

The Orient.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

1. LETTERS FROM Y.W.C.A. SERVICE CENTERS.

Adana, April 4, 1920.

I want to take the opportunity to let you know that we expect to be settled in our new quarters this coming week. This is the nurses' Home, formerly used by the N.E.R. We had a nice little meeting with about thirty of the factory girls this morning. Also last week at the camp, we started again our hour with the children. Miss Bissell and some of the seminary girls played games and I prepared some bread and pekmez for them. Most of them were Marash refugees. We are planning to give them something for their Easter next Sunday.

This is just a note really, to let you know that we are well and safe and still carrying on with lots of plans for the future and the girls all enthusiastic about the possibilities of our work. We can do very much more later with the factory girls; hoping to make an attractive club room for them there, where they may have their meals and games, and also a place to rest and for other entertainment.

MARGARET A OWENS

Talas, February, 1920.

On Tuesday, Feb. 3, classes in Physical Education were started in the Talas School for Girls. These are to be continued until the end of the school year. There are eight short periods of work on Tuesday and Thursday with about 200 girls. Among these there are few who have normal physiques. Many are muscle-bound and very round shouldered. A bit of stretching ought to do them a world of good. I'm thrilled with the way the youngsters here in the school are sprucing up under their exercise. We already see marvelous changes in them. Their heads and hands and feet begin to work together beautifully.

On Feb. 5, a party was held for the teachers at the Talas school. With the friends whom they invited, there were about 40 present. The small room hardly accommodated this number, but we squeezed through the games and consumed much food which, by the way was furnished by the Near East.

On Feb. 6, a party was held for the teachers of the mission school at Caesarea through whom it is hoped to reach other girls of the city. This was a small party but much more successful in getting acquainted. We played "Up Jenkins", and other equally noisy games, so that finally they became quite warmed up and less self conscious.

On Feb. 11, the same group met to plan a party for their friends. Said party was given the following Friday, with 50 present. These were the most pathetic looking people I have seen. It was a very cold day, and they sat packed tight around the little stove in the kindergarten room of the building. A very small space only was left for playing games in which only a few took part. It seemed almost impossible to me that anyone could have enjoyed an afternoon like this, but it was the first time that a group of girls had come together since before the war, and as they were leaving, one of them said to me in broken English: "We have been very sad but now we are very glad."

On Feb. 25, we had a meeting with 16 girls selected from the group at the party, to plan things that would attract girls in the way of classes or clubs. They decided that the following classes would appeal most: needle work, Home Nursing, Gymnastics and English. We did not realize when we planned these classes how hard it might be to find teachers, and leaders seem not to exist among these people.

A room in the Relief Building has been loaned to us as a Y.W.C.A. club and rest room. This is now being furnished and in a short time will be ready for use.

GRETCHEN SCHAFER

2. A WAITING LIST IN BUENOS AIRES

With a building to accommodate 1,000 and an actual membership of over 3,000 men and boys, with a waiting list of 200 to 500, the Association has had to make a rule that new members may be admitted only in number equal to the expirations. That as many as possible might have the use of the building, classes were started at odd hours—and were promptly crowded. There are men and boys waiting now who will not get into the gymnasium till late in the spring. All because Argentina with a population of 7,000,000 has but one Y.M.C.A. where modern physical education may be found.

3. THE EAST APPEALS TO THE WEST

The following extracts are from a letter from the principal of a Chinese "middle school" to the local Y.M.C.A. secretary:

"The matter which I have wished to mention and which my students have expected with much exultation is that you will be solicited to teach them English speaking once a week. If you are so beneficial as to comply with my soliciting you to undertake that instructive task, then not only the students will be benefited with your great acquirement and morality, but the Tai Tung Academy will be honored with your worthy and respectful presence. But I fear that so poor a school

with students so poor in English cannot have so great a master, although your instructor does not distinguish between the wise and the stupid."

4. THREE EVIDENCES OF LIFE AND VIGOR in the Association Movement in China :

Over 2,000 members and \$33,000 in cash from one membership campaign. This at Canton, the metropolis of South China, where there is one of the most progressive Associations in China, with a modern American building, the work itself almost entirely under Chinese leadership. The head of the government mint and the Chief of the Canton Police Department headed the two leading teams.

More than 115,000 persons entered the doors of the temporary Y.M.C.A. building at Chengtu, in far off Szechuen Province, West China, during a celebration to mark a year of prosperity, good crops and comparative freedom from robber bands and political disturbances. Each day over 10,000 people studied the Association's educational exhibit or were otherwise entertained in a constructive manner.

More than 3,500 members, a gain of fifteen per cent over last year; 1,116 students and 51 teachers in the educational department; 732 men and boys in gymnasium classes, an average of 400 using the bath-rooms daily, weekly attendance of 600 at Bible classes; active cooperation with the churches in Bible classes and service groups, are a few of the things Shanghai Association is doing.

