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**Area, Population, and Economic Character of the  
New State of Armenia.**

Roughly estimated, the size of the future Republic of Armenia will be about 60,000 square miles. In equivalent American areas, it will compare closely to the size of Illinois or twice the size of Maine. In comparison with European countries it will be about the size of Czecho-Slovakia.

In climate and geography the country is most nearly comparable to Switzerland. Except along the narrow coastal strip of Trebizond, it is a mountainous plateau, in which the arable area will be not more than one-fifth of the total area. The cultivable land lies chiefly in the mountain valleys which vary from 3,000 feet to 5,000 feet above sea level. Some wheat is grown, however, on the mountain slopes to the level of 7,000 feet.

The pre-war agricultural production of the country was chiefly in cattle, sheep, and goats; tobacco, chiefly in the Trebizond and Van regions; wheat; barley; and legumes. The principal exports from the harbor of Trebizond in the years 1912 and 1913 were in the order of their value, filberts, tobacco, sheep, and cattle, eggs, beans, hides, and jerked beef.

Complete and trustworthy data upon the mineral resources of the country are not available. It is safe to say that its prospective mineral production has probably been exaggerated. But geologists believe that the Armenian mountains are heavily mineralized and that, with the advantages of a stable government, attracting foreign capital and able to build railways, the past mineral production will be greatly increased. As in the past, the chief mineral wealth of the country will be in salt and copper. If the Zangezour and Ala Verdi districts of the province of Erivan fall to the Armenian state in the fixation of the northern boundaries between the Armenians, the Azerbaijani, and the Georgians, Armenia will be especially well supplied with copper.

For the development of industries based upon this prospective mineral output there is water power, especially in Trebizond Vilayet, and an important new coal field north of Olti in Kars province. The total coal resources of this field are known to be about 200,000,000 tons.

Until the question of the northern borders of Russian Armenia shall have been decided, any estimate of the pre-war or present total population and its ethnographic distribution is decidedly problematic. For the purposes of establishing a rough knowledge of the population and its ethnic elements we have included the entire provinces of Erivan and Kars of the former Russian Empire in our calcu-

lations, although some portion of these areas will, presumably, not go to Armenia and the Armenian percentage may thereby be slightly lowered.

The total pre-war population of the future Armenian state was, according to our own careful estimates, about 3,570,000. Of these the Moslems, including Turks, Kurds and Tartars, formed about 49%, the Armenians about 40%, the Greeks about 4%, the Lazes about 5%. The remaining 1% was composed of Yezidis, Chaldaean Christians, Russians, etc. It is problematic whether the Kurds, comprising about 10% of the pre-war Moslem total of 49%, will be more friendly to the Armenian aspirations than to the Turkish opposition thereto. The provision in the Turkish Treaty for an autonomous Kurdistan, lying south of Armenia, with the possibility of independence from Turkey after a year, has changed the entire political relationship of the Kurds toward the Turks, though not the religious ties which tend to bind them to Pan-Moslem interests.

The attitude of the Kurds, both nomad and sedentary, will be determined somewhat by the amount of influence which Great Britain will be able to exercise over them from Mesopotamia, and France in her sphere of interest as defined in the tripartite convention signed at Sèvres by Great Britain, France and Italy on August 10th. The Armenians have always maintained, and continue to assert, that they will work in amity with the Kurds in the

Armenian districts when, once for all, Turkish domination over them is removed. The Kurds are racially more akin to the Armenians than to the Anatolian peasantry, and their various types of Mohammedanism are regarded as distinctly unorthodox by the Anatolian Turks. At present they are playing their own hand, equally against the Armenians and the Turks. They form, therefore, an unascertainable political and ethnic factor in the situation.

The one certain result of the pre-war population estimates, as given above, is that the Moslems, including the Lazes, held a majority over the Christians (Armenians and Greeks) in the area which will be the Armenian State.

Any attempt to estimate the probable population of the new Armenian state, as it will be after a year of the shifting of refugees and return of other emigrants, must in the nature of the case, lead to very doubtful results. The attempt, however, must be made, in order to calculate, with what precision may be attained, the probable future of this state.

