

The Orient.

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CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

39th Session (Jan. 17). The second vice-president, Mr. Emmanuélides, had his first chance to preside, but over a very slim house. Much merriment was caused by the certification of the election of Kiashef Effendi as deputy for Malatia, some raising the question to what Chamber he had been elected. Some ten motions dealing with financial matters were referred to the committee on the Budget. Feradj Effendi (Assir) presented a written protest against the Italian fleet attacking non-fortified ports on the Red Sea coast of Arabia, and this protest was referred to the cabinet. A bill for the construction of roads from Prisrend to Shkodra, from Dibre to San Juan de Medua and from Reshadié to Preveza, was passed, in spite of protests of lack of quorum, to the great delight of the Albanian deputies. A bill presented by the deputy for the Hauran, demanding a general amnesty for those engaged in the uprisings of last year in Kerak and the Hauran, gave rise to much warm discussion, but failed to pass because in the absence of a quorum the presiding officer would not put the question. The House finally adjourned at four o'clock.

THE CHAMBER DISSOLVED.

After serving for three and a half terms instead of the regulation four terms, the first Chamber of Deputies under the new Constitution was on Wednesday voted out of existence by the Senate. The session was an executive session, but the main facts bearing on the case were immediately divulged. The report of the Committee of nine was to the effect that there would be nothing illegal in conforming to the request of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan that the Senate give its consent to the dissolution of the Chamber. The report having been read, a demand was made that each senator be furnished with a copy, and the session was suspended till sufficient copies could be made with a duplicating machine. When the senators again met, several spoke for and against the proposition. Hüssein Hilmi Pasha and Gen. Salih Pasha criticised the method of conducting elections for the Chamber, but were in favor of dissolution. When the vote was finally taken, the measure was carried by a vote of 39 to 5, with one abstaining. Those who voted against dissolution are announced to have been the former Grand Vizier, Ferid Pasha, Damad Ferid Pasha, Marshal Fouad Pasha, Sheikh Abdul Kader Effendi, and Mr. Georgiades. The session lasted from a quarter past twelve till a quarter past seven, with two short

intermissions. As soon as the result was known, Gen. Mahmoud Shevket Pasha left the Senate hall and communicated the news to the representatives of the Union and Progress party, causing great rejoicing.

On Thursday the Senate again met in order to transmit its decision to the Sultan. This document was adopted in closed session, but is said to be quite lengthy, going into details as to the reasons for their action, and basing their conviction that the Chamber ought to be dissolved on the statements of the Cabinet. A deputation consisting of the President, Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha, the Secretary, Faik Bey, and the Grand Logothete of the Greek Patriarchate, Aristarchi Bey, conveyed the address of the Senate to Dolma Baghtche Palace, and came back after an hour with Gen. Mahmoud Shevket Pasha, in an automobile, bearing the imperial decree for dissolution. This was read in the Senate by Assim Bey, Minister for Foreign Affairs; and the President adjourned the Senate *sine die*.

In the Chamber, there was bustle and hurry all day, the deputies gathering their belongings in preparation for their return home. When the imperial decree of dissolution finally arrived, at about five o'clock, the large majority of the deputies assembled in their places, and there were plenty of spectators. One of the Opposition deputies, Ismail Bey of Gümüljina, got in his final thrust, for a Unionist Senator, Batsaria Effendi, had slipped into the body of the house; and on noticing this, Ismail Bey called attention to the illegality, and the visibly humiliated Senator withdrew. Memdoub Bey, Minister of Justice, who, aside from the newly arrived Sheikh-ül-Islam, was the only member of the Cabinet present, read to the Deputies the Decree, the text of which was as follows:—

"In accord with Article 7 of the Constitution, and with the assent of the Senate, I have decreed the dissolution of the present Chamber of Deputies. I also decree that within a space of three months from the date of this dissolution new legislative elections be held and the Chamber be once more convened.

The Grand Vizier is entrusted with the execution of this *iradé*.

(Signed) MEHMED RESHAD."

The document bore also the signatures of the Grand Vizier and all his Cabinet.

Without further ceremony, and in orderly fashion, the Chamber listened to the declaration of the President that the session was over.

An official announcement informs the public that orders have already been telegraphed to all the vilayets and inde-

pendent sandjaks that arrangements be immediately undertaken for new elections.

