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Scottish Geographical Magazine

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rsgj19>

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Published online: 27 Feb 2008.

To cite this article: Archibald R. Colquhoun F.R.G.S. (1909) Bosnia-Herzegovina ,
Scottish Geographical Magazine, 25:2, 71-84, DOI: [10.1080/00369220908733942](https://doi.org/10.1080/00369220908733942)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00369220908733942>

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BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA.¹*(With Maps and Illustrations.)*

By ARCHIBALD R. COLQUHOUN, F.R.G.S.

A GREAT deal of public attention has been directed lately towards that corner of the Balkan peninsula which is known as Bosnia-Herzegovina. Austria-Hungary has declared that she intends this region to be incorporated permanently within her own dominions, instead of regarding it, as heretofore, as a sort of military protectorate, and the agitation in the Balkan countries generally, caused by this decision, has brought us to the eve of another war in the Near East, whose consequences would inevitably be very far-reaching. Before endeavouring to give you an idea of the two countries, of their people, and the problems involved, I shall show you two maps, which will make much clearer than words could do the geographical and political position of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The first map shows the political divisions of the Balkan peninsula and some of the principal Slav countries—Dalmatia, Montenegro, Servia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slavonia, and Croatia (running up into Carniola)—by which you see that Bosnia is bounded on the north by the river Save (which divides it from Hungary), except on the north-western corner, where Bosnia merges imperceptibly into Croatia. There is a thin strip, Dalmatia, between Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Adriatic, cutting them off from the sea altogether. On the east there are Montenegro, the *Sanjak* of Novi-Bazar (still Turkish), and Servia, the boundary between Servia and Bosnia being the deep, narrow, sluggish, green-watered river Drina.

The map also shows that, although rivers have been used as boundaries, the whole of this region is a congeries of mountains—part of the Dinaric Alps which form the watershed between the Adriatic and the Black Sea. On the north sluggish rivers dawdle to the Danube; on the south thin torrents race down to the coast, often losing themselves underground. The Dinaric Alps are not to be compared with the well-known mountains bearing the latter name. The highest peaks, not much more than 8000 feet, are found in Montenegro, and nowhere is there a region of perpetual snow and glaciers. Approaching Bosnia from the north, from the fat and fertile Hungarian plain, one finds at first English-looking scenery of green pastures and trees at the foot of the mountain slopes, but soon there is a tangle of ever-rising hills such as we are unacquainted with; the scenery very rich, with well-watered valleys and heavily-timbered mountain slopes. On the south of the watershed, however, as we descend to the coast through Herzegovina, the mountains become extraordinarily bleak and barren, and the strata of the limestone formation are plainly visible, showing nakedly on the sides of the mountains, which look as if lines had been ruled on them and then, at times, roughly

¹ An address delivered before the Society in Edinburgh on January 28, 1909.

broken up. In this *karst* region, as it is called, there are said to be "more stones than grass." A great deal of the desolate aspect is attributed to the wanton destruction of the forests by the Venetians for their shipbuilding.

The map also indicates the river basins of the Balkan peninsula, and the drainage towards the Mediterranean and Adriatic, on the one hand, and the Black Sea on the other. You will observe that the lines of the rivers run generally from north-west to south-east, and also that the Danube drains an enormous area. The importance of this great artery cannot be overestimated; it is a dominating fact in the countries north of the peninsula. There is only one bridge into the Balkan countries over the Danube, at Chernavoda, which is further east than is shown in this map, near the Black Sea, between Roumania and Bulgaria. The bridge at Belgrade is across the Save river, and *not* the Danube.

The other map illustrates the railway lines constructed and proposed.¹ From north to south runs the line by which I travelled to Sarajevo (the capital of Bosnia) and thence southwards, of which you will see an illustration on p. 75. Eastward of Sarajevo is the continuation of this railway, with two branches, to the Turkish and Servian frontiers respectively. This line (opened in 1906) is a triumph of Austrian engineering. It passes through the most wild and romantic scenery, piercing mountain spurs, bridging deep gorges, creeping over hills, and winding through dales. In nine miles it has no less than ninety-nine tunnels and thirty important iron bridges. This is the first instalment of a railway policy long determined on by Austria, to connect the Bosnian system, *via* the *Sanjak* of Novi-Bazar, with Mitrovicz, and thus open a new Austro-German highroad to Salonika and the Aegean. And it must be noted that, though Novi-Bazar has been evacuated, the right to construct this railway still remains. As shown on the map, there is only one break—in Bosnia—between the terminus of the military line running south from Agram (the capital of Croatia) and Banjaluka. If this were filled up a line would give direct connection from Austria and Central Europe to Salonika, and would be a powerful competitor to the line *via* Budapest and Belgrade. The proposed Slav counter lines, to which reference is made later on, are clearly shown, as well as the suggested Italian line to connect Monastir (a most important district) with the Adriatic.