5. PERSONALIA

Rev. C. F. A. Crathern, being unable to return from Marash to Aintab, has been called up to Constantinople for reassignment. Mr. Crathern will have charge of the Constantinople Boys' Camp. Plans are being made to accommodate 600 boys at a time and it is hoped that 2,000 orphans will have Camp privileges during this Summer.

Mr. O. P. Lee left Constantinople, last week, Monday, for Adana, via Mersin.

Mr. R. H. McDowell has joined the Emergency Work Staff and is temporarily assigned to the Constantinople Y.M.C.A. Mr. McDowell, with the exception of a little more than a year with the British Army, has been with the Near East Relief since January, 1917.

Mr. B. M. Noone has also joined the Staff of the Y.M.C.A. Emergency Work, and has been assigned to Adana where he will have charge of the Athletics in the City Center and at the Camp.

6. PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES AT THE CONSTANTINOPLE Y.M.C.A.

The gymnasium classes which have been organized for the members of the Y.M.C.A. every Wednesday and Friday at 7 P. M., are being well attended and enjoyed by all who participate.

The program consists of Calisthenics and Folk Dancing with music, games and boxing.

There is also a Business Men's class every day, except Saturday and Sunday, at 12:15.

Base-ball has started, and two games have already been played against the American Sailors and Robert College.

EDUCATIONAL SECTION

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE NOTES

The College opened in the fall with the strongest force of teachers since war conditions broke in upon our work. Although President MacLachlan and Professor Caldwell are in America on furlough, both of them having continued at their posts in the college throughout the war period, the return to the college faculty of Professors Birge, Seylaz and Harlow and the addition of Mr. Humeston enabled us to take up our work with new strength. Mr. Michaelides and Mr. Constantine also came back from long service in the Turkish armies and later with the British in Egypt where they were held as prisoners of war for some months before their release. They had a very exciting trip in a small boat from Egypt to Cyprus when they were set free from captivity. Mr. Michaelides leaves for America in the summer to enter Union Seminary in New York. He has been leader of the Student Volunteer Band this year. Mr. Michaelides' father and his family, who escaped from Phocia in 1914 at the time of the troubles there, have lived in exile ever since but are now happily united with their son and are living on our campus, Mr. Michaelides, Senior, having charge of the Study Hall.

To our Armenian Department has come Mr. Arslan Yacoubian, who for many years was a member of the faculty of Bithynia High School at Bardizag. Mr. Yacoubian and his family went through terrible trials and marvelous escapes during the long exile. He is rendering valuable service to the college in the Science Department as well as in the Armenian.

Dean Reed, who has carried heavy responsibilities throughout the war days and while the hundreds of prisoners were on our campus in the months preceding the armistice, has continued on as acting president. Dean Reed has been awarded a fellowship at Union Theological Seminary.

The enrollment of students this year is divided among several nationalities: 100 Armenians, 77 Greeks, 41 Turks, 27 Jews, 3 British, 3 Albanians, 2 Americans, and one each from Persia, Holland and Italy. The handicap in securing proper equipment during the long years when the port was closed is being gradually overcome. Our Commercial Department which has been well organized for many years, sending each year out into the business life of the Near East young men trained in modern business methods and in business ideals, has received a shipment of fine, new Underwood typewriters. The college library has been entirely catalogued by the card index system which Professor Lawrence has introduced as a result of his graduate work at Harvard where he spent part of his furlough and during which period he made a careful study of the great libraries around Boston and those connected with the University. Another addition to the efficiency of the college as an institution for the training of young men to meet the problems of this land is the beginning of a Department of Sociology. This department is being started

under the supervision of Professor Harlow and Professor Birge. Professor Harlow took graduate work at Columbia and Union in Sociology under Professor Giddings, and Professor Birge studied under Dr. MacDonald at Hartford. The courses offered this year deal with elementary principles of sociology and the practical application of those principles to some of the big social problems in America, such as the prison system. Another course offers a chance to study these same problems as they exist in Turkey and suggestions as to dealing with these problems are discussed. A social survey is being made of several of the towns in which the students taking the course live and much interest has been shown in this newest line of scientific study.

Athletics have taken on new interest since the arrival at Thanksgiving of Mr. James Hammond, our new athletic director. For many years we have been seeking a man to take charge of this phase of our college activities. The gymnasium on the campus is the largest and finest in the Near East and now we have a man whose training fits him to make full use of the splendid equipment at his disposal. Mr. Hammond studied at Dennison University and took the course at the Y.M.C.A. Training School at Springfield leading to a physical directorship.

He left Springfield just in time to get into the war work of the Y.M.C.A. and was one of the instructors in charge of the athletic and physical work in the big training camp at Plattsburg till he entered the aviation service of the Army.