We conclude that the population of the entire area which will make up the Armenian state will have been reduced, after a year of re-adjustment, from the pre-war total of 3,570,000 to about 3,000,000. Due to the tremendous losses of the Turkish and Tartar populations by war casualties, the terrible ravages of diseases (the

typhus mortality was well above 50% of those stricken), of massacres, and refugee movements before the Russian advance, the Turkish and Tartar elements have suffered in about equal proportion to the Christian elements. The Armenian refugees will return in relatively large numbers into independent Armenia. A lesser number of the Turks and Tartars who have left these regions will return thither for permanent residence if the Armenian state is really established. Considering these elements, our guess is that the population percentages will have shifted within a year after the establishment of the new state, as follows: Turks, Kurds and Tartars, about 40%; Armenians, about 50%; Greeks, about 3%; Lazes, about 6%; with the remaining 1% divided among the Chaldaean Christians, Yezidis, Russians and others. The relative increase in the Armenian population should, in the following generation, certainly be continuous and rapid.

In this area and with the immediate ethnic distribution estimated above, the greatest element of hope for the future good of this backward part of the world lies in the Armenian people. American military observers and relief workers who have visited the Armenian districts during the war and the period of the armistice, saw the country and its peoples when they were at a tremendous disadvantage. This is especially true of the Armenians. It is fundamentally correct to start upon the assumption

that the conditions of life existing in Turkish Armenia for the past fifty years, in Russian Armenia more particularly since the armistice, can have produced no other result than to lower greatly the moral stamina and the productive capacity of both Moslem and Christian inhabitants, and in about equal degree. We have no doubt that the appointment of a mandatory power would have been by all odds the best solution for the welfare of this country. There is grave reason for the apprehension expressed by General Harbord (Harbord report p. 18) in regard to the capacity of the Armenians to govern themselves and especially to govern the land in conjunction with the almost equal number of Moslems who will continue to live within their borders. It is for this reason that we have recommended the insertion of a clause in President Wilson's report of the boundary decision warning the Armenian people of the expectation of the civilized world that there will be no reprisals against the Moslems when Armenian military forces occupy the four eastern vilayets of the former Turkish Empire and impressing upon them the expectation that they will not attempt to rule as conquerors over subject peoples.

The hope we place in the Armenian people is based upon the tremendous vitality they have shown under the outrageous and brutal persecutions of the past fifty years, their tenacity in respect to their religious

beliefs, the capacity conceded to them by all competent and unprejudiced observers, their industry and thrift, and their initiative. This belief in the fundamentally sound character of the Armenians, despite many unattractive traits appears most markedly in the writings of German travelers and observers who have studied the country and peoples and have written numerous books upon them during the first three years of the war. The eagerness with which the Armenians, both in their own country and away from it, have grasped at every opportunity for training and higher education, warrants the belief that their undoubted powers of leadership among the Near Eastern peoples will increase with the responsibilities incurred by independence. Ample provision has been made in the Minorities Treaty signed by the Armenians and the Principal Allied Powers upon August 10 at Sèvres for the protection of the Moslems and the remaining Christian non-Armenian groups.

Before the war there was but one railway within the area which will be Armenia, the branch line of the Russian-Transcaucasian Railway system connecting Tiflis in Georgia with Alexandropol, Kars and the border town of Sari Kamish, with a branch from Alexandropol via Erivan and Nakhchivan to the town of Djulfa on the Persian border. The caravan and wagon routes have greatly deteriorated since the retreat of the Russian forces which occupied almost all of this territory in the years 1915-1917. Nevertheless the

transportation facilities of Armenia have been greatly increased in consequence of the construction of railways dictated by the southwestward military advance of Russian troops. Djulfa has been connected with Tabriz in Persia. Northern Persia has been brought into railway connection with Turkish Armenia by spurs which run well into Erzerum Vilayet and touch also the border between Persia and the Vilayet of Van. The city and plain of Erzerum in Turkish Armenia are already tapped by another extension of the Alexandropol-Kars division of the Russian system running westward from Sari Kamish. Under Armenian initiative, if the Armenians can obtain the requisite financial support, the completion of this last line through to Tireboli may be confidently expected in the near future. This will give an immediate impetus to the commercial development of the Armenian state.