Thus passes out of existence the second Ottoman Parliament, after three regular annual sessions and a curtailed fourth. But the feeling throughout the country is very different from that following the dissolution of the first, by Abdul Hamid, in 1878. By Imperial *iradé*, a new Chamber of Deputies is called to meet within three months, or by about the middle of April; and the representative form of government is now too firmly enthroned in the affections of the people to be lightly disregarded, even were there the slightest intention on the part of His Majesty Sultan Mehmed V. to disregard it. On the contrary, the Sovereign has shown no more inclination by this act to overthrow the Constitution than did King George V. in dissolving the British Commons last year. And, much as this dissolution is to be regretted, the people are in far better condition to make an intelligent choice of the nation's representatives than they were a little over three years ago, and we may therefore reasonably expect a more capable and satisfactory Chamber three months hence.

A UNIQUE SERVICE.

It has been the custom, in Smyrna, for more than a quarter of a century, to close the services of the Week of Prayer with a Polyglot Service. This was held on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 14th, in the American Church, and was a most interesting and delightful occasion. The Evangelical Work in Smyrna was represented in six languages. Pres. MacLachlan, of the International College, made an address in English; Mr. Burrough, of the London Missionary Society to the Jews, spoke in Spanish; Dr. Edward Riggs, in Turkish; Pastor Stahl, in German; Mr. Knadjian, in Armenian; and Dr. Moschou, in Greek. These ten-minute addresses were interspersed with familiar hymns, which were sung in six languages, at once, according to the preference of each singer.

Prayer was offered in English, at the beginning, and the benediction was pronounced in Turkish, at the end.

The audience represented more than six different congregations, and filled the church, with the adjoining Chapel thrown into it, nearly to its utmost capacity. No one could watch that large audience, and listen to the hearty singing, without thinking of the prayer of our Savior, in the 17th chapter of John's gospel, — "that they may be *one*." It was certainly a fulfilment of that prayer, and a foretaste of heaven.

The English, Scotch, German, Greek, Armenian and American Christian Workers of Smyrna hold a weekly prayer meeting, every Tuesday afternoon, which is a strong bond of union among them. It is conducted in the English language, and the Rector of the Church of England parish, here, takes his turn with the others in leading it.

This delightful union and sympathy of Christian Workers must be pleasing in the sight of Him, "who redeemed us with His own blood out of every nation, and people, and tongue," and is certainly very stimulating to all who participate in it.

Smyrna, Jan. 15, 1912.

S. D. R.

THE SHIRKET-I-HAIRIÉ.

Dwellers on the Bosphorus are naturally much interested in the Annual Report just issued of the steamer company with the above name, which serves as their chief means of transit to and from the centre of the city. The Shirket-i-Hairié reports for the year 1910-1911 a total of 14,135,968 passengers or an increase of over 40% in ten years. This has been due not only the natural growth of the city, but also to the fact that the Company has made sincere endeavors to please its patrons, and to offer inducements to suburban dwellers. A Constantinopolitan of a generation ago, to whom Nos. 37 and 38 were the acme of comfort and luxury, and still more an old-stager of the time when No. 14 was the crack boat on Bosphorus, would open their eyes in wonder, should they return to see Nos. 68, 69 and 70, with their well-ventilated cabins, their electric lights throughout, their separate cabins for non-smokers, their searchlights and their twin screws. In fact, even the older boats are now provided with electric lighting and searchlights, and most of them with steam heat. All the new boats have the upper deck aft enclosed in winter time; and either an upper cabin or a convenient wind-shield makes life worth living for the second-class traveler. The introduction of European time has constituted another great improvement; for it diminishes the necessary number of new schedules per year, and secures greater regularity of service. And instead of stopping at sunset, the service runs on till eight o'clock or after in winter, and till half-past nine in summer, to the great convenience of dwellers in the suburbs.

By arrangement with the defunct Mahsouse Company and with its successor, the Shirket-i-Hairié runs a line of steamers also to Haidar Pasha from Beshiktash and Scutari, and another from the Bridge to Kadikeuy. It is hoped to extend this service to the Islands as well, and to start a line between Haidar Pasha and Sirkedji. To do so, and also to keep up to the required efficiency the main Bosphorus service, the Company needs to add several units to its present fleet of forty steamers. This will probably soon be done.