And now, asking you to keep these main political and geographical conditions clearly in your minds, let me turn to the countries themselves. Their history, like that of other Balkan states, is one long record of struggle. Evidences remain of prehistoric occupation, in the shape of forts and cromlechs, but it is only in Roman times that we emerge on safe ground. The Romans conquered the country, and in the first century before Christ it became the province of Illyricum. Many traces of Roman times remain—baths, villas, bronzes, pottery, tiles, mosaics, and coins are found in various parts—and a small Roman town has been unearthed, also two interesting relics in the shape of very early Christian basilica. When the Roman Empire declined Illyria was overrun by

¹ Cf. also this *Magazine*, vol. xxiv. p. 254.

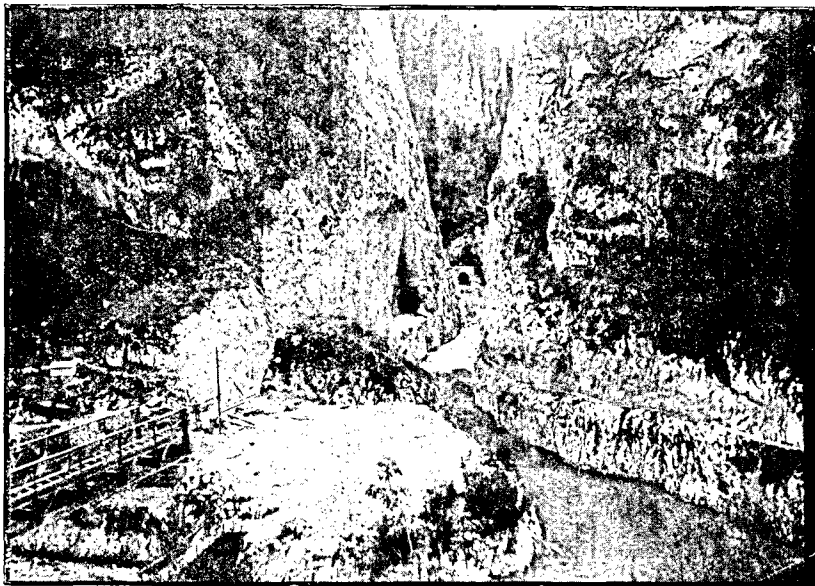
tribes—Vandals, Goths, and Slavs. The last came to stay. On the coast Latin civilisation and blood held their own, and the mountains of Albania are said to have also harboured the Roman Illyrians, flying before the Slav wave, but the greater part of the Balkan peninsula was



swallowed up in the Slav irruption, and its population is Slav to this day.

The Slav peoples are differentiated as Russians, Poles, Czechs (Bohemians), Croats, Serbs (Servians), and Bulgars who, although with a foreign strain, are Slav by their language, which is closely allied

to that of the Serbo-Croats. There are three great branches of the Slav languages—Russian, Polish-Czech (or Polish-Bohemian), and Serbo-Croat; the last, with slight differences of dialect, being spoken by all the Slavs of the Balkan peninsula whose states have been shown by me on the map. Now, when the Christian religion came to the Southern Slavs, it was brought both from the eastern and the western Churches, from Byzantium and Rome, and in Bosnia these forces seemed to have overlapped most. Therefore we find there, side by side, two main branches of the Christian religion—the Orthodox and the Roman Catholic Churches—and two forms of writing—the Latin and the Cyrillic—the latter being that used in Russia and originally adapted from uncial Greek. Nowa-



The Praca Defile on the new strategic railway.

