

The Orient.

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THE OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT.

7th Session (May 29). A message was read from the governor of Prisrend, affirming the loyalty of the Albanians of that city, and condemning the revolutionists of Ipek and Diakova; he insisted that the Arabic alphabet was good enough for the Albanian language, and condemned the agitation in favor of the Italian (*sic*) alphabet as disloyal. A bill to appropriate an extra Lt. 400 to the department of public security was referred to the Budget Commission. A provisional addition to the penal code was brought up for ratification; this provides for the punishment of those who buy or sell goods known to have been stolen, by imprisonment for from 24 hours to one year. After much discussion, wherein the new deputies took prominent part, the modification was referred back to committee. The request of the former grand vizier, Hakki Pasha, that the inquiry as to the impeachment of himself and his cabinet be hastened, was heard and the case was committed to the third bureau, or division, of the Chamber for investigation. A recommendation of the Budget Commission that a provisional budget be voted until the regular one can be passed, was made the order of the day for the next session, and the Chamber adjourned after a two hours' sitting.

8th Session (June 1). Several new deputies were sworn in, among them Hadji Adil Bey, Minister of the Interior, who is deputy from Gümüldjina. Messages of loyalty were read from Albanians in several places. A vote was passed legalizing the application of the budget for the past year until the new budget shall be passed. After elaborate explanation by Talaat Bey in his capacity as Minister *ad interim* of the Interior, concerning the necessity of the new municipal taxes in the capital, which, he said, were called for by the lack of funds to pay the city officials, the gas company and the water company, as well as by the straits of the 15,000 people still homeless by reason of the fires of a year ago, the bill legalizing such taxes was referred back to the committee with general approval. In response to a request from Tewfik Bey (Prisrend), Hadji Adil Bey, Minister of the Interior, promised to give at the next session a detailed account of affairs in Albania and of his three months' trip. The rest of the afternoon was occupied with an animated discussion of the bill, provisionally sanctioned by imperial *tradé*, to the effect that the government may, to preserve the order and peace of the country, forbid public gatherings in the open air. The Minister of Public Instruction and others spoke in favor of this

bill, while Vartkes Effendi of Erzroum and Münir Bey of Chorum and others opposed it. The Chamber finally agreed to close the debate, and the second reading of the bill was fixed for five days later.

The Chamber does not seem inclined to hurry matters or attempt to get through its business early. With two sessions per week of three afternoon hours each, the important matters of budget and constitutional amendments will take most of the summer.

THE WAR AND ITS STATUS.

The *Tanin* sees the bright side of the storm-clouds and is optimistic as to the outcome of the present struggle. It says:— "The hope of forcing us to sue for peace by carrying the war into the Archipelago has come to nought; and the hope of creating Balkan complications has vanished into thin air, if one can judge from the present state of affairs. In spite of the filthy lucre and hired agitators sent by Italy into Albania, the local papers there indicate that the noble Albanian people have realized the peril and frustrated the intrigues that were being concocted there against the fatherland. Despite their efforts, the Bulgarian bands have accomplished nothing in Macedonia, but have been destroyed almost on the very frontier. As for those that have succeeded in getting farther in, they will prove powerless because of the unsympathetic attitude of the population and the wise precautionary measures of the Government. From abroad, we have nothing to fear. Greece acts wisely in reference to Crete, and abstains from all quarrel; while our official relations with Bulgaria remain friendly, and Montenegro seems desirous of preserving the peace. So everything indicates that the little Balkan states have not yet received the order to advance, and there is nothing to forecast such a command in the future which till now has not seemed prudent. The suspicious attitude taken by Russia in the earlier days has lost its gravity; there is no longer talk of a demand for an indemnity, the mobilization of troops has been stopped, the Russian fleet, which was reported as near the Bosphorus, has retired, and St. Petersburg has denied the rumors of a conference which were said to have come from there. As for rumors of a ministerial crisis, it is useless to talk of them; those who start such rumors have but one purpose, and that is to play the enemy's game."

FIELD DAY AT ROBERT COLLEGE.