The average payment per ticket by passengers last year was 48 paras, a decrease of five paras since a few years ago. This signifies a slight decrease in the prices of tickets, especially of round-trip and 50-trip tickets, — another evidence of the desire of the Company to win more patrons. At the end of the past year there was a balance of 5,218,913 piastres, the excess of receipts over expenditures, a large part of which will probably go into the new steamers.

Another good move is the regular inspection of the steamers through Lloyd's Agency (British), the certificates of inspection being good for five years. This ought to ensure a more seaworthy equipment and better management all along the line.

The situation in China does not clear up satisfactorily. The Manchu dynasty dies hard; the Republican party is unwilling to yield an inch, and the mediatorial rôle of Yuan-Shi-Kai is becoming increasingly difficult. So far, foreigners are being let alone by both parties.

THE HUMANE EDUCATION SOCIETY.

All friends of humane education, and especially of the Humane Education Society of Constantinople, will be gratified at the success attained by that organization in this its first year of effort. The gathering at the Somerville House on Wednesday of last week was to a certain extent a repetition of the very successful annual meeting held a month before at the home of the President, Mrs. Geo. L. Manning, at Robert College. But at the meeting of last week, the movement assumed a more deservedly honorable place in the eyes of the general public. Prof. Alexander van Millingen presided, and the annual report of the Society was read. This showed that in the thirteen or fourteen months since the formation of the Society, books and pamphlets have been translated and published in Turkish, Arabic, Greek, Bulgarian, Armenian and Hebrew-Spanish; besides these, many more in English, French and German have been distributed, these being largely the donations of the American Humane Education Society, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in England, the French Société Protectrice des Animaux, the Berliner Thier Schutz Verein, the International Humane Association of New York, and of Pres. Perinet of the Geneva S.P.C.A. Over five thousand books and pamphlets in the vernaculars have been distributed, besides a large quantity of literature in English of which no statistical record has been kept. The valued cooperation of Mr. Hoyman in Egypt, Mr. Thomson and Dr. Marsh in Bulgaria, Mr. Batchevarovoff, and the late Mrs. Constantinou and others in Constantinople is acknowledged in the report. With the cordial approval of the Western Turkey Mission, literature has been disseminated in all the institutions under its care, as well as in many other schools and Colleges. In addition to this educational work, Bands of Mercy have been formed in many parts of Turkey and Bulgaria, and already 1473 members are enrolled. At least two lectures illustrated with lantern slides have been given. A prize speaking contest for the Angell silver medal was held in Robert College in May, the prize being won by an Armenian, and a second prize of ten francs by a Greek, both Sub-freshmen. This contest will be repeated this year and a similar contest will take place in the Syrian Protestant College. In the American College for Girls, Scutari, a prize essay contest was held, the prize going to Miss Terzieva, a Bulgarian Senior. A prize of one lira was offered in the spring to that donkey-boy in Prinkipo whose donkey should be in the best condition at the end of the season. Literature on the care of donkeys was distributed to these men and boys; and in October the judges examined the animals most carefully, and divided the prize between two contestants. The general condition of the donkeys was found to be excellent. This prize will also be offered the coming season. The work of the Society has called forth many expressions of approval and gratitude, notably from the Greek Patriarch and the Bulgarian Exarch. Count Ostrorog has kindly prepared in proper legal form the Statutes for a S.P.C.A., which it is hoped soon to organize under the high patronage of a member of the Imperial family.

After the presentation of this report, many persons expressed their hearty approval and appreciation of the work thus begun. Among these were Lady Lowther, the British Ambassador; Baroness Marschall von Bieberstein, the German Ambassador; Mme Van der Does de Villebois, of the Dutch Legation; Sir Edwin Pears; Canon Whitehouse; Dr. Clemow; President Patrick; Mr. Nalbandian, President of the Central Armenian College, Galata; Herr Dr. Soering, head of the German school, Pera; Hüssein Effendi of Robert College, etc.

The fee for membership in the Society is ten piastres. This however does not prevent a larger contribution to the funds of the Society.

THE ITALO-TURKISH WAR.

According to despatches from Egypt, the Sheikh of the powerful and fanatical Senousi tribe, in eastern Cyrenaica, Ahmed el-Sherif, has declared the sacred war against the Italians; and many Moslem tribes are flocking to his green banner. On Wednesday last the Arabs made an attack on the Italian lines at Derna, but were driven back after a desperate fight of seven hours. A similar attack the next day at Benghazi was likewise repulsed, the Italian gunboat in the harbor shelling the Ottoman troops.