days it is usual for children in Bosnia-Herzegovina to learn both alphabets, but it would be considered renegade to one's Church to use the Cyrillic character for the Christian name if one happens to belong to the Roman Catholic Church, and *vice versa*. Needless to say, there has always been considerable rivalry between the Churches, and political friction results, which is increased by the fact that Croatia, Bosnia's western neighbour, is Catholic, while Serbia, on the east, is Orthodox. The generic term for Roman Catholics is therefore "Croat," while those belonging to the Greek Orthodox Communion are called "Serb." The two names denote not a racial but a religious difference. In consequence the term "Serbo-Croat" is applied to a large portion of the Southern Slavs. Besides Serbs and Croats, there is a third and very large section of the people who are of Slav descent and yet are strict Mohammedans. Bosnia-Herzegovina, in fact, exhibits the unique

spectacle of a country in which one-third of the people, having either been Christianised or offered Christianity, chose to become Mohammedans. The story of their conversion is most strange. About the time that Latin and Byzantine monks were beginning their conversion of the Slav peoples, a strange religion began to spread from east to west across Southern Europe. The nature of this religion is difficult to define accurately, since no writings of its adherents remain, and we have to depend on the evidence of those who denounced it. Apparently it was an Oriental religion not unlike the philosophy of Mencius in China, and also resembling the creed of the Parsees. Its main feature was the belief in the dualism of the principles of good and evil, and in the continual warring of these two forces, both proceeding from a Supreme, Invisible Being. In some respects the devotees of this faith resembled the Manichæans, who were believed to worship devils, and, although their creed seems to have enjoined purity and asceticism of life, they roused the horrified antagonism of Christians and Mohammedans alike and drew down the most relentless persecutions. The name by which they were known is Bogomile, whether from the name of one of their leaders or from some phrase is uncertain. The head and front of their offending undoubtedly lay in their denial of all sacerdotal authority. There was no priesthood among them, and they denounced the worship of images—even the sign of the crucifix—and all ceremonies, including that of baptism by water. They accepted the New Testament story, but denied some of the fundamental doctrines which the Church had built upon it. In many respects, it will be seen, they resembled the Protestants of a later age, and there is no more strange and interesting page in history than the story of this much persecuted sect. The Albigenses were offshoots of the Bogomiles, and the Swiss Vaudois and the Italian Valdesi are said to be descendants of this sect. It was the opposition of the Bogomiles to the Roman Catholic religion which caused them to throw in their lot with the Turks in the fifteenth century. At this period Bosnia, which had for a short time been an independent kingdom, was a feudatory of Hungary, and in the struggle between that country and the Turks a Bosnian prince, who was secretly a Bogomile, betrayed his castle and fortress to the Turks. A large number of nobles followed his example, and from them are descended the Bosnian nobles, or *Begs*, who still own a great part of the country, though their power is declining and their incomes are dwindling under the Austrian régime. A considerable portion of the peasantry is also Mussulman, and so we have the strange spectacle of people of the same race who belong to two different Christian Churches and to Islam, and yet live amicably side by side. The proportions are, roughly, Serbs (Orthodox) 700,000, Mussulmans 600,000, and Roman Catholics 300,000, but the Catholics include all the Austrian officials and their families, the railway servants, the officers, and the majority of the Austrian troops of occupation, and a considerable number of Catholic traders. The permanent Catholic native (Slav) population is probably not more than 70,000, while other denominations account for only 12,000. The total population is over one and a half million. Although all the Bogomiles nominally embraced Islam, there is no doubt

that the persecuted faith lingered until recent times, and some writers believe that it is still secretly preserved.

Bosnia and Herzegovina were both conquered by the Turks in the fifteenth century. As to the latter, it may be said here that it should be spoken of as *the* Herzegovina, the Emperor having in the fifteenth century given its *voivode* the title of Herzog—hence Herzegovine or “the Duchy.” I shall, however, adopt the less ceremonious form. At one time, prior to the Hungarian conquest, Bosnia was part of the Servian dominions, and it is a complication of the political situation that the Servians, who hope to revive the glories of their ancient kingdom, cast longing eyes upon their lost provinces in Bosnia.