Mr. Humeston, another addition to the staff, is a graduate of Pomona College. Pomona is Dean Reed's Alma Mater and the students of this college have taken our college on as their "Pomona in the Near East". They plan to send us one man each year each man remaining for three years on the college staff.

Student activities go on as usual. The classes are better organized than in any previous year and we have an exceptionally strong freshman class. This class has had several interesting meetings and debates, and now the seniors and juniors have organized and are holding meetings weekly. The three Literary Societies meet each week, one in Armenian, one in Greek and one in Turkish. The Y.M.C.A. has continued to be the strongest student activity in which students of all nationalities take part. As the result of a recent meeting at which nearly two hundred students were present the cabinet and active members of the association have undertaken to cooperate with the American Y.M.C.A. working with the Greek Army. At this meeting Mr. Henderson, the leader of this work, told the students of the need and opportunity. At once many volunteered to help and the result is the opening of two large tents for the troops in Cordelio and the opening of a hut in the college Gymnasium, all of this work in charge of students. This work has been spoken of in another article in this paper, so no details need be given here. As the result of a series of meetings conducted by the Y.M.C.A. on the general topic: How can we improve our college life? a student government organization has been started. The members of the Student Council, elected by the student body, consist of two Greeks, two Turks, two Armenians and a Jew.

Many improvements have been carried out recently in painting the wood work of the college property, putting fine new locks and handles on the doors, painting and refurnishing the Common Room and the Infirmary. Our new moving picture machine has also arrived and is nearly ready to be set up for use.

It may be of interest to our friends to hear just a word as to some of the experiences our staff had during the years of separation, and also of the various activities being carried on outside the college walls. Dean Reed has been director of the A.C.R.N.E. unit here which has carried on splendid work through its orphanages, work centers, and hospital as well as its relief center. Professor Lawrence has been associated with him in this work of relief as treasurer of the committee. During the war Professor Lawrence served for over a year with the War Work Council of the Y.M.C.A., as did Professors Birge and Harlow. Professor Lawrence was assigned to the Foyer du Soldat of which Mr. D. A. Davis of Constantinople was chief secretary. For nearly seven months Mr. Lawrence was almost continually under shell fire, and while director for a large area along the Chemin de Dames had scores of his huts captured in the German advance, and reopened these huts when the Germans were driven out. Mr. Birge served in the camps at home and was in charge of the work among the S.A.T.C. of the New England colleges. During part of his furlough he was appointed to the Lectureship on Missions at Pomona where he gave a series of lectures on Islam. Mr. Harlow served as travelling secretary for the Student Volunteer movement, visiting over 200 American colleges in this work, and later as a field secretary for the American Board. Under the Y.M.C.A. he went to France, serving as troopship secretary on the Leviathan and then as religious work director in the Brest area and as speaker at the American and British front. Upon the close of the war Mr. Birge and Mr. Harlow engaged in a financial campaign and raised over fifty thousand dollars toward new buildings for the American Collegiate Institute for Girls, our sister institution here at Smyrna, which hopes to move in the near future to their fine grounds at Geuz Tepé.

Just now we are looking forward to our annual student conference which will be the sixth on the Paradise campus. This conference has been year by year a source of great inspiration to the College and the Institute, to both students and teachers. We hope that this year there may be delegates from the colleges in Constantinople and possibly from Beirut and Tarsus. Our student volunteers are especially desirous to meet any of the members of the band in Constantinople which has been formed recently but of which we have heard.

Outside of college activities Dean Reed and Professor Lawrence continue the A.C.R.N.E. relief work. Professor Birge is heading up a social survey of the city with quite a staff of whom four are members of the college faculty and staff. Professor Harlow has been giving his time to helping the Greek Scout Movement of the city, of which he was invited by the Greek Scout Council to become American Commissioner. These outside activities keep us all well engaged in work.

S. R. H.

NEAR EAST RELIEF SECTION

NOTES FROM RECENT REPORTS

The women's industrial department at Mardin occupies one of the largest buildings in the city, and employs 835 women. One feature is the weaving of the particularly beautiful Persian rugs in the natural wool, in styles and patterns that are very popular in the American market.

The Industrial Manager at Mardin is conducting a savings department, and is encouraging the women to lay aside a few piasters each month for next winter's needs. Experience has taught some of them the need for such foresight.

In spite of an unusually severe winter in the Caesarea region, the Director reports that the loss of life from hunger and cold has not been more than in normal times. Among the total number of orphans on record in the whole district, there have been very few deaths. Unquestionably these results are due to a considerable degree to the work of the Relief Committee.