No one could have wished for better weather than was furnished last Saturday for the sixteenth annual Field Day of the Athletic Association of Robert College. Though no records were broken, several were nearly equalled, and as a whole the contests were creditable. The number of competitors had been reduced by the handicap games of a week previous, so that there were not more than six contestants in any one event except in the pole vault. This was the slowest contest of all, and three of the seven competitors vaulted nine and a-half feet or over. There was a wind in the faces of the sprinters, or possibly the dash records might have gone. The Sophomores took five firsts to three each for the Seniors and the Sub-Freshmen; but the Sub-Freshmen won 43 points to the Sophomores' 29, the Seniors being third with 21, Juniors 14, Preparatories 12, and Freshmen 6.

The grand stand was not crowded, but there was a goodly number of spectators, and among them the American Ambassador, Mrs. Rockhill and Miss Rockhill; the American Consul-General, Mrs. Ravndal and the Misses Ravndal; the British Consul-General, Mrs. Eyres and Miss Eyres. Miss Sarah Ravndal was Queen of the Day, with Miss Sossidi and Miss Dimitrieva to support her. During the intermission a bountiful collation was served in the Dodge Gymnasium.

There are two or three things that might easily be done in the laudable effort to increase class spirit in these games. One is the offering by the Athletic Association of a banner for competition, similar to the banner for the football and basketball championships. Another is the insertion on the programs of the class numerals after the names of contestants, and also, and especially, after the names of those holding the records. A space is provided for the summing up of points won by classes; but the uninitiated has no means of keeping this record. And a third would be the offering by the alumni or by some generous friend of a cup, on which shall be engraved annually the numerals of the class winning the largest number of points; perhaps with the provision that if a class wins the cup a certain number of years in succession, it becomes the permanent possession of that class, to be kept after graduation in a suitable place in the gymnasium.

One event, not on the program, was an impromptu relay-race between teams of four representing the College instructors, the alumni, and the sailors of the U. S. S. "Scorpion." An exciting race resulted in their finishing in the order named. The winning team was composed of Messrs. Lewis, Muller, Dewing and Miner. The results in the other events follow:—

100 yards dash: Christodoroff, '14 (10 $\frac{1}{2}$ sec.), Nouzhet, T. Lykiardopoulos. Quarter-mile: Stoinoff, '14 (1 min. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ sec.), Kokinotis, Arditchoglou. High jump: Malakis, '16 (5 ft. 4 in.), Obreshkoff, N. Lykiardopoulos. Shot put: Stangos, '16 (36 ft. 1 in.); Datzoff, Loutfi Ali. Half-mile: Papazian, '13 (2 min. 17 sec.), Mitakides, Constantinoff. Stone-throw: Stangos, '16 (56 ft. 3 in.), S. Mugurian, Stoyanoff.

110 yards hurdle: Kouyoumdjian, '12 (18 sec.), Georgieff, Arsenios. Pole-vault: Kouyoumdjian, '12 (9 ft. 10 in.), Kokinotis, Tripos. 50 yards dash: Christodoroff, '14 (5 $\frac{3}{4}$ sec.), Nouzhet, Malakis. Hop, step and jump: Datzoff, '16 (42 ft. 9 in.), Dracoulis, Obreshkoff. Discus: S. Mugurian, '12 (112 ft. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.), Stangos, Sapoundjis. Broad jump: Christodoroff, '14 (20 feet), Malakis, Nouzhet. Mile run: Papazian, '13 (5 min. 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ sec.), Kouyoumdjian, Mitakides. Inter-class relay race: 1914 (2 min. 27 sec.) 1916 second.

CONSTANTINOPLE COLLEGE.

The Trustees of the American College for Girls in Constantinople have decided to use commonly the one word of the name, "Constantinople," to designate the College. This will avoid the cumbersome explanation which the long name of the College has always occasioned, and will be somewhat more distinctive than "American College."

The prize offered by Mrs. Manning of Robert College, to the students of the American College, for the best essay on Humane Education, has been awarded this year to Miss Marika Basmadjieva, who is the daughter of a former graduate of the College.

The College examinations are being carried on this week, and close on Saturday, with the Class Day exercises, and the meeting of the Alumnae. All the Commencement Exercises will be held at Scutari.

I. F. D.

CONSTANTINOPLE WOMEN'S CLUB.