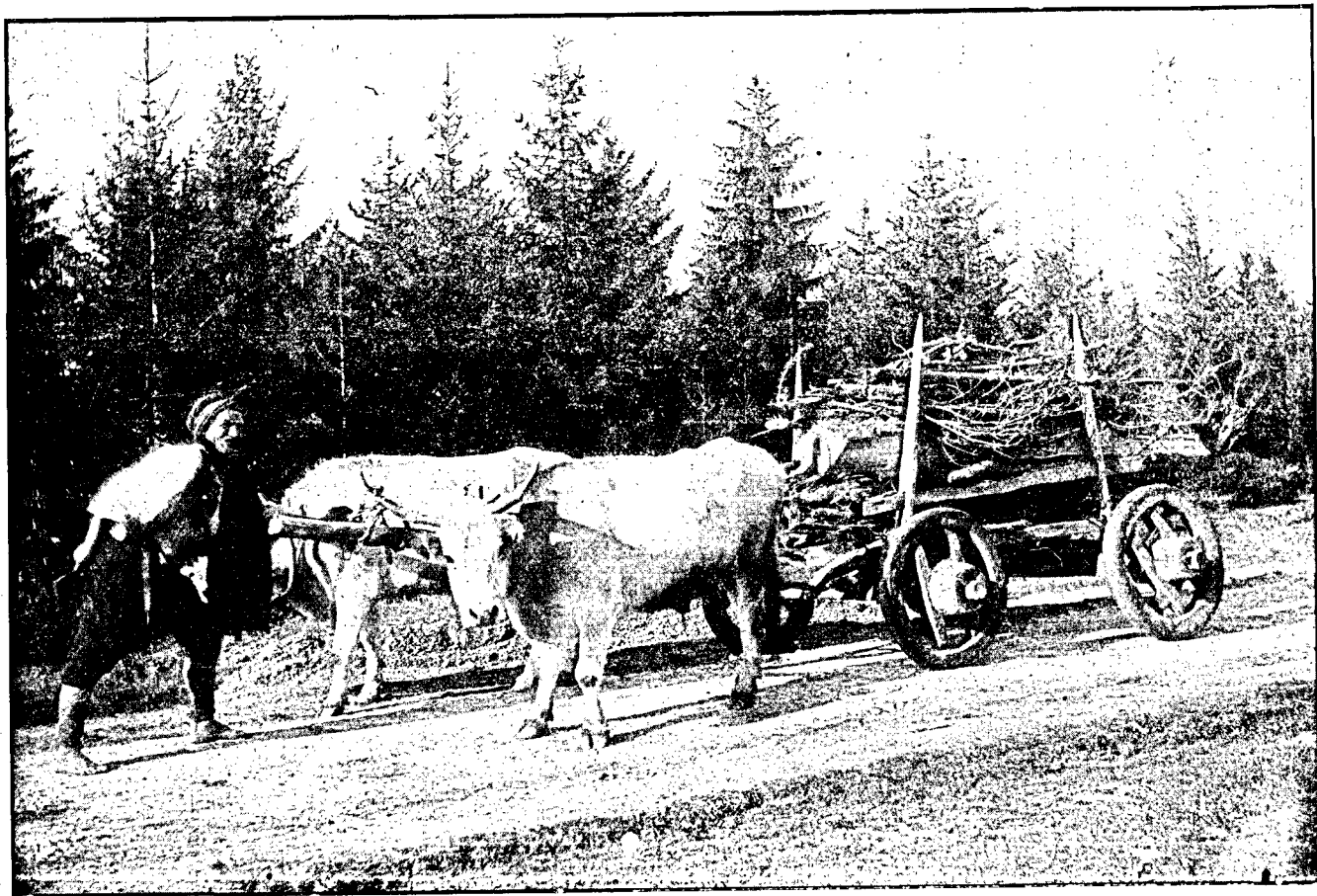
We are, however, unable to follow here the tangled, if absorbing, history of the Southern Slavs, and must pass on to the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary. It will be remembered that Servia revolted so successfully against Turkey soon after the first quarter of the nineteenth century, that she became a principality, merely tributary to Turkey. The effect on the kindred peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina was to render them restless under Turkish misrule. Unfortunately, they had not, as Servia and Bulgaria each had, the nucleus of a homogeneous nation within their borders, and the spiritual allegiance of a large proportion of their people to the Sultan, as Khalif, made a national rising almost impossible. Then, as now, the three Churches divided the Bosnians and their neighbours in the Duchy. This was the more to be regretted since the peasants suffered even more than the Servians or the Bulgars, being taxed and oppressed by their own Mussulman nobility quite as much as by the Turkish officials sent to govern them. The *kmet*, or serf-peasant, was perhaps the most backward agriculturist in Europe, and his country was in a state of anarchy. This was the condition of affairs when in 1875 the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina made the attempt to throw off the Turkish yoke. The rebellion, fostered by a secret society, the *Omladina*, spread during the next year to Servia and Bulgaria. The resources of Servia were soon exhausted. Then came the Russian intervention, ending in the abortive treaty of San Stefano (which created a great Bulgarian principality, stretching from the Danube to the Aegean), and the Congress of Berlin in 1878. The proposed limits of Bulgaria were greatly restricted. Servia obtained independence, but in the delimitation of her frontiers her needs and aspirations were ignored. It was decided that Austria-Hungary should be allowed to “occupy” Bosnia-Herzegovina and to place garrisons in the *Sanjak* of Novi-Bazar. As a matter of fact, Russia had engaged in her secret convention with Austria-Hungary (in January 1877) to make this concession to Austria if the latter remained neutral in the Russo-Turkish war. Bismarck permitted, or more probably initiated, the “occupation” as a means of driving a wedge of Austro-German influence through the heart of the Southern Slavs, and the British plenipotentiaries acquiesced in the scheme as the best way to secure order in this turbulent corner of the Balkans. The Turks, it must be noted, had the foresight to extract from Count Andrassy a secret protocol acknowledging the “provisional” character of the occupation.