A new department has been opened at the Constantinople Headquarters, known as "Relief and Inquiry." The main purpose of this branch is to reunite families who have become separated during the war, either by furnishing information as to their whereabouts, or, in addition to this, by transmitting money and arranging transportation that the people in the interior may reach relatives in Constantinople or America. One day's mail recently brought from the New York office fifty-three communications regarding individuals or families here whose relatives in America had deposited passage money with the Committee and asked aid in making transportation arrangements; also twenty-three letters asking help in locating members of families whose relatives in America were anxious to have them come there.

The Eye Hospital of the Near East Relief at Aleppo is being purchased by Dr. Arthur S. Tenner, who plans to establish there a permanent institution for treatment of the eye diseases so common in that region.

The price of wood in Harput in February was quoted as the equivalent of \$35.00 per cord. As a result the head of one of the orphanages had to send for a hatchet to chop the ice from the orphanage floor. The water supply also seems to have frozen up so much as to make nearly as much trouble as the lack of heat.

Mrs. Diana Rice of the Constantinople staff of the Near East Relief left on the "Henry Mallory" April 7th on her return to Paris; also Mrs. Orie A. Hinson, Miss Mildred Davidson, and Messrs. Donald Perry and Joseph Cox, returning to America. Dr. David P. Olkon of Adana has returned to America by the southern route.

SUNDAY SERVICES April, 25 1920

DUTCH LEGATION CHAPEL, 11 a.m., Rev. Robert Frew, D.D.
ROBERT COLLEGE, 11 a.m., Rev. F. H. Black
CONSTANTINOPLE COLLEGE, 11 a.m., Rev. C. T. Riggs
CRIMEAN MEMORIAL CHURCH 11 a.m., Rev. R. F. Borough

CONSTANTINOPLE VITAL STATISTICS

The vital statistics of the capital for the month of March 1920 as compared with the figures of 1919 are thus given by the *Sabah*:-

Deaths from	1919	1920
Tuberculosis	210	238
Typhus fever	60	18
Typhoid fever	8	13
Influenza	36	23
Pneumonia	244	295
Other diseases	1,201	1,222

The *Sabah* states that the average annual mortality from tuberculosis in the city is 2,640.

For the week ending April 10, the deaths were recorded as follows:-

Typhus, 2 fatal cases, typhoid, 14 cases, 4 deaths; diphtheria, 4 cases, 2 deaths; scarlet fever, 1 case; small-pox, 1 case, 2 deaths; tuberculosis, 27 cases, 52 deaths; influenza, 40 cases, 3 deaths. Total deaths, 363.

The census bureau of the city reports a total of 6,105 births during the year 1919 as over against 9,319 deaths; and 10,183 marriages and 2,054 divorces.

The figures given above for the week and for March would indicate an annual mortality at least twice the number quoted from the census bureau.

WHY TURKEY BROKE WITH AMERICA

The examination of Moustafa Sheref Bey, minister of commerce in the cabinet of Talaat Pasha during the war, given before the parliamentary commission in 1918, has just been made public. It gives in his words the following account of the rupture of diplomatic relations with America, when Ambassador Elkus was sent home:-

"We were all opposed to a rupture of relations with America. And indeed the question was discussed once or twice in the council of ministers. But our allies were constantly putting pressure on us, alleging that to strengthen the alliance, Turkey and Bulgaria should at least break diplomatic relations with the United States, if they would not declare war. They believed that it was essential to satisfy in this way the German public opinion. The head of the government and the minister for foreign affairs had addressed us in identical terms. We objected that it was Bulgaria's place to act first. Talaat Pasha replied: 'Tomorrow Bulgaria is to break relations with America.' This compelled us to decide to do the same. But this was not a declaration of war. In the course of the discussions that took place in the council of ministers, not only I myself but all my colleagues took the position that a rupture of relations would secure for us no advantages. And yet it was decided on, in order not to endanger the solidarity of the Alliance, and in order to prevent any account of the situation here getting reported in the enemy countries."

THE ORIENT

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Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Constantinople

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE

APRIL 21, 1920

EDITORIAL SECTION

The vital statistics printed on another page call renewed attention to the annual ravages in Constantinople by tuberculosis. The damp winds that so affect the climate of this city make for the prevalence of lung troubles; but we believe further investigation will show that of the tubercular cases a very large proportion are the affection of other organs than the lungs. It is not fair to the climate to shift on it the blame for this alarming prevalence of tuberculosis. Rather is it the unsanitary conditions in homes, and ignorance of the elements of healthy living. The whole population needs education along hygienic lines; and this can be carried on largely through the community schools, if a systematic effort is made to introduce such instruction. Courses in hygiene and home sanitation would be of the utmost value, and it would seem as if no element in the population would have the least objection to the introduction of such lessons. The great obstacle will be found to be the lack of teachers who themselves practice healthy living, and who know how to tell others how to live. Here is a task for the colleges and high schools that are preparing the teachers for the next generation. It is a slow process, but we must build from a solid foundation. If the youth now being trained for leadership are taught not only how to take care of their own health, but also how to introduce into the schedules of schools helpful courses on home hygiene, we may look for results.