Last Friday afternoon, the retiring board of officers of the Constantinople Women's Club gave an entertainment at Arnaoutkeuy, in the grounds of the American College for Girls, in honor of the incoming board. The program consisted of some of the graceful, old fashioned Morris dances, which were so very popular in England in the 16th and 17th centuries, though coming originally from France and Spain. These had been arranged under the direction of Mrs. Middleton Edwards, and were very pretty to watch.

Interspersed with these were some Old English Folk-Songs, which came in most appropriately. All who braved the heat of the sultry day felt amply repaid by their enjoyment of the program. The entertainment was held in the "Maze", near the top of the hill, — an ideal place for such an out-of-door gathering.

At the annual business meeting of the Women's Club, held at the Bible House on Saturday, May 18th, elections were held for officers of the Club for the ensuing year, 1912 — 1913, with the following results: — President, Mrs. Middleton Edwards; Vice-President, Mrs. T. J. Damon; Recording Secretary, Miss Charters; Associate Secretary, Miss Christidi; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. R. R. Kendall; Treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Baker; Board of Directors: Mrs. Hayden, Mrs. McLean, Miss Araxe Matteosian, Mrs. Poynter and Mrs. Ravndal. The Club has a membership of nearly three hundred.

ALBANIAN TROUBLES.

The *Tanin* publishes some interesting details of recent events, which point to a much more serious situation than was at first officially admitted.

"First of all, a thousand armed and 2,000 unarmed Albanians marched on Diakova and besieged it. This was about midnight on the twentieth of April last (=old style). The insurgents, the motives of whose action were unknown, annoyed the troops all night long by firing at them. The next day the kaimakam of Diakova and Col. Riza Bey, one of the Albanian notables, visited the insurgents to find out the object of their movement. The insurgents presented the following demands:—

"1. The restoration of their arms.

"2. The removal of certain officials.

"3. Exemption from the payment of the sheep tax and the abolition of all other superfluous (*sic*) duties.

"The kaimakam and Col. Riza Bey lavished good advice on the insurgents, assuring them that their demands would be examined, but that they must disperse, since their action made a bad impression on the populace. Thus the encounter between the troops and the insurgents at Diakova was ended. But the theatre of revolution was transferred to Ipek. On the feast of Khudur-ellez (the first day of Spring), the discharge of guns began in the environs of the town. The next day an attack was made with firearms against the workmen engaged in making the road toward the Montenegrin frontier, at Rogova. The firing was very hot, and the populace was panic-struck. Finally recourse had to be made to force, and troops were sent against the insurgents. The latter attacked the troops, so cannon were used; ten shells or so were fired. The story that disorders and depredation took place inside the city of Ipek is false. Cannon were not fired on the city; only some castles of *bairakdars* [feudal chiefs] at Istok were demolished. On the third day the insurgents wanted to hinder the building of the Idadieh school at Tik Ouvash. During the ensuing fight, a gendarme, a native of Ipek, was killed. The cannon thundered again, but the number of killed and wounded is unknown, as the Albanians always carry off their killed and wounded.

"Three days after these incidents, the Rogova insurgents attacked the military camp in the region of Kara Dagh. The fight lasted till morning, and the fusillade, which was heard from Ipek, kept the populace in a state of excitement all night. In the chief village of the Istok region, stone had been brought for the construction of a government building; the insurgents gathered to prevent the work, alleging that the ground belonged to them. The commandant of the troops, Djafer Tayar Bey, having foreseen this attack of the insurgents, had batteries of cannon brought to the edge of the wood through which the insurgents would have to come. There were skirmishes between troops and insurgents for two weeks. At Istok, a battalion was besieged by the insurgents. Another battalion, sent to relieve them, was unable to break through, and had to return to Ipek. The

next day two battalions which were marching to the relief of the troops surrounded there, encountered another force of insurgents at the khan of Tchouro-Kouptché, and a fight took place. Just then a third battalion arrived from Diakova and succeeded in dispersing the insurgents. Meanwhile two battalions of infantry and a squad of 120 cavalry also arrived from Yeni Bazar, under Col. Abdurrezak Bey, who, without using force, gave some good advice to the insurgents and showed them what a mistake they were making; and since Abdurrezak Bey has a good reputation among the Albanians, they dispersed, and the besieged battalion at Istok was enabled to return to Ipek.