The Austrian occupation was not accomplished without severe opposition on the part of the people, and the guerilla warfare, which lasted four years, cost Austria two hundred officers and five thousand men before the country was pacified. There is no doubt, having in view the great difficulties to be encountered, that Austrian rule has, on the whole, been directly beneficial to the people. This is largely due to the policy initiated by the Hungarian pro-consul Kallay, to whom the government of the country was first entrusted. Railways, telegraphs, and roads have been pushed on, and whether their object is strategic or otherwise they are a direct and undeniable boon to the country. Attempts have been made, by means of model farms, to improve the primitive agricultural methods; schools have been established, hospitals built; and, in short, a veneer of European civilisation has been spread over the land. It is now quite easy for an ordinary tourist to visit this little-known country without getting out of the range of good trains and decent hotels, and the Austrian Government has even provided mountain huts and guides for climbers who wish to explore the Dinaric Alps. Of course the Austrian veneer and the comfortable hotels do not exist off the beaten track, but a great deal has been done to bring the peasant in touch with the world of progress and change, of which he had hitherto been in entire ignorance, wrapped in true Oriental lethargy. The drafting of the young men into the army, which involves spending some time outside their own country, will undoubtedly have a great effect on the next generation.

In Sarajevo one sees the old and the new style side by side, with a curious effect. This is how it was described in *The Whirlpool of Europe* by my wife and myself (published last year), which gave an account of all the countries and peoples under the Austrian crown:—

“The five-and-twenty years of Austrian occupation has not in Sarajevo, the capital, done more than place a surface crust over the lives of the people. Even here one may turn out of one’s modern hotel and in a few steps enter the bazaar—that labyrinth of lanes, flanked with wooden booths in front of stone buildings. Here is no trace of the West. The barber plies his trade; the shoemaker displays his peaked slippers of red or yellow and patches his customers’ worn goods, spectacles on nose; the silver and copper smith has his little furnace and apparatus of primitive simplicity; the tailor sits cross-legged on his bench; and the sweetmeat-seller greets one’s nostrils with the odour of *ghee*, to be smelt a long way off. Most characteristic of all is the be-turbaned old greybeard, seated cross-legged before his door, smoking sedately and imperturbably his cigarette or hookah, and surveying the world with the indifference of age-long philosophy. Through the murmur of sounds that fills the heavy air, laden with the many smells of an Oriental bazaar, comes a familiar *clang*—the importunate jangling of the bell of an electric tram which glides along near by, in vivid contrast to this bit of the old world.”

The people, even in their Mussulman dresses, betray their Slav origin very plainly. It is true one sees the dark hair and brunette complexion often associated with the East, but it is, in reality, the colouring of Southern Europe; there are many more fair types and blue eyes. Both men and women are well grown and sturdy, and have the open



A Bosnian country cart and oxen.

glance of Europe, and not the inscrutable, expressionless eyes of the East. The peasant dresses are very picturesque and distinctive, each village having its own peculiarities, and a wealth of embroidery is used to glorify the rough homespun stuffs of which clothes are made. The patterns are distinctly Eastern in feeling and colour, and the Austrians, who are anxious to preserve the artistic sense of the people, have established schools for carpet-weaving, embroidery, and silver-work, in which the old Turkish designs are followed. Unfortunately the æsthetic sense of the Austrians has not prevented them from building the most hideous (though doubtless sanitary) bare barracks, government offices, and public buildings, which so grievously mar the picturesqueness of Bosnian towns.

The peasantry are almost entirely illiterate, the only education hitherto having been the provision made by each Church for teaching her own people. Like all Slav peoples they love songs, ballads, and stories, and have long and wonderful tales of their ancient heroes, who have gradually become semi-mythical personages with magical powers. This was the only form in which the Slavs could preserve their national traditions, and for centuries the Servians have kept their national sentiment alight with no other fuel than these folk-songs and legends. In Bosnia there is the same persistent racial feeling, and both Turks and Christians tell the same stories and sing the same songs of their great ones in the past. So far I do not think these have been collected or written down, though it is to be hoped that this will be done before the spread of education destroys oral traditions. There are several collections of Servian folk-lore and songs, and they have a wild, melancholy beauty, which is essentially Slav in spirit, resembling the music of Chopin.

