

TURK NATIONALISTS ORGANIZE TO RESIST

Preparing in All Parts of the
Empire to Oppose Par-
tition Plan.

BRITISH DEPORT AGITATORS

Several Deputies and a Prominent
Woman Leader Banished
to Malta.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 19.—Leaders of the Turkish Nationalists, from Azerbaijan to Palestine, seem to be co-operating in a movement to oppose allied proposals for a peace unfavorable to Turkey. Men closely associated with Mustapha Kemal, leader of the Nationalists, have been skillfully promoting opposition to all foreign interference, it is asserted, and the Arabs, Kurds and other tribes are said to be aligned with forces planning to checkmate any movement on the part of the Entente looking to the partitioning of the country.

The whole movement seems to be political rather than religious, being declared by many not to be Pan Islamic in any way. Whether Bolshevism enters into the situation has not as yet developed, but it may turn in that direction. Mesopotamia has so far held aloof from the Russian Bolsheviks.

Turkish newspapers frankly say the Allies cannot muster sufficient strength to force an unacceptable peace upon the country. They point to Captain Gabriele d'Annunzio's defiance of the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference and other instances in which the Allies have been powerless to enforce orders, and say it would be better, in any event, to risk humiliating defeat rather than have the country "turned into a group of European dependencies."

With the exception of the Marash incident there have been no massacres of Christians, although there are large numbers of Armenians and Greeks at the mercy of the Turks in Asia Minor. These people are living in terror lest

they be attacked when the peace terms are made known by the Allies, and even in this city well-to-do Armenians and Greeks are moving into the embassy section, which is under better police protection than outlying parts of the city. In some sections of Asia Minor Christians have appealed to the Entente to send troops, while in other regions the Allies have been asked to withdraw their troops, the presence of the soldiers being regarded as adding to the danger.

French detachments are reported to be meeting stubborn resistance in their effort to occupy districts northeast of Aleppo, where British troops were formerly stationed.

Americans in Asia Minor have been requested to remain absolutely neutral in the event of disorders in districts occupied by foreign armies. Great reliance is placed in Mustapha Kemal's pledge that Americans are not to be harmed, and many Armenians are placing themselves under the protection of American missionaries and relief workers.

Turkish Woman Novelist Exiled.

Halide Edib, the most prominent woman leader among the Turkish Nationalists, and Reouf Bey, Deputy for Sivas and mouthpiece of Mustapha Kemal in this city; Cara Vassif Bey and several other members of the Chamber of Deputies have been deported, presumably to Malta, by the British. They were placed on board the cruiser Hibiscus yesterday a little while before that warship sailed.

After Mustapha Kemal and Reouf Bey, Halide Edib was probably the best-known speaker and organizer in the Nationalist movement. When the Greeks landed at Smyrna and some Turks were killed she cast aside all traditions of Turkish women. She organized and addressed mass meetings and so inflamed the Turks here against alleged plans for the dismemberment of the country that the allied High Commissioners forbade further meetings. She has often been described in the British press as a "firebrand and a dangerous agitator."

She was graduated from the American Woman's College here and won recognition as a novelist and poet. She is a widely traveled, handsome woman, and distinguished herself during the war as an aid to her husband, who was head of the Turkish Red Crescent, which fills the place of the Red Cross in the Turkish armies.

Status of General Milne Explained.

PARIS, March 18.—An explanation of the designation of Lieut. Gen. Sir George F. Milne of the British Army as commander of the allied troops at Constantinople is furnished by the Temps today. It points out that although General Franchet d'Esperey, commander of the interallied forces on the Macedonian front, is the superior of General Milne in rank and Constanti-

nople is his headquarters, the British Government insisted after the defeat of Bulgaria that troops sent to the Near East should be under the command of a British officer.

The Temps says that General Franchet d'Esperey is still Commander in Chief of the allied forces in European Turkey, but that General Milne heads the Constantinople garrison.