

# THE LEWISTON DAILY SUN.

LEWISTON, MAINE, FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 13, 1904.

## TURKISH ATROCITIES.

### Villages Burned and People Killed in Sassoun.

Paris, May 13.—An official despatch to the Foreign Office from Constantinople confirms the reports that Turkish troops have burned villages throughout the Sassoun district of Armenia, killing the inhabitants. The French ambassador, M. Constans, has joined with the Russian and British ambassadors in sending consuls to Erzeroum, in the hope of limiting the destruction and bloodshed. However, the official advices, although brief, indicate that the work of exterminating the Armenians occupying the mountainous district of Sassoun, is practically accomplished. The Turkish methods appear to have been much the same as those adopted during the Armenian massacres.

The official reports do not give the exact details as to number of towns burned and people killed, but they show that the action of the Turks has been sweeping. The French authorities were advised some time ago that Turkey was taking advantage of Russia's pre-occupation in the Far East and intended to adopt a decisive course toward the rebellious Armenians. The information then showed that the Turks would begin the work of suppression about April 15. In order to prevent this the Powers made an energetic protest. This delayed Turkey's action, which, however, has now been executed with the same severity as at first contemplated.

1904-05-13