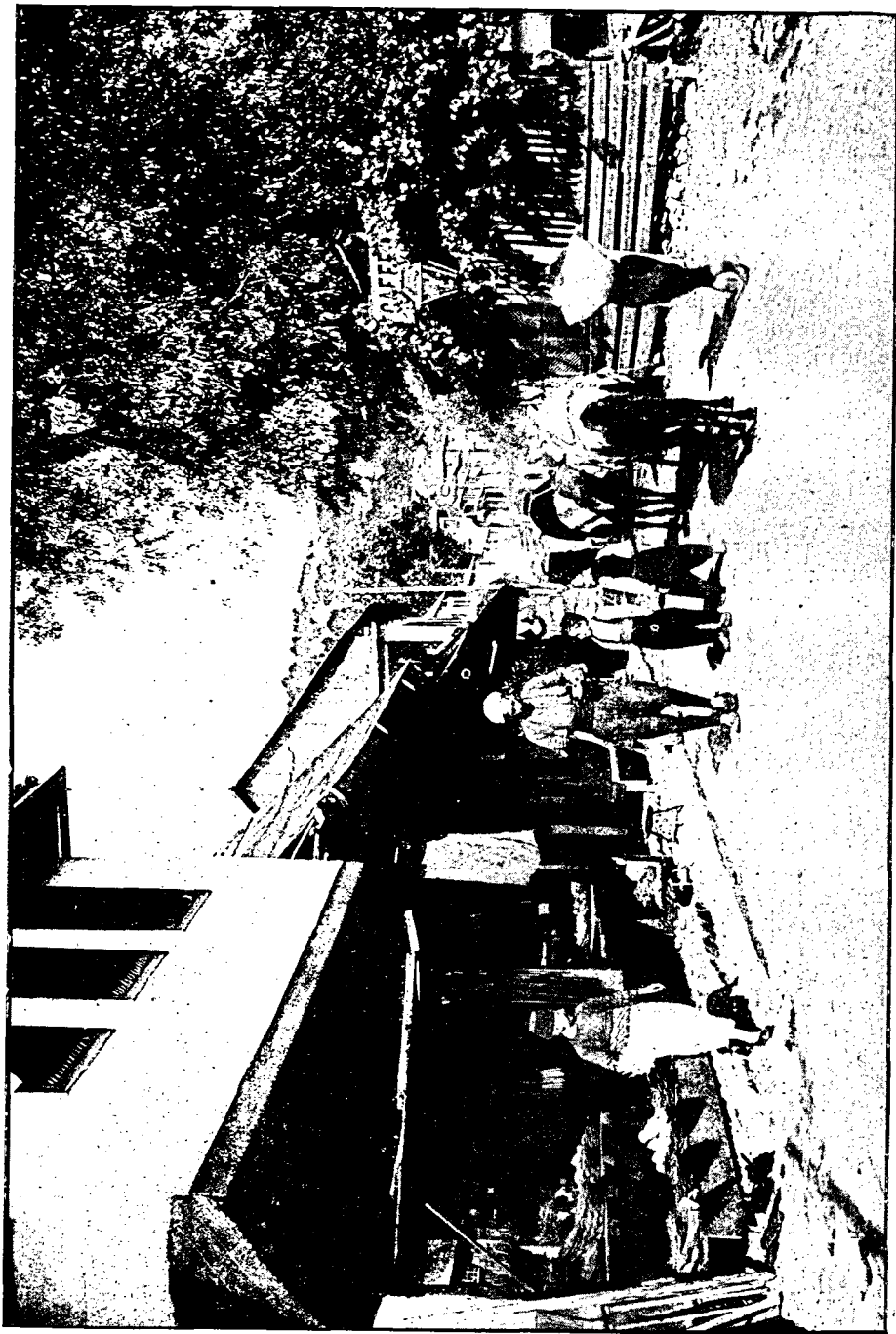
A curious feature of Bosnian peasant life is the *Zádruga*, or village community, which is still to be seen in its primitive form, though it is becoming rarer. All the Slav races practised some form of communism at times, and it survives in the system of landownership in Russia, and many other Slav countries. In the *Zádruga* all property is held in common, and the members eat together, pool their earnings, and cannot act without common consent. The following graphic description of a *Zádruga* is taken from an article by Miss Thompson in the *Nineteenth Century* for April 1907:—

