

and the policy of the Opposition. In case you wonder what politicians find to quarrel about, here are the minimum demands of the Opposition Democratic Party, formulated after their first anniversary congress in January. First, that the President of the Turkish Republic should cease to be a party leader. Second, that the electoral law should be revised, to allow Opposition parties to check election results. Third, that certain security laws should be relaxed. If these things were not done, they said, the 55 Democratic deputies would walk out of Parliament.

The rise of this Democratic Party has been something of a sensation in Turkey. After the revolution, there was only one party in Turkish political life, the People's Party, presided over by Mustafa Kemal, and after his death, by his friend Ismet Inonu. Just over a year ago, under the pressure of public opinion, the Government sanctioned the formation of opposition parties, and many new parties at once sprang up, 17 of them altogether, though most of them were very insignificant. The Democratic Party was founded by four prominent deputies who broke away from the People's Party. There were just these four deputies in the new party at the beginning of last year; now they claim to have more than two and a-half million members inscribed in their books. One of the founders told me, "The single-party system is finished here. It will never return. The people demand a true democracy and understand fully the meaning of political struggle."

The People's Party, that is the Government, were confirmed in power by the election of last July, and will remain in office for four years, unless something happens to precipitate another election. But there is no doubt that they read the signs in the sky. Although the war storms scattered hardly a few drops over Turkey, the people are restless for change and new advances. The Minister of Interior told me, "The People's Party considers the expansion of democracy in Turkey as a sacred national duty. Our only cause of dispute with the Democratic Party is that they see and paint everything in the blackest colours in order to come to power without delay and at any price."

### "Feeling Their Way"

How much freedom of speech is there in Turkey? Most of the newspapers are critical of the Government; but opposition speakers are not yet entitled to broadcast. Three very small political parties were recently suppressed on the ground that they had lent themselves to foreign, that is communist, propaganda; and some newspapers were suppressed in Istanbul for the same reason. The trade union laws which have just been drafted forbid the unions to engage in any political activity. The Turks are certainly feeling their way towards wider freedom; but they are a cautious race and prefer to move a step at a time.

Turkey covers a vast area of territory. It takes five days to cross from west to east in a train. And yet many Turks can remember a time when the imperial frontiers stretched still further—westward into the Balkans and southward over a great part of the Arab world. I talked with Turks who had been property owners in the Greek cities of Yennina and Larissa. King Abdullah of Transjordan, who was received the other day in Ankara with royal honours, was once a Turkish civil servant. It is one of the ironies of this post-war history that Turkey should be on better

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