"This movement is headed by the ex-deputies Hassan Bey and Zeinoullah Bey, Issa Bolatin, Ipekli Kerim, Mahmoud Zaim, and certain chiefs from Yeni Bazar who had been exiled. At the last moment I learn that the insurgents have sworn a *bessa* to keep up the struggle. Only I can say confidently that [the poor people do not know what they want nor what they are demanding, but think they must do just what their chiefs and *bairakdars* command them."

MOROCCAN AFFAIRS.

It was a comparatively simple thing for France to assume the protectorate over Morocco. The real difficulty arises in trying to convince the Berber tribes that they need protecting. Gen. Lyautey is finding his work all cut out for him, and the French are sending reinforcements to Fez. The Sultan of Morocco, having proved himself utterly incapable of governing the country, is reported as desirous of abdicating; but it may suit the ideas of the French better to keep him as a figure-head. Their new agreement begins by saying: "The government of the French Republic and His Majesty the Sultan are agreed in instituting in Morocco a new régime including such administrative, judiciary, educational, economic, financial and military reforms as are deemed advantageous. This régime will preserve the religious situation, the traditional respect and prestige of the Sultan, the exercise of the Moslem faith and religious institutions. It will include the organization of a reformed Shereefian Makhzen." If the government of the French Republic and the Sultan are of one mind, it merely remains to persuade the five or six millions of population to accept their point of view. Incidentally there is considerable fighting going on at and near Fez and Sefrou, and rumor has it that the tribesmen have declared the holy war against the French. How much this may mean is not very clear, but the rumor probably has no more foundation than that more elaborate one published last week by the *Hakk* giving the text of a very inflammatory proclamation of the holy war said to have been given by the Sheikh of the Senousi against the Italians. As a matter of fact, these attempts to rouse Moslem fanaticism, regrettable as they may be, add very little to the terrors of the campaigns already being waged. France will doubtless pacify Morocco after a while, as she has Tunis and Algiers; but it will cost her a pretty penny.

THE WAR.

There has been a lull in operations this week in the Aegean, which is in some quarters attributed to pressure brought to bear on Italy by her allies of the Triple Alliance. Some credence is being given in official circles to the report that Italy is strengthening her garrisons on the islands near the Asiatic shore with the purpose of landing a large force south of Smyrna and making a combined military and naval attack on that city. The island of Scio has not yet been seized, but practically all the islands south of it are in the hands of the enemy.

The "Agence Ottomane" learns of a small-sized victory of the Ottoman forces over an Italian detachment at Tobrouk, in Benghazi, wherein the latter are asserted to have lost 70 men; also of the bombardment of Ebou Zehra and Havza on the Yemen coast, with a loss of one woman, two children and five horses killed and six mosques injured. These with a couple of brushes at Bou Kemmesh appear to constitute the engagements of the week.

Meanwhile the expulsion of Italians from Smyrna and Constantinople goes merrily on, with no special incidents. The Minister of Marine, Hourshid Pasha, made a trip last week to the Dardanelles on a torpedo-boat destroyer to inspect the fleet and defences there, returning on Saturday.

THE REFORMS OF HADJI ADIL BEY.

The commission of reforms under the Minister of the Interior, Hadji Adil Bey, which has just returned, makes a report indicating the work accomplished and that projected. As for public security and order, guard-houses are to be built and connected by telephone in the Vilayet of Kossovo as follows:— 4 in the Üsküb region, 37 in that of Prishtina, 26 in that of Ipek and 37 in that of Prisrend. The force of gendarmes in this province is also to be increased by 600 additional men. The Vali of Kossovo is authorized to add to the administrative councils of Prisrend, Ipek and Prishtina Albanian chiefs or *bairakdars*, and four have already been appointed in each place, at a salary of two liras per month. Some inefficient or hated officials have been removed, such as the warden of the prison at Üsküb, and judges in two or three places.

