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# The New York Times

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WEDNESDAY APRIL 21, 1909

## MOSLEM MASSACRES TAKE 5,000 LIVES

Fresh Outbreaks Reported at  
Marash and Hadjin, and in Vicinity  
of Alexandretta

## TURKS BLAME ARMENIANS

Turkish Governor Refuses to Allow Party  
to Land from British Warship to Relieve  
Armenian Village.

Foreign Office Says They Killed Rogers and  
Maurer While the American Missionaries  
Were Fighting a Fire.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 20.- No less than 5,000 persons lost their lives in the massacres that have been going on in the vilayet of Adana during the last eight days as a result of the outbreak of Moslem fanaticism. Of the total 2,000 were killed in the City of Adana, and of this number more than 200 were Moslems. This information was received in Constantinople this morning through Consular channels.

Adana at present is quiet, but there have been renewed attacks on Christians at Marash in the vilayet of Aleppo, about eighty miles northeast of Alexandretta. The Consular advices describe the situation as extremely precarious. The excitement at the port of Alexandretta is intense, although the presence of the British cruiser Diana at that port is expected to have a tranquilizing effect.

Disturbances are reported from Hadjin, in the northern extremity of the Adana vilayet, where a large Armenian community is counted upon to defend itself vigorously.

A special dispatch from Mersina says that massacre and pillage continue in the interior, and that the authorities are either indifferent or are conniving in the slaughter. The British warship which sailed to relieve Deurtyul, an Armenian village on the coast, returned to Alexandretta to-day without having accomplished anything.

The commander of the vessel applied to the Governor of the district for permission to land a relief party, but the permission was refused.

There appears to have been a preconceived plan for the extermination of the Armenians throughout Anatolia, directed by some occult influence in the capital. People of position here, says the dispatch, were duly forewarned weeks ago, and great indignation is expressed at the callousness and incredulity of Europe.

The Foreign Office, replying to an inquiry made by Ambassador Laishman regarding the killing at Adana of the American missionaries Rogers and Maurer, says it appears that the two men came to their death at the hands of Armenians who were firing from their dwellings near where the missionaries were helping to put out a fire in the house of a Turkish widow. The foreign Office puts the entire blame for the killing of the missionaries on the Armenians.

BEIRUT, Syria, April 20. - Moslem fanaticism has broken out in the immediate vicinity of Alexandretta, and great excitement prevails in that district.

Houses in flames can be seen from the streets of Alexandretta.

LARNACA, Cyprus, April 20.- Advices received here from Adana by way of Latakia, Syria, state that massacres began in the markets at Adana on Wednesday morning. The Armenians retired to their own quarters and resisted for forty-eight hours. The Christian bazaars were looted and burned. For several days the villagers came in from the surrounding country in hordes. They were armed by the authorities, who pretend to regard them as military reserves.

Women and children were horribly mutilated. The missionaries, Rogers and Maurer, were shot dead while fighting the fire. The massacres then spread to Tarsus and other places. The whole district is in a shocking condition. Thousands are homeless and famine is imminent. The 4,000 refugees in the yard of the American College are in a pitiable condition. Provision, clothing, and physicians are urgently needed.