Of far greater interest has been the seizure by the Italian warships near Sardinia of the French steamer *Carthage*, which had on board an aeroplane. The Italian authorities claimed to have proof positive that this machine was going to the Ottoman forces, and was therefore contraband. The French protested that not only was there no mention of aeroplanes in the Italian declarations of contraband articles, but that no country ever had the right to seize a vessel plying in time of war between two neutral ports. This steamer was on its way from Marseilles to Tunis, and carried, among its 174 passengers, a French general and a colonel. After two days' detention the *Carthage* was finally released on the promise of the French that the aeroplane should not be transmitted to either belligerent. Another French steamer, the *Manouba*, was likewise stopped by the Italians and 29 Turks on board disembarked at Cagliari, in Sardinia, before the boat was allowed to proceed. It is claimed that these Turks were physicians and nurses of the Red Crescent society, and that the Italians are guilty of inhumanity in thus preventing medical aid from reaching the combatants. The French press is indignant at these violations of the neutrality of the French flag, and demands satisfaction from the Italians.

As for rumors, the one published in some American papers to the effect that Mahmoud Shevket Pasha had been assassinated is interesting enough to reproduce in our otherwise truthful columns.

Peace seems at present as far away as ever. One serious inconvenience of the war to commerce is that all lighthouses in the Aegean and on the Mediterranean and Arabian littorals of this Empire are out, and many coasting steamers have to lie at anchor by night.

THE SIVAS NORMAL SCHOOL.

The condition of the Normal School this year is as encouraging as we could hope under such crowded conditions: with 130 boys packed into quarters that are none too ample for 115, and with at least 40 or 50 more turned away simply because there was no room left. The standing of our school in the eyes of the community is constantly rising, so that the expansion made possible in the next few years by our projected new building is absolutely imperative. Everywhere our graduates are in the greatest demand. This year we had to refuse teachers to five schools we have supplied for years, and have had to turn away 30 or 40 other applications because we had no one to send. Our graduating classes increase in number each year, but not at all in proportion to the demand. A large part of this increased demand comes from the Gregorian schools. It certainly is a pity to have to lose such an opportunity to make the influence of our Gospel felt in the awakening life of the old Church. This year for the first time in our history all our teachers are our own graduates, — not because of any prejudice against the graduates of other schools but because in the actual test our own prove to be the best we can find. Four are also college graduates, and all are earnest, efficient, and loyal to the school. This year we are strengthened by the return from America of Michael Eff. Frençilian who has just graduated from Oberlin College. He teaches English, Science, and Gymnastics. Our music has greatly improved this year through the gift from Mr. Favre of six new instruments for the orchestra, and through the careful drilling of our new music teacher, Nishan Eff. Berkian. A glee club has also been organized and is making good progress. The music is not only very popular with the students, but is a great help on our Friday evening lecture programs.

Another departure in our school activity has been made possible this year through the cooperation of the Hospital. We have given every boy in our school a thorough physical examination with hygienic advice to meet his own particular case. As 10% of our boys were discovered to be suffering from one form or other of eye difficulty which hindered their studying, the time and pains expended seem well justified. We hope to be able to see that every boy is properly equipped with glasses where necessary. It is also our plan as soon as a suitable place can be provided to have regular gymnastic exercise and games, and prescribe for each boy such physical training as he needs. Here as well as in America we must have sound minds in sound bodies if we are to train up efficient workers.

With our new site secured, and the plans for our new buildings drawn, we are naturally planning now on a much needed strengthening and lengthening of our course of study next year. We are expecting the return from years of foreign study of two more of our graduates next fall: Hampartsoum Eff. Bledjian, who has been doing advanced work in French and Pedagogy at the University of Geneva, and Roupén Eff. Rakoubian who received his M.A. from Teachers' College of Columbia University last June and is this year pursuing fur-

ther work in Pedagogy at the same institution. With these additions to our faculty we shall be able to lengthen the course at least a half year next year and offer more advanced courses in the following subjects: psychology, pedagogy, history, economics, sociology, and French. When this course has been lengthened to the full year more our graduates should be able to enter the senior class in College if they so desire.

