

SAYS BAKU ARMENIANS FACE EXTERMINATION

Allied High Commissioner's Mes- sage Tells of Azerbaidjan Moslems' Crimes.

The Armenian inhabitants of Baku face extermination at the hands of the Azerbaidjans, according to Colonel William N. Haskell, Allied High Commissioner to Armenia, in a message made public yesterday by Charles V. Vickery, Secretary of the Near East Relief. The message was received through the American Relief Administration and says:

"The situation of the Armenians resident in Baku is critical notwithstanding the attempts of the Azerbaidjan Government to afford them protection against popular outbreaks. Crimes of every type are committed daily against the Armenians by local minor officials and natives of Baku. The rich Armenians are mulcted of large sums under various pretexts. Armenian shopkeepers are robbed by Azerbaidjan soldiers, Baku police, or any one so disposed, without redress.

"The Near East Relief guard on one train reports that Armenians were dragged from the train and butchered before his eyes. Travelers by train point out the Armenians to the Azerbaidjan Moslems at a thousand roubles a denunciation. (At present rate of exchange, 1,000 roubles is a little less than \$5.) The slightest incident is liable to cause a general uprising of the Azerbaidjan populace, resulting in the massacre of the entire Armenian population of Baku.

"The recent crisis in Baku is the result of the hostility between the Azerbaidjan Moslems and the Armenians in the mountain district of the Karabakh, in dispute between the two countries. I feel impelled to tell the Peace Conference that the Armenian inhabitants of Baku face extermination, although they are not parties to the questions at issue between the two governments, and although they are peaceful and law abiding."

The Near East Relief also received a message from Colonel Haskell dated April 26, reporting that at the international conference between representatives of the Republics of Armenia, Azerbaidjan and Georgia in Tiflis, April 9 to 11, resolutions were adopted to end the conflict between the little republics of Transcaucasia.

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