In the line of public works, macadamized roads are to be built this year from Ipek to Ferizovitch, from Shkodra to Prisrend and from Mitrovitsa to Ipek, under the direction of the war ministry, by the troops. Ten other roads in the Kossovo Vilayet are to be undertaken this year. Agricultural schools are to be established, and an experimental farm, as well as a supply store for agricultural implements; also a model stock farm in each of the regions of Prisrend, Prishtina and Ipek.

In the department of education, primary boarding-schools are to be started in each *nahié* or sub district; among these some for Serbs and for Catholics. The *medressés*, mosques

and village schools are to be repaired, and a large *medressé* built at Ferizovitch. For these Islamic schools the sum of Lt. 3,000 has been promised from the Ministry of Pious Foundations (Evkaf). Supplementary appropriations are to be made for the lycéums at five towns, and for several lower schools, and 82 new schools are to be opened in the Kossovo province.

Mr. Graves, the British member of the Commission, is elaborating a scheme for the more equitable collection of the tithes and other taxes, in accord with local conditions. His experience along this line is expected to contribute to the pacification of the region by ameliorated financial conditions.

ANOTHER BIG FIRE IN STAMBOUL.

Day before yesterday at about 9 a.m. a fire broke out in an unfinished building in Ishak Pasha Street, near the Mosque of Sultan Ahmed. Insufficient water-supply, combined with the narrowness of the streets, so hindered the fire-companies that they could not get it under control till after sunset. The estimated loss is placed at from 1500 to 2000 houses, located in the region between St. Sophia, the Hippodrome and Little St. Sophia, and down to the railroad in the Akhur Kapou quarter. One of the six minarets of Sultan Ahmed had its "snuffer" top burned off, but otherwise the large mosques did not suffer. The Sultan Ahmed courtyard and the Hippodrome were soon filled with the earthly possessions of those burned out. Order was preserved in a creditable manner by the troops, and apparently very little looting occurred. The Department of Justice was not injured, though in great danger. Four persons are reported to have lost their lives, and a large number were injured. Six mosques, six schools and one *medressé* or school of Moslem theology were destroyed. Practically all those burned out are Mohammedans.

AMHERST'S NEW PRESIDENT.

The choice of a new president for an institution that has sent out so many men to the Ottoman Empire is a matter of interest to all our readers. Since the resignation of President Harris was handed in, to take effect this month after thirteen years of service, the trustees have been on a still hunt for his successor till they have found exactly the right man. Alexander Meiklejohn, A. M., Ph. D., for the past eleven years Dean of Brown University, has been elected President of Amherst College. He was born in Rochdale, England, Feb. 3, 1872, and is consequently but forty years old. Coming to America when eight years old, he was graduated in 1893 from Brown, and was made successively instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, and finally in 1906 professor of logic and metaphysics in his alma mater. He is a member of the American Philosophical Society and of the American Psychological Association. President Harris is reported as extremely pleased at his election. Dr. Meiklejohn will enter upon his duties in September.

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BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE.

JUNE 5, 1912.

EDITORIAL.

Those who wish their paper forwarded to their summer address will please do us two favors: first, send us the new address, with instructions as to how long to use it; and secondly, let this be an opportunity to increase the usefulness of *The Orient* by recommending it (as far as conscience will allow) to friends who are interested in the highest welfare of the Ottoman Empire and the Near East. In order to develop along still more lines of usefulness, we need a larger circulation; and our best advertising medium are our patrons.

The twenty-ninth annual report of the Greek Evangelical Union has just been published, and makes interesting reading. This organization, centering in Smyrna, has oversight also of work among Greeks in Magnesia, Thyatira, Ordou, Semen and Bey Alan. There is reason to hope that in the not very distant future, the Greek evangelical churches and communities in Serdivan, Adrianople and Constantinople, as well as those in Sokhoum and Azanta in the Caucasus, will also enter this Union. It has done valuable service in unifying the feelings and motives and activities of these widely-separated communities, and in spite of cholera, war, emigration and other adversaries, has kept on its work and comes to the close of its year free of debt. Out of a budget of nearly \$3,300, about \$1,630 were given by the churches themselves, some \$92 from other Greek sources, \$880 as aid from the A.B.C.F.M., \$112 from the Bible Lands' Missions' Aid Society, and the remaining \$586 from other friends. These funds are so carefully administered that with them five preachers are maintained, four flourishing schools with 307 pupils are carried on, and provision is made for considerable itinerating. The Union is to be heartily congratulated on the showing made, and still more so on the sterling qualities of its workers through the whole field and the loyalty of all its members. These annual reports are published in both Greek and English.