We feel especially fortunate this year in the condition of our intermediate and primary schools for boys. The lowest primary class is in charge of a woman of long experience, and with the exception of Hagopos Eff., under whose care all the lower schools are, the other teachers are four classmates of last year's graduating class who work enthusiastically and unitedly together. Several of our seniors also help out with a few hours of practice teaching.

We are rejoicing this year in the acquisition of two new and valuable accessories: a post-card Radiopticon and a fine Victor phonograph. With the Radiopticon and post-cards gathered by the missionaries or sent by friends in America we are giving a series of travel talks this year on Europe and America. The phonograph is a great help, not only in furnishing entertainment for various occasions, but in providing a liberal education in the appreciation of the best music.

E. C. PARTRIDGE.

CHRISTMAS AT BARDIZAG.

The East may be behind the West in some respects, but in the manner of observing Christmas it certainly does not take a back seat. At least not at Bardizag. On Wednesday night the Favre Boys' Home closed a successful term of hard work with a delightful Christmas Entertainment. Appropriate songs and little speeches by the boys opened the festivities. True, the tree was artificial in construction, but the green boughs were arranged with such art and so tastefully decorated with red, white and blue lighted candles, golden oranges, wreaths of pop-corn and "horns of plenty" of sweets, as to be an "open sesame" to the eyes, mouths and hearts of all present.

And the performances of Santa Claus were not behind the glory of the tree. Bigger than life, with his large red coat and cap trimmed with white, his high black boots and a flowing beard, he appeared on the scene riding a reindeer. To be sure, the beast wore pants, its bear-skin was borrowed, and its antlered head was one but not inseparable. Still it served a better purpose and brought more "laughter holding both its sides" than the real thing could have done. With a happy supply of jokes, toys, books, sweets and mittens (contributed largely by a grateful, loyal graduate of the school), old Santa remembered every member of the school, and happily concluded his trick by starting off through the snow into a grove on the hillside to bring cheer and good will to the other good children of the King whose names he keeps written in his big book.

Of course it goes without saying that the power behind the throne was a woman, and here it was Miss Newnham, the efficient and progressive head of the Home.

JOHN H. KINGSBURY

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EDITORIAL.

Will all those who have sent to *The Orient* and its editor their warm and cheery greetings at this New Year season accept heartiest thanks for their kind words? This is, indeed, in a sense a weekly letter to our readers, to many of whom the editor seldom has time to write.

We would call especial attention to the report of the Humane Education Society, on another page. Such a practical form of undenominational and international effort ought to elicit the active cooperation of all our readers in this Empire, especially of those connected with work of all sorts among the young.

In another column we give a résumé of the annual report of the *Shirket-i-Hairié*, or Beneficent Company, which runs its steamers up and down and across the beautiful Bosphorus. There is no discounting the real and substantial improvements that have taken place in this service; and the delightful trips in the fresh sea breezes amply compensate for the lack of a trolley-line in the city. There is one point, however, which has often been remarked, and often called to the attention of shareholders and directors of the Company. These steamers do not carry adequate life-saving apparatus. Providentially there have been no serious accidents on any boat as far back as we can remember; but when one considers the swift and treacherous currents of the Bosphorus, the speed of these steamers, and the amount of shipping in the harbor, one wonders how long this charmed life can continue. The newer boats are capable of carrying a thousand passengers each; and they frequently do so. On Sundays in summer they are wickedly overcrowded, especially toward sunset; and one trembles to think of possibilities. For these craft carry no lifeboats worthy the name, and only a dozen or so gaily-painted life-preservers each. Should not the prefecture of the port secure the passage of ordinances forbidding such carelessness? The lives of nearly forty thousand passengers daily should be considered precious enough to demand an adequate supply of safety devices; for unfortunately most of the inhabitants of the Capital do not know how to swim.

Quite possibly some of our readers failed to notice a brief statement in a recent issue to the effect that at the request of the authorities of Central Turkey College, Aintab, the Ottoman military authorities had detailed an officer to give regular drill to the students of that institution. This is not the first time that military drill has been introduced into an American institution in the Ottoman Empire. Two years ago such an arrangement was made at the Bithynia High School, Bardizag. Possibly there have been other instances. But why should there not be more such? The experience of American schools is that military drill tends to make young men more erect, more manly, more obedient, and quicker in their movements. Unless we are much mistaken, there is plenty of room for improvement along these very lines in our American institutions in this country. There is something in the manual of arms that calls out the best that is in most lads, and makes men of them. Where one is, by nature or through lack of early training, addicted to slovenliness, such drill is unexcelled as a curative. Under the tyranny of the past, this form of training was impossible; but with the advent of a better day, and with the extension of military service to all nationalities of Ottomans, there are manifest advantages to be gained by thus coming into cooperative relations with the military authorities.