“In one of the *Zádrugas* that I visited I found the huge family of fifty persons at breakfast. A Bosnian hut, two-thirds of which is conical, grey-shingled roof, marks the quickest and most natural transition from growing trees to a human habitation. The interior consists usually of a single room, dark and not over cleanly—for the peasant, though he never fails to enumerate pure air and pure water as the chief charms of his village, is, as a rule, careful to exclude both from his house and his person. This *Zádruga* consisted of a group of four or five huts and as many barns perched on an isolated spur of the mountains. The men of the party—five brothers and their sons and elder grandsons—were seated on low stools round a *sofra* or table about twelve inches high; at a smaller and still lower *sofra* sat boys of the next age, while at a third sprawled the babies—there seemed at least a dozen of them. Directly the meal was over, the men went off to their work; one brother started on a two days' journey with pigs to sell at Sarajevo, another for a distant

pasture in the hills, while the little boys of six and seven were sent off, not without tears, to watch the goats; and three, a few years older, started equally unwillingly for the district school some two hours away. The women, who had waited on the men and taken their own meal later, . . . then set to work methodically with their needles, their looms, and their cheeses. If the Slav peasant may be sometimes accused of laziness, his wife atones for it by her ceaseless industry. . . . There is no field labour of which she does not do the lion's share. Small wonder that a Bosnian woman is seldom as good-looking as her tall, well-formed, fair-haired husband."

Though the material progress of the country under Austrian administration cannot be denied, it must not be supposed that the people are contented. Apart from the very natural objection always entertained to an alien rule, the bureaucracy is somewhat narrow and unyielding in its methods; very few careers are open to the natives, and they are not allowed the safety-valve to the national consciousness of freedom of speech, press, or public assembly. They feel themselves, in fact, in far greater danger of being denationalised than they were under the Turk. Their natural discontent is fanned by foreign agitators, and the result is a very dangerous condition of affairs.

And now let me try to summarise the recent events which have brought this strange, semi-Oriental country so prominently before us to-day. In January of last year considerable excitement was caused by the announcement that Austria-Hungary had obtained from Turkey a concession to survey a line through Novi-Bazar to connect the Bosnian system with the existing line running southwards to Salonika. It was apparent that this was a part of the Austro-German scheme for cutting the Slavs of the Balkan peninsula in two, and preventing Servia from connection with Montenegro, or ever reaching an outlet on the sea. Russian sympathies were now enlisted afresh on the side of the Southern Slavs, for since her defeat in the Far East the greatest Slav power has turned once more towards the Near East. A great outcry, therefore, arose, and as a counterblast to the Austro-German line a Slav railway, from the Danube to the Adriatic, was projected, which would cut the Novi-Bazar line at right angles and emerge on the Adriatic. The Italians, like the Serbs, though of course in a lesser degree, are interested in this railway project which would open to them new and profitable markets both in the Balkan States and in Southern Russia. The agitation on this score decreased, however, as no practical steps were taken. Then suddenly (in August 1908) came the wonderful news of the successful revolution in Turkey, and the granting of a constitution to all the peoples within the Ottoman Empire. Put crudely, there is no doubt that this sudden change forced the hand of Austria-Hungary. Such a hold had been established on Bosnia-Herzegovina that the eventual annexation of that country was inevitable, but the new school of politicians, who are now replacing the aged Emperor Francis Joseph in the control of affairs, decided that a favourable moment for making the annexation was to be found while the new régime in Turkey was still weak, and while Russia was occupied with internal difficulties. Bulgaria, which might have joined Servia in protesting on behalf of the Slavs in



In the Turkish quarter, Sarajevo.

Bosnia-Herzegovina, was bought off by the promise of support should Prince Ferdinand throw off the nominal suzerainty of Turkey. It is believed in well-informed circles that Prince Ferdinand forced the pace, and that Austria had not intended the blow to fall quite so soon. However that may be, her action roused opposition in Great Britain and France, where much sympathy is felt for the young Turks; in Russia, where the Neo-Slav movement—the new development of the Pan-Slav propaganda—is very strong in the Duma and among the middle classes; and eventually in Italy, whose interests were threatened. Germany alone supported her ally Austria, although it is difficult to reconcile her attitude with the friendship she has always professed for Turkey.

