

TALES OF ARMENIAN HORRORS CONFIRMED

Committee on Atrocities Says
500,000 Victims Have
Suffered Already.

NATIONAL PROTEST URGED

Suggestion That Germany and Austria Be Held Responsible—Outrages on Americans.

Professor Samuel Train Dutton, Secretary of the Committee on Armenian Atrocities, made public yesterday a preliminary statement of the committee outlining the result of its investigation of the terrible conditions existing among the Armenians. The committee says that the reports concerning the massacre, torture, and other maltreatment of Armenians of all ages abundantly are confirmed by its investigation.

Other members of the committee besides Professor Dutton are Cleveland H. Dodge, Arthur Curtiss James, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, John R. Mott, Frank Mason North, James L. Barton, William Sloane, D. Stuart Dodge, and others.

The statement issued by the committee yesterday is as follows:

"A sub-committee has thoroughly investigated the evidence and has just made report to the full committee confirming in every particular the statement recently made by Viscount Bryce regarding the imprisonment, torture, murder, massacre, and exile into the deserts of Northern Arabia of defenseless and innocent Armenians, including decrepit men, women and children, and their forcible conversion to Islam.

"Written testimonies of eyewitnesses whose names are known to the committee, but which obviously cannot now be made public, have been examined with utmost care. This testimony covers hundreds of pages, and the character and position of the authors and the positiveness of utterance carry absolute conviction.

"The witnesses examined include Armenians, Greeks, Bulgarians, Italians, Germans, Turks, Englishmen, Americans, business men, travelers and officials of great variety and rank. Not a single statement can be questioned as to the facts reported. These all agree in the declarations that from Smyrna on the west to Persia, and from the Black Sea to Arabia, a propaganda of extermination of non-Moslems is now being carried on by the Turkish Government far surpassing in ferocity and exceeding in destruction anything done by Abdul Hamid during his long career of massacre and extermination.

"The statements examined, many of which are in the possession of the committee, cover hundreds of towns and cities in which in many instances all of the Armenians have been killed outright, often after horrible torture, or sent to the desert to die of starvation, and that, too, with diabolical cruelty. The ostensible deportation of men, women, and children toward Mesopotamia is usually but a form of marching those starving, helpless, and frequently naked refugees out into the mountains to be outraged and butchered, sometimes by their guards, and sometimes by the Kurds who gladly co-operate in the work of destruction.

"Included among these refugees and victims are pupils and graduates from the American schools and colleges, teachers and professional men who have taken degrees in American and European universities, men and women who have represented the brains and enterprise of the country for a generation or more.

"The plan of procedure, which is identical in all parts of the country, seems to aim at the complete elimination of all non-Moslem races from Asiatic Turkey, and already that aim is in fair way of accomplishment so far as the Armenians are concerned.

"In several places American property has been seized, Americans searched, imprisoned and expelled from the country, their letters and telegrams, even from United States Consular offices, intercepted and their lives put in jeopardy. This, however, is of trivial importance compared with the work of destruction going on among the Armenians.

"Evidence seems to prove that probably 500,000 Armenians have already been murdered or forced to the desert, where only death awaits them unless relief is secured at once. And all this has taken place since March, and is now at the height of its gruesome fury.

"The committee is confident that if the press of the country should, with all the emphasis at its command, voice its protest and call upon the Turkish Gov-

ernment to put an end to this crime against humanity and return the exiles who may yet be living to their homes it could hardly fail to produce results.

"In view of the great influence which Germany and Austria exercise over their ally the American people cannot fail to hold them morally responsible if these atrocities are permitted to continue."