The impression made on the city last April by the addresses of Prof. Raoul Allier, of Paris, in the World's Student Christian Federation Conference and especially in the series in the Union Française, Pera, was so profound, so elevating and so stimulating that there was an immediate request on the part of many, and especially of many students, that a similar course of lectures or addresses be arranged for the coming year. We earnestly hope that the request has not been forgotten and that the arrangement may be made. Quite naturally, the body to take the initiative in this matter would be the Y. M. C. A.; and we respectfully call the attention of the Secretaries to this topic. We are positive that there are many friends who could be depended upon to render financial assistance in securing such a visit. Inquiries have already been made by eager persons whether such a course is not to be offered this spring; and it is more than likely that Orthodox and Roman Catholic aid might be forthcoming in order to secure again addresses of such marked and fruitful moral value. Those who crowded the hall of the Union Française last spring for three successive afternoons were very few of them Evangelicals. And the good audiences in the hall of the Greek Syllagos were mainly Orthodox Greeks though the addresses of Prof. Söderblom were in French.

It is quite important that the best possible speaker be obtained for such a series, — not necessarily a wonderful orator, but a man of winning personality as well as of deep spirituality and convincing logic. Since Prof. Allier has already won so many warm admirers and friends, he would naturally be the first to be invited to deliver the series of addresses. In case, however, that his duties at the Sorbonne do not permit of his being absent thus two years in succes-

sion, or in case it is already too late to secure his presence here in March or April, some worthy successor may doubtless be found to carry on the good work begun. Such a course should if possible be in the French language, and this for two reasons: a much larger number of young men in the city can understand French than could profit by English; and besides, the nature of these discourses on moral and religious themes is refreshingly different from anything otherwise offered to the public through the medium of the French language. Prof. Söderblom of Upsala also made a distinctly favorable impression on the young men of the city; possibly he might be secured. Fortunately, however, the number of acceptable, constructive, deeply spiritual public speakers who use French is by no means limited to those heard in our city last April. The essential point is to secure moral and spiritual food for the multitudes, easily accessible through French, who are many of them hungering and thirsting after righteousness, but who in this great city have no shepherd.

Such a series of addresses need not be limited to Pera. Stamboul is also receptive; the great body of students in the Imperial University would welcome a chance to listen. Doubtless such a visit could be extended, should the time of the lecturer permit, to Smyrna also, with great profit to that city. If the Y. M. C. A. is eager for an opportunity to get hold of the young men, the thinking young men, of this city and if possible of other cities, here is their chance.

THE SITUATION IN THE EUROPEAN PROVINCES.

There is no denying the disturbed state of affairs in certain parts of Macedonia and Albania. Bands of marauders and self-styled "patriots" of various nationalities have made their appearance, and murders and other crimes are of all too frequent occurrence. It is a long way to Spring, and the recrudescence of such troubles might be styled premature by the cold blooded politician. There is no need to look to Italy, as some do, as the provoker of these disorders. The failure of the local officials to carry out governmental promises to the Albanians, the hoary "claims" of "rights" by Bulgarians and Greeks, the feeling on the part of Montenegro that she still has an account to settle from last year, — all these added to the lack of a really strong body of mounted police or gendarmerie, are cause enough. On the other hand, the court-martial at Ipek, after examination into the Ishtib outrages, has condemned to death nineteen persons, eight of them Bulgarians, six Mohammedans, three gypsies and two Jews, for complicity in murder. Investigations in the vilayets of Kossovo and Monastir are said to have brought to light 27 large bombs and 45 smaller ones. In view of these facts, the Oriental Railway Company has requested the government to order the police to examine baggage at each station before it is placed on the trains; and this measure has been sanctioned.

Last week the heavy snowfall and severe weather in the European provinces blocked the railroad traffic for several

days. Trains to and from Salonica were stalled for many hours near Hademkeuy, and on Thursday the train for Vienna could not leave this city at all. Since Saturday, however, the weather has moderated so much as to thaw out many drifts and open up the roads.