June brings with it thoughts of Commencement exercises. A thoughtful person of ten asked a few days ago the

pertinent question why the end of the school year should be called the Commencement. We need not answer the query here, for most of us have thought out that paradox ere this. But consider, please, that in a similar sense this is the Commencement Season for another group of pupils known as Class A in Ottoman Constitutional Government. Four years of training is now about over. If this class has earned a diploma, how much does that mean? Have the lessons all been learned? Is the conduct-mark high? Has the training of character made satisfactory progress? What do we expect from the average College graduate when his Commencement arrives? Can we require more from this class in Constitutional Government? Consider too more especially the fact of its deficient preparatory training. Consider the lessons in justice that it has learned from the Moroccan and other policy of its European neighbors, to say nothing of the short-sighted and grasping audacity of Italy, — or the lesson in the ancient history course about Poland. Nobody would claim perfection of attainment after these four years at school; but those who are in a position to judge will agree that there has been commendable progress. Despite the utterly inadequate prep. school course, many things have been learned; and we are of opinion that there is reason for celebrating this Commencement season. The class may not be ready for a degree, as yet, but certainly it merits a certificate. And the four years of preparation have brought it to the Commencement of active work. Let the friends of Turkey be patient with her, remembering her dark ages; and, remembering that for her it is still only the year 1328, let us be mindful of the pit whence we were digged, and where we were in the year 1328 of our era. And then let us all lend a helping hand instead of choosing the easier and lazier position of critic.

OPENING OF THE GREEK CHAMBER.

Saturday last, the Chamber of Deputies, the sole house of the Greek Legislature, was formally opened in the presence of an immense crowd. The great question of the day was as to whether the Cretans sent over as deputies from that turbulent isle would be admitted as such or not. This problem had been agitating the minds of two governments for months. In fact, the question was so acute within the Greek Cabinet as to cause the resignation of one member. Mr. Dematrakopoulos, Minister of Justice, was of opinion that justice required that these islanders be admitted. Mr. Venizelos and his remaining colleagues, however, could not see it from that point of view, and the Minister of Justice tendered his resignation. This was just previous to the opening of the Chamber. When the hour came for that ceremony, all the approaches to the Vouli, or Parliament-house, were guarded by troops. The doughty Cretans advanced in a body, and were met by the officers in command, who employed tactics milder even than those of suffragettes. Tears, copious tears, were shed, as these guardians of their country implored the resolute Ottoman subjects not to force the troops to have recourse

to their arms. And the watery flood was as effective as the hose-pipe often proves with a mob. The Cretans yielded, melted by the patriotic demonstration. They agreed to send a deputation to see the Prime Minister. Mr. Venizelos was at that moment engaged in reading the royal proclamation convoking the Chamber. The deputies proceeded immediately to the election of Mr. Tsirimokos, the governmental candidate, as President, by a vote of 125 to 23. As soon as the organization was complete, Premier Venizelos showed his fellow-countrymen the trick he had up his sleeve by requesting the Chamber to take a recess till the first of October old style, or for four and a half months. This was promptly done, the Government reserving to itself the right to call the Chamber together earlier if it should so desire. This being done, the Prime Minister met the delegation of Cretans and informed them that the Chamber had adjourned. The outwitted islanders have now the choice of paying hotel bills in Athens through the hot summer or sailing back to their homes, and will probably choose the latter alternative. Both Turkey and Greece have cause to be very grateful to the Hellenic statesman who has thus avoided a dangerous point in the political relations of the two countries. Had the Cretans succeeded in being admitted, Ottoman troops would have crossed the Greek border, and the navies of the protecting powers would have landed marines and taken over the administration of Crete.

The ministry of justice thus vacated has been filled by the choice of Mr. Raktivan, who is thoroughly in accord with the policy of Mr. Venizelos.

TOURISTS AND MISSIONARIES.

