

# 500,000 ARMENIANS SLAIN IN 6 MONTHS

**U. S. Asked to Bring Pressure  
to Force Turkey to End  
the Massacres.**

**CITIES ARE DEPOPULATED**

A preliminary report of the Committee on Armenian Atrocities issued yesterday asserts that it has evidence which tends to show that probably a half million Armenians have been murdered since March or have been driven into the desert to die of starvation and exposure unless speedy relief reaches them.

The committee, which consists of Prof. Samuel T. Dutton, Charles R. Crane, Cleveland H. Dodge, D. Stuart Dodge, Arthur Curtiss James, John R. Mott, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Frank Mason North, Stanley White, James R. Barton, William Sloane and others, was formed for the purpose of investigating the facts regarding the reported massacre of non-Moslems in Turkey, and also to ascertain whether anything can be done to relieve the situation. The committee asks that American pressure should be brought to bear on Germany and Austria to force Turkey to put a stop to the massacre of Armenians.

The statement in part follows:

"A sub-committee has thoroughly investigated the evidence and has just made a 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 defenceless 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 the 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, travellers and officials of great variety and rank. Not a single statement can be questioned as to the facts reported. These all agree in the declaration 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 tortures, 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 cooperate 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 and 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 a 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 the 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 grewsome 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 on the Turkish Government 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."