At the same time it is highly probable that stricter measures must be taken by the sanitary authorities of the municipality, in isolating all cases of tuberculosis, and in enforcing measures for preventing contagion. With the present crowded condition of the city, due to the destruction within recent years of over fifty thousand houses and the construction of no new ones, as well as to the influx of all sorts of refugees, such a task is harder than ever. Poverty, insufficient food and low standards of cleanliness are also contributing causes for the prevalence of such disease. Evidently the struggle

will be long and hard; this is all the greater reason for getting at it immediately, to save the lives of as large a number as possible. Statistics from England and America show a most gratifying reduction of the mortality in every part of those countries, as the result of systematic diligence in combating the danger. Such efforts are sure to bring good results.

The statement of M. Leon Bourgeois, President of the Council of the League of Nations, — that the usefulness of the League has now been definitely proven, that it is no longer a theoretic organism, a splendid utopia, as some called it, that enormous advance has been thus made in securing world-peace, and that the rest is merely a question of good will and a clear understanding, — is very encouraging. The League is not yet a year old; it had to wait some time before organizing, until the various nations had time ratify the Treaty, of which it was an integral part; and it naturally had to go through a stage of trial, as an unproven theory. The results have justified the hopes and expectations of its friends to such an extent that they can agree with the faith in its future expressed by M. Bourgeois. It is a great thing to be able to assert that it exists and is actually working. Nobody in his right mind would expect that the League would become within less than a year a cure-all for world troubles, or that it would accomplish all that it may later on when stronger. And there are very few so blind as to assert that the Covenant of the League is a perfect instrument. Time will force into it some changes and improvements that experience will prove essential. So it was with the United States Constitution, to which ten amendments were passed almost as soon as it was adopted, and another within five years thereafter.

The great nations of the world have thus bound themselves together to preserve the peace of the world, and to help one another, — all except the United States. It is this exception that brings chagrin to so many Americans. To be a "rank outsider" is never pleasant; especially when in the pride of our hearts we virtually say to the rest of the world: "You are not good enough company for us." This is particularly mortifying to Americans residing abroad. When the League is improved, it will be by its members, not by outsiders; and the way to bring about such improvement the most certainly would have been to join the League, and so be in a position to propose necessary modifications. We are not yet hopeless; for it seems certain that the bulk of the country is not of the opinion of the obstructionist Senators who till now have prevented America from taking her rightful place in this matter. These Senators do not represent the best sentiment of the country, and eventually this sentiment will find a way to express itself.

A very important Conference is being held at San Remo, on the Italian Riviera, attended by the Premiers of the Allied countries and the Ambassadors of most of the Powers. It is expected that the Turkish settlement will be discussed, and also the Adriatic question and very likely others. Premier Nitti of Italy will preside.

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE LEVANT

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN ROUMANIA

(From *L'Information d'Orient*)

Roumania has been passing through an economic crisis, but the crisis has been due especially to artificial causes.

The country's production is both rich and varied, consisting of cereals, gasoline, wood, salt, mazout, etc., etc. But the German occupation so depleted the country, that it has not yet recovered, though sixteen months have passed since the armistice. The plan for the exportation of gasoline, announced some time ago, has not been realized, because the damage to the wells has not been sufficiently repaired, and because transportation is lacking for the gasoline already drawn, and there is lack of fuel for the locomotives. The railroad cars and especially the locomotives have been taken from the country by the Germans, and the remainder were the most part rendered unserviceable by the Germans at the moment of their retreat.

The Roumanian Maritime Service, which had established a regular service between Roumania and Constantinople and the Mediterranean, was obliged for a time to suspend operation because of the lack of mazout, one of the chief products of the country.

The Roumanian administration, seized by fear, had systematically forbidden all exportation. However, the country had need of manufactured goods, and for a time there was a large amount of importation which was not balanced by exportation. There resulted, therefore, a marked depreciation in Roumanian money. The note of 20 lei, which was worth 180 piastres last year, has been down as low as 34 piastres recently. The disordered state of the finances as well as the threat of Bolshevism have also helped to the depreciation of the Roumanian money. Constantinople also has suffered from this depreciation because of the amount of lei in the market from the sale of merchandise to Roumania.

But the situation is abnormal and amelioration is promised for the near future. Recently there have been clear evidences of economic restoration. One of these is the order of the government for 60 locomotives from the Baldwin Locomotive Works at Philadelphia. The order amounts to \$3,500,000 payable in Treasury notes of three to five years at 6% interest.

Besides the government is about to take the necessary measures for repair of the railroads. Once the question of transportation is regulated, the products of the interior, cereals, wood, gasoline, mazout, etc., will be easily brought to the ports on the rivers or sea and thence exported to their different destinations. Some powerful American organizations propose to buy a large part of the gasoline supply.