Dr. A. E. Dunning sends to the *Congregationalist* the following thoughts on the tourist's debt to missionaries:—

"Some day I mean to write an article on what tourists in India and other non-Christian lands can gain from Christian missionaries. The schools, colleges, hospitals, Y.M.C. Associations and other institutions maintained from Christian countries are centres of life wherever they have been planted. Their leaders are usually in touch with the best elements of native society, in sympathetic relations with the civil government, and not seldom have friendly relations with priests of the temples. If I were not a Christian and had any ambition to know the character of the nations I have visited, I should seek to know the missionaries and their work. Those tourists who presume to publish opinions of Asiatic countries, who have avoided missionaries and minimized their influence, thereby advertise how miserably ignorant they are of their own ignorance."

One reason why the average tourists get a mistaken idea of Turkey and its peoples is because they base their conclusions on a few days' casual observation of some of the people in two or three coast cities, where the evil effects of contact with the lower forms of foreign influence have well-nigh denationalized the people, and know nothing of the millions of the interior of the country, where the real types can alone be found.

HIS FIRST CHRISTIAN.

K... is one of the large towns of Bulgaria. It is on the railway. It has several government institutions of learning of high grade. It has also its fully proportionate number of churches. In only one way can it be said that it is at all less favoured than the rest of the country, and that is, that, lying as it does in a somewhat secluded corner, it has perhaps been a little out of the main current of the country's life. But if that fact tells unfavorably in some respects, it undoubtedly tells favorably in others.

In one of the institutions of learning in that town is a national teacher of about 45 years of age. He is an unusually intelligent man, knows French and German, has acquired a reading knowledge of English without the aid of a teacher during the past winter, and is a widely read man. This person recently wrote a letter, the last so far of a correspondence dating from last autumn, in which he acknowledged that his main desire was to enquire about religious things; "for," said he, "you are the first educated person I have had communication with who is a believer in religion."

Think what that means! No other teacher he had met, a believer: all the clergy, either unbelievers or else not sufficiently educated to command respect: all the leading citizens, unbelievers: all those persons whom chance may have thrown in his way both in his own town and elsewhere in the country, unbelievers! Can the citizens of more favored lands imagine themselves in such surroundings?

How far K... is exactly typical of other parts of the country it would be hard to say. That it is not typical of all parts is certainly true. But that it is typical of many and large parts seems beyond doubt. Can any one, after that, question the need of mission work in Bulgaria, or justify the exclusion of missions to nominally Christian peoples from the purview of great conferences?

Samokov.

R. T.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM FOR CONSTANTINOPLE.

As some of our readers are aware, the concession for a telephone system for the capital and its suburbs has been given to a society organized by British, French and American capitalists, and this concession is for thirty years, with privilege of renewal for ten years if the Government does not purchase the lines at that time. All the capital stock has been subscribed. The lines are to extend all over the city, from Roumeli Kavak to San Stefano, from Anatoli Kavak to Pendik, and among the Princes' Islands. The Company proposes to install 10,000 receivers, and have it all done in less than four years. There will be central offices in Pera, Stamboul and Scutari, and of course connection across the Bosphorus as well as with the Islands. The proposed rates are quite reasonable:—One year, limited to 500 calls, Lt. 5, with a descending scale for all calls above that number; unlimited use for one year, on one side of the Bosphorus, Lt. 8, with special

rates for points across the Bosphorus; also special rates for business houses. One can easily realize the immense saving of time that will result to all business houses from the telephone installation. In fact, the wonder is that the city has existed these four years without it. Already the Government offices, the Palace, and the Parliament House are connected, as well as the two offices of the Ottoman Bank. But the annoying inconvenience of having no connections between the embassies, and the consulates, and the colleges, and the banks, and the Bible House, — to say nothing of the private houses, — is about to be done away, and the populace will rejoice to see the day. The minor questions of what language to use when calling up "central", or of how to say "Hello" and "Ring off" in Turkish, will speedily settle themselves.

EMPIRE NEWS.

THE CAPITAL.

Hadji Adil Bey, Minister of the Interior, returned with the commission of reforms on Wednesday last after his tour of Albania and Macedonia.

His Majesty the Sultan has conferred on Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, the retiring German Ambassador, the grand cordon of the Order of the Intiaz, set in diamonds.

