason to believe that when thirty years ago, re-organised the Diplomatic service in Turkey, this was his idea. It was in accord ^{with} it that he named Ambassador here. ----- had begun as a small consular clerk, and when at the end of 1876 came here for the international conference, he ordered half a dozen of the leading Consuls to meet him here in order that he might have the benefit of their experience in various parts of the Empire. Mr.-----, as he then was, was among them, and soon learned that he knew more of the inner politics of the Balkan States than any man either at the Embassy or elsewhere in the Balkan Peninsula. He accordingly marked him ^{out} after being appointed to he gave him the very great pro-

motion of naming him Ambassador here.

The fault of the present management of the Consular system is, that a man, while still in the prime of life, has attained the highest position open to him. Take for example . . . We differed very seriously in reference to foreign questions, but I recognise that he is full of information, keenly alive to every movement going on in the country, energetic and thoughtful. At present he is the First Dragoman at the Embassy; that is to say, has attained the highest position that according to the practice, if not the rules of the service, is open to him. Such an arrangement is bad for England because she loses the full value of his services, and non-satisfactory to the man who finds that he can get no higher. I merely take . . . as an illustration. As you know, . . . left the Diplomatic Service to take better pay; that is to say, his valuable services in the interest of diplomacy are lost to the country. Take again . . . and . . . Both the latter men would be an ornament to any society in which they moved. Neither of them have wealth or they probably would have entered the Diplomatic Service, but I do not hesitate to say that any one of the four Consular men that I have mentioned



would have made better Ambassadors, that is, Ambassadors more useful to their country, than some I have known as occupying that post.

Of course we have had here first class men in the Diplomatic Service. Such a one was

Sir-----

was another.

Sir-----

was a third.

Sir -----

would rank with

them. But out of the last four named, two are out of the diplomatic service. The above are convictions which have been forced upon me by experience.