In addition the Roumanian government, in order to re-establish the financial equilibrium, proposes to tax the gasoline industry, and place a tax on war profits and the patent.

And if, as prospects seem to indicate, the harvests of this year are abundant, the economic and financial situation will experience a decided betterment, and the government will be able to make considerable change in restrictions on exportation.

RED SEA PORTS

(From report of American Consul, Aden)

In the ports most of the commercial activity is concerned with the exports of local products, and the importing and distributing of piece goods, general hardware, and other goods suitable for the simple manner of living of the natives in the outlying districts.

Aden is the centre of the exporting and importing business for a Red Sea commercial district made up of the political divisions of Makalla, Yemen, Asir, Hedjaz, Eritrea, Abyssinia, and French and British Somalilands. It is the port of call in the district for foreign shipping. Aden importing and exporting firms have agencies or other forms of representation in practically all the small Red Sea ports, principally Makalla, Hodeida, Jiddah, Massowah, Jibouti, Berbera, and outlying trade centres. It therefore follows that Aden is the place in which to begin to establish business connections for operations in this Red Sea commercial district. Aden is a free port, excepting for a small tax or duty on alcoholic liquors or preparations, intoxicating drugs, and arms and ammunition. There is an excellent harbour into which large ships come, but the handling of all cargo is by means of lighters, because of the lack of docks or wharves suitable for the use of steamers.

DANUBE-SALONICA CANAL

(From *The Near East*)

It is reported that considerable progress is being made in Yugoslavia in the construction of railway lines in the interior, but the transit of goods through Fiume and other ports on the coast has become very difficult owing to the delay in settling the Adriatic question. The line Paris-Agram-Belgrade soon becomes congested, and, though railway communications from Salonica to Belgrade are in running order again, the journey still takes a considerable time. The government is taking the question of transit seriously in hand, and by degrees the import and export trade of the new State should be freed from difficulties. In dealing with this subject, a correspondent in a contemporary discusses the project for a canal linking the Danube with Salonica. The utilisation of the great waterway to Serbia will undoubtedly prove a most important factor in the life of the new State, and the River Morava, which is the backbone of the country, will be utilised in conjunction with the River Vardar. This project

has extensively been dealt with in notes that appeared in several issues of *The Near East* soon after the Balkan War and during the recent war, and in which were pointed out the great benefits that Serbia would derive by the union of the two rivers, Vardar and Morava, forming an excellent waterway all along Serbia, with one outlet in the Aegean Sea, at a point south of Salonica, and another in the Danube. By carrying out this scheme, apart from the benefits of navigation in transporting products, etc., considerable water power could be secured at various points of the rivers, which would be utilised for industrial and agricultural purposes. It appears that the Yugoslavian Government is going to carry out the scheme proposed some years ago by a Serbian engineer—viz., the canal will start from the large village of Kevevara, which is situated at the junction of the Danube and the Morava, and, following the course of the latter river, it will join up with the Vardar near Keuprülü, finally breaking off to connect with the port of Salonica. The total length of this waterway will be 600 kilometres, and ships, it is said, of 10,000 tons will be able to pass down all the way. The scheme differs very slightly from the one that was mentioned in *The Near East*, but in the tonnage of the ships there must be some mistake.

THE COMING HARVESTS

The *Orient News* quotes the following from the economic report of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for February and March:

Adrianople. — Prospects of the coming harvest good. The villagers favoured by good weather are at work. The vineyards in the neighbourhood, which are one of the most important resources of the country, are beginning to revive under the care of the Greek emigrants who have now returned home.

The agriculture of this district can only recover its full importance when the political situation becomes normal, when the emigrants are repatriated and when ploughs are introduced as before the war. This used to be practically a monopoly of German firms. It is to be hoped that British and French firms will take it in hand to provide the district with agricultural machinery of the latest type.

Brousa. — It is reported that the disease from which the olive trees have suffered for 4 years has now disappeared as a consequence of the severe cold.

Bandurma. — Excellent harvest prospects. Land sowed is 25 to 30 per cent above last year's. There is great insufficiency of the most elementary agricultural instruments. The importation of these instruments has become very difficult owing to the uncertainty and the continual fluctuations of price in the manufactories in Europe, as well as owing to the fluctuations of exchange.

Balukesir. — Fields looking well but a plague of field mice is disturbing the farmers who are combating it by arsenic acid provided by the authorities.

Eski-Shehir. — The continual heavy snowfall in February has delayed agricultural work.

Kütahia. — Farmers appear pleased with the heavy snow and anticipate a better harvest than last year.

Smyna. — Agricultural situation unfavorable owing to the particular circumstances. No sowing beyond the military zone. Expected harvest 50 per cent of last year's.