The Sultan has conferred on the daughter of Baron Marschall von Bieberstein the grand cordon of the *Shefakat*.

A fire last Saturday afternoon in Rue Koumbaradji, Pera, not far from the Khedivial Hotel, destroyed some thirty houses and shops before it was mastered. The marines from the foreign despatch-boats gave material assistance in putting it out.

Baron von Wangenheim, the new German Ambassador, arrived from Athens on Sunday. Baron Marschall von Bieberstein left on Monday, on his way to London.

The Khedive of Egypt arrived in this city yesterday, coming from Kavalla.

The customs receipts at the port of Constantinople for the month of March were £1,88,500 less than for the corresponding month a year ago. The figures for April are not yet officially published, but will show a falling off of about twice that amount.

The sum of Lt. 40,000 has at last been appropriated for the rebuilding of that part of the Sublime Porte which was burned a year ago last February; and it is announced that the work will begin soon.

Princess Nadjié Sultan has donated fifteen liras to the Red Crescent Society, and her mother and the mother of Prince Abdul Halim each ten liras.

THE PROVINCES.

Rev. H.K. Bülbülian of Aintab, while on a visit to Aleppo, was seized with cholera and died there on May 28th.

The editors-in-chief of the Greek papers *Estia* and *Armonia* have been expelled from Smyrna by the government.

There have been some fatal encounters between Greeks and Moslems in Cyprus, the past week. The British authorities have hastily summoned troops from Egypt to restore order.

The Hedjaz Railroad, which is in operation as far as Medina, is to be continued to Mecca. Bids are asked for the supply of the necessary materials.

The British Red Crescent Society is despatching a second party to Tripoli for the relief of the Ottoman sick and wounded, to supplement the party sent there last February.

NOTES.

Mrs. Ravndal left on Sunday evening for Vienna whither she is taking her youngest son for surgical treatment.

The indefatigable Dr. J. K. Greene started May 17th on a long Western missionary tour, going as far as California.

Prof. Ormiston, Prof. Charles Anderson, Mrs. Morgan and Mr. Ray O. Hall of Robert College and Miss A. B. Jones of Gedik Pasha left by train last Friday evening for Bremen on their way to America.

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OTHER LANDS.

The Persian government troops have occupied Kerman-shah and the rebel Salar-ed-Dowleh has fled to parts unknown.

The French Republic has conferred on Mr. Gryparis, the Greek Minister to Turkey, the Cross of Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor.

The sweeping victory of Col. Roosevelt in the New Jersey primaries makes his chances seem the brightest in the coming convention. Gov. Wilson naturally carried the Democratic primaries.

A collapsible boat from the "Titanic," with three bodies on board, was found May 15 by the "Oceanic". It had drifted about 330 miles during the month.

The Bulgarian Royal family are visiting Vienna, where they have been most cordially received by the Austrian Emperor.

The Hamburg-America 50,000-ton liner "Imperator" was successfully launched on May 23rd at Hamburg, in the presence of Kaiser Wilhelm.

Dr. John R. Mott expects to visit India, Burma and Ceylon this coming winter, and hold a series of conferences there in the interests of the Edinburgh Conference Continuation Committee and the World's Student Christian Federation.

A German squadron of three armored cruisers is paying a complimentary visit to the United States.

Mr. Wilbur Wright, the famous American aviator, has died, but as a result of typhoid, not from a fall from an aeroplane.

The Queen of Holland and the Prince-Consort are making a state visit to Paris.

News has just come of the death of Rev. Willis J. Beecher, D.D., Professor of Hebrew at Auburn Theological Seminary from 1871 to 1908. Dr. Beecher was 74 years old.

There are now five Armenian Presbyterian churches in the United States, with 344 members, of whom 38 were added on examination in 1911. Their Sunday Schools enroll 411 members. These churches contributed to the various boards \$683 during the year, and \$4,382 to congregational expenses.



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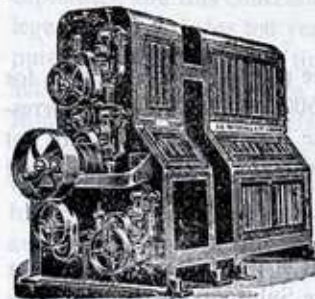
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