At the present moment the situation is an *impasse*. Austria and Bulgaria have certainly set aside the Berlin Treaty, but, even if a Conference of Powers is called to consider the situation, it would be impossible, in the division of opinion that exists among the Powers, to restore the *status quo*. As a nominal concession to Turkey, Austria withdrew her garrisons from the *Sanjak* of Novi-Bazar, but she would not have done so were she not well aware that in her fortresses and railways, which extend to the frontier of that region, she already holds the key to the position. Servia, whose hopes of recovering her lost provinces are for ever dashed, clamours for a strip of land which would enable her to join hands with the Montenegrins and secure an outlet on the Adriatic.

Whatever may be the reasons or justifications for Austria's precipitate action, the result has been to raise an acute crisis in the Near East, the end of which cannot be foreseen. The immediate consequences are the revival of Italian Irridentism and of Russian Pan-Slavism, and a regrouping of the Powers on a basis of mutual suspicion and distrust. Those of us who read the New Year's speech of the German Emperor to his generals cannot fail to have been struck by his dark picture of the European situation; and at the same time most of us feel that it lies largely with the German War Lord, whose influence is so powerful at Vienna, to prevent the actual outbreak of the smouldering flames. For the Servian peoples will not attack Austria unless driven to it, and Russia, Turkey, and Italy are all too much concerned with internal affairs to desire anything but peace. Turkey, however, is now indeed prepared to accept pecuniary compensation from Austria, while Bulgaria is prepared to support the latter Power. Under the circumstances Austria will now be able to concentrate her attention on Servia. That country should never forget that "the highway to Salonika lies through the valley of the Morava." Prudence and patience are, in my opinion, the only means by which she can hope to maintain her independence. As for the attitude of the Bosnians themselves, it is to be hoped that they will accept the fact of inclusion within the Austrian dominions, and agitate for a constitution whereby they may achieve autonomy. This would be their most direct road to comparative liberty, since they must be under the wing of some great Power. One hopes that they will not be tempted to futile rebellion, and also that they will try to live out their troubles in their own country,

and not be driven to desert it for another across the Atlantic, as is happening in Croatia.

Unless some such counsels of prudence prevail the spring will certainly see a devastating and futile guerilla warfare between the mountaineers of Montenegro, Bosnia and Servia and the trained troops of Austria. At any moment a chance "incident" on the frontier might precipitate such a war. While little doubt could exist as to the ultimate victor in such a conflict, the Southern Slavs hope that their action might lead to European intervention. Such a hope is entirely fallacious, and a war under any circumstances would probably lead to the effacement of Servia as a separate state and the creation of a third Slav state to form part of a Triple (instead of a Dual) Monarchy under the Habsburg crown.

COTTON CULTIVATION IN ASIA MINOR.

AN important report (Cd. 4324) on agriculture in Asia Minor, with special reference to cotton cultivation, by Professor Wyndham Dunstan, Director of the Imperial Institute, was presented to Parliament recently.

We published here in 1904 (xx. p. 354) a long abstract of Professor Dunstan's report on *Cotton Cultivation in the British Empire and Egypt*, the article being illustrated by a map of the cotton-growing areas of the world. It is therefore of interest to supplement this paper by giving some account of Professor Dunstan's new report.

Professor Dunstan says that cotton is grown throughout Asia Minor, especially in the south-west (Anatolia) and south-east (Cilicia), the greatest production being in the following three districts:—Aidin, watered by the Cayster and Meander rivers; Kassaba, watered by the river Hermus; and Adana, in the rich Cilician Plain, watered by the rivers Cydnus, Sarus, and Pyramus. Each of these districts is connected by railway with a seaport. These three districts are, as a rule, sufficiently watered, and the climate and soil are well suited for cotton. Although the rainfall is somewhat irregular, it is usually possible to grow the crop with success without resort to artificial watering. In many places, however, irrigation would materially assist cotton cultivation and would enable a superior quality of cotton to be grown. Irrigation works, although often planned, have so far not been carried out, except such primitive operations as are practised by the natives in the immediate vicinity of streams and rivers. In all these districts sources of water are abundant, and such works would appear to present no difficulty, except that of raising the necessary capital and obtaining the requisite permission and guarantees from the Government. The Turkish Government has recently given authority for the irrigation, under German auspices, of the great plain of Konia, in the centre of Asia Minor. This scheme, though primarily intended to secure the growth of cereals, will no doubt lead to a considerable production of cotton, which may be grown as a rotation crop.

The cotton at present chiefly grown in Asia Minor appears to have