Aleppo. — Good harvest prospects.

Haifa. — Very good harvest prospects

THE LOCAL PRESS

The *Vakit* prints an interview with Ali Rushdi Effendi, Minister of Justice, in which he says:—

"The question that concerns us most is that of Anatolia. The present government is determined to reestablish communications with the provinces, and to administer them as one united whole, and to ensure security there. The insurrection movement in Anatolia has but one purpose, the oppression of the people. Till now they thought, out in the provinces, that the chiefs were acting with the approval of the Caliphate; and so the people were led astray. But the *fetva* has made clear the religious position of each party, and no doubt when they learn that the acts of the Nationalists are rebuked by the Caliphate, the people of Anatolia will change their attitude. While the government has no official information as to the implication of certain persons in the capital with this movement, it is probable that it will be judged best to bring some persons before the court-martial. Several of these persons have already fled the city. The government is on the point of sending the necessary communications to Anatolia to inform everyone of the contents of the *Hatt* and of the *fetvas*. Since railroad communications are interrupted it may not be possible to reach every point with these documents, but papers will be sent to points on the coast, and later special representatives of the government will be sent into Anatolia. For the present the government does not think that an armed force will have to be employed against the rebels; but in case of need the gendarmes will be used. The government is determined to use any means necessary to reach its end, and may perhaps secure volunteers as well as use such forces as the gendarmerie. As for the courts martial, they have acted irregularly, and I have drawn up a bill which simplifies the procedure. By the old system the hearings were behind closed doors and the accused had no lawyer. We shall change this. My bill, after examination by the minister of interior, will be submitted shortly to the council of ministers. There will be changes in the composition of the court-martial, but that is in charge of the minister of war. As for the hastening of our peace terms, we have taken no new steps, for we believe that the improving of our interior situation may considerably influence the terms of peace. The better that situation is, the more favorable will the peace terms be. As long as our four provinces now in a state of rebellion do not come back to their duty, the general situation cannot be cleared up."

In the Turkish daily *Alemdar*, Refi Djevad Bey comments thus on the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies:—

"We are satisfied and glad of this step taken by the Gov-

ernment. Damad Ferid Pasha thus proves that he is interested most of all in carrying out the work that the nation expects of him. His Highness is one of the greatest statesmen of Turkey. He knows perfectly well the needs which the people expect to have met. We have wished that the Government would do its work a little more rapidly and firmly and with more vigor, for it must be confessed that we are too slow in this respect.

"There was no further question that it was the Union and Progress party that has destroyed the country. There was but one force regarded as sacred: that was the Nationalists. Any persons who talked against them were considered as traitors to the country. Moustafa Kemal and his minions gave orders, and the government meekly obeyed. The deputies were applauded, acclaimed and given ovations, and the parasite press lauded them to the skies. On their election, the deputies would go to Angora, to lay at the feet of the *pasha* (!) their homage and gratitude and would come back after receiving their instructions. And what were these instructions? We shall learn at some later date. These men who occupied the Fundukli Palace could not be considered the true representatives of the country. And consequently there was no real national representation. That is why His Majesty ordered the dissolution."

The Turkish daily *İkdam* says: — "History has many examples of moral and social degeneration following military defeat. Each time, and in every country, this degeneration shows itself in about the same way. We see foolish quarrels arise, or supreme selfishness rule, or else we notice a blame-worthy difference as to questions of vital interest to the country. This moral degeneration has begun in our case, some time ago, and in the three forms mentioned. Nobody can deny this. The most remarkable thing about it is, that those among whom this state of mind is noticeable are mostly those who during the war were back of the front and were securing the greatest profits at the expense of the public. Most of these people, when they saw that our country no longer gave them amusement or happiness, left it and went each to some corner of Europe; while those who stayed here, see us suffer and laugh in their sleeves.

"Our contemporary the *Vakit* was speaking the other day about the need of certain administrative reforms. In our opinion these reforms are of secondary importance. The reform that is needed above all others is that of our character. We must reform our character and awaken our conscience."

OFFICIAL NOTICE

INCOME TAX RETURNS

Any American citizen of this region liable to make return of his or her income to the proper Collector of Internal Revenue in the United States may obtain all needed information at the American Consulate General in Constantinople.

(Signed) G. BIE RAYNDAL
American Commissioner
and Consul General

NOTES

CONSTANTINOPLE

A strike of the printing force of the French and Greek newspapers of the capital has prevented their issue since Friday last. Various expedients have been tried in their place, such as a joint issue of a two-page sheet representing the six Greek dailies, a similar one for five French dailies, a one-page French sheet containing the *Turquie-Havas-Reuter* despatches, etc.

General Demkin, former commander-in-chief of the South Russian forces, left Constantinople last week on his way to London.

Another case of sleeping sickness in the city is reported, the victim being a fisherman's daughter at Yenikeuy. Still others are reported in Scutari and Bayazid.

Nine members of the Chamber just dissolved have been named, according to the *Bosphore*, for prosecution by the Turkish court-martial for complicity in the massacres and deportations.

M. O. V. Tichy has arrived in Constantinople as a commercial attaché to the Czecho-slovak Delegation.

In Turkish circles it is now believed that the Turkish delegates will be summoned about the end of this month to receive the peace terms; and the Grand Vizier is reported to be preparing to go as the head of this delegation.

Another very successful concert, the Armenian chorus trained by the five pupils of Gomidas Vartabed, was given last Sunday afternoon in the Winter Theatre of the Boulevards Champs, and was well attended. It consisted entirely of vocal numbers, the national hymn with which the program opened being also accompanied by the Masis orchestra. There were soprano and tenor solos, but the rest of the pieces were by the chorus, singing sometimes in unison, sometimes in four, five, or six parts. Folk songs, national dances, country songs, lullabys, love-songs, and patriotic hymns made an attractive program. The music of nearly all had been arranged and harmonized by Gomidas Vartabed. The success of his pupils in this chorus work is very gratifying.

THE NEAR EAST

Smyrna station has sent a cordial invitation to the World's Student Christian Federation to hold its next conference there in the spring of 1921.

After visiting several European capitals, the Shah of Persia is now returning to his country.

A commission of Italian experts is to be sent soon to Tripoli to explore the extensive phosphate deposits reported to exist there.

OTHER LANDS

The unauthorized strike of railway employes on the Pennsylvania, New York Central and other railroads has been causing serious food difficulties in Washington and New York. Finally the president of the Chicago Railroad Men's Association and a dozen or more other strike leaders were arrested last Thursday by Federal agents, and the backbone of the strike was broken.

General Pershing announced at a reception given last Thursday in his honor, that no patriotic American could refuse to serve if called by the people to be President. Cheers greeted this first announcement of his willingness to be a candidate.

President Wilson called the first meeting of his cabinet since his illness on Wednesday last, and it was a long one. On Friday it was announced that he had had a relapse which caused anxiety.

Some idea of the punishments that may be expected from the German government on the war criminals may be gained from the condemnation of Prince Joachim, who started the attack on French officers in the Hotel Adlon, some time ago, and has now been condemned to pay 500 marks, equivalent at present rates to nearly ten dollars.

The Armenian Patriarch and the other members of the Armenian delegation have reached Paris on their return from London.

The Armenians of America are responding generously to the appeals of General Antranig for their needy compatriots in the Near East, and at last accounts had raised \$150,000 and were still contributing.

Arrangements have been completed for the establishing of fast passenger steamer service for this summer between America and Baltic ports, especially with a view to taking back to America some 20,000 American citizens who have been serving in the Polish army and taking to Poland American merchandise, including 10 locomotives recently purchased in America by the Polish government.

Prohibition agents have been asked by Washington officials to keep a sharp lookout for a mysterious airplane re-

ported to fly over the Canadian border every night into Montana and drop a parachute said to bring down a quantity of liquor which bootleggers dispose of. The airplane makes no landing on the American side of the border.

Germany has begun the return of cattle to France; up to April 1st she had restored 1,400 horses, 4,000 oxen and cows, 10,000 sheep, and 4,000 goats.

The King of Sweden is visiting Paris, having arrived there last Friday. He was entertained the next day by President Deschanel to whom he gave the insignia of the Order of the Seraphim.

PERSONAL

Miss Sophie Newnham of Bardizag, who has been for some time with her orphanage at Nicomedia, arrived in Constantinople Monday.

Mr. Thomas R. Owens, of Alabama, American Consul of Class VII., detailed to Baghdad, has arrived there and taken up his duties as assistant to the Consul in charge, Mr. Oscar Stuart Heizer.

Mr. Elliott G. Mears, American Trade Commissioner, and W. W. Cumberland, Esq., Special Attaché at the American Embassy, left Constantinople on April 3rd for America.

Rev S. Ralph Harlow and Mr. Vincent Humeston, of the International College, Smyrna, arrived in Constantinople last week to spend their spring vacation.

Miss Annie T. Allen of Brousa came to Constantinople on Friday last. She has just returned from a trip to Angora in the interests of relief work.

President and Mrs. Alexander Macmillan of the International College expect to sail from New York on the "Imperator" the first week in May, on their return to Smyrna.

Mr. Hawks of the Relief Unit at Sivas has come to Constantinople by way of Marsovan and Samsoun, arriving here Sunday last.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE, April 20th

(Values in paper liras)

Dollar	1.17	20 leva	0.32
Pound sterling	4.87	20 marks	0.42
20 francs	1.68	20 kronen	0.13
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20 drachmas	2.64		

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