THE OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT OF 1877-'78.

A comparison of the life of the recent Parliament with that convened by Abdul Hamid on March 19th, 1877, at the instigation of Midhat Pasha, is instructive. To the Chamber of Deputies then were elected from Constantinople ten members, five of them Turks, three Armenians, one Greek and one Israelite. The Sultan appointed Ahmed Vefik Pasha as President of the Chamber before the Chamber had convened. The Senate was composed at first of 32 members, 24 of them Moslems, four Greeks, two Armenians, one Bulgarian and one Israelite; Server Pasha was president of the Senate. Midhat Pasha had already been exiled before the meeting of Parliament. The Sultan opened the session by receiving the members at the Dolma Baghtche Palace; but the meeting-place of Parliament was the Dar-ül-Fünoun or University building in Stamboul. Among those present at the formal opening was Prince Mehmed Reshad Effendi, the present ruler. One great difficulty at the first was to find any member bold enough to vote against any measure proposed. There was, in fact, no Opposition. After sitting for two months, the first session was closed in June. The *Levant Herald* of that day remarks: — "A brief review of the work it has done and of the impression it has made becomes seasonable; and it is pleasant to feel that, although the former has yielded little in the way of tangible result, the latter is nevertheless distinctly hopeful, and, for instruction, profitable. The session has, it is true, been sterile of practical result, not because men of practical views were wanting in the Chamber, but simply because practical questions have been studiously kept out of Parliament's way."

On Dec. 13th, 1877, after six months' vacation, Parliament again convened, after new elections, and was again opened by the Sultan at Dolma Baghtche Palace. The war was at its height; Plevna had been captured by the Russians only a few days before, and all looked dark for the Empire. To quote the *Levant Herald* again: — "It is a hopeful sight to see the Sultan, notwithstanding all the distracting torment of the war, notwithstanding influences which might have warped him from the views with which he began his reign, fulfilling his pledge to the nation and to Europe, calling together his Chambers, calmly allotting to them the work of the session, and bidding them discuss with perfect freedom the questions that come before them." For President of this second session, the Chamber submitted to the Sultan three names, and of these the Sultan selected that of Hassan Fehmi Effendi of Constantinople as President of the Chamber, while Ahmed Vefik Pasha was made a Senator. But the new Chamber

early in January began to prove troublesome by inquiring into the actions of Ministers of State, and criticising these actions. These liberties shortened its life. Dr. Henry O. Dwight, in his "Turkish Life in War Time," thus describes the end:—"Parliament has been prorogued by the Sultan, to the amazement of all, inasmuch as only a day or two before deputies had been present in the council held at the Sultan's palace. At first the loss of Parliament seemed only one grief the more in a mass of sorrows so great as to overwhelm the people. But the summary expulsion from the city of several leading deputies, and the arrest and imprisonment, as if guilty, of Süleiman Pasha, have stirred the people to strong dissatisfaction, and now patrols are continually walking the streets to break up knots of sidewalk talkers, and throttle any incipient disturbance. The real cause of the prorogation of Parliament is probably its attitude toward Reouf Pasha on his quarrel with Süleiman . . . Several deputies expressed their minds freely to the effect that the disasters of the country were largely due to men who have been retained in the ministry in spite of the continual opposition of the people. But one old gentleman, who being from Damascus, does not know Turkish, wished very much to express his sentiments, and was forced to do so in the few words he did know. He blurted out, 'Nothing the Sultan does succeeds: the people are discontented.' This was the truth in the minds of several, but all were aghast at its coming out in the bold livery of a small vocabulary. It is said that the Sultan was speechless for some moments, and when he recovered breath it was to say, 'Get it out of the way,' which, being understood to refer to the Chamber of Deputies, was translated into a proclamation that the Sultan, grateful to the Senate and Chamber for their labors, was yet obliged to prorogue the session a month before the time, owing to the political situation, which prevents the Chamber from performing all its duties."

Thus, on Feb. 14, 1878, ended the first Ottoman Parliament, less than nine months after it first convened, and after only five months of actual sessions. And its snuffing out left the country in a darkness that lasted for over thirty years.

EMPIRE NEWS.

THE CAPITAL.

A deficit of somewhere between Lt. 700 and Lt. 1200 has been discovered in the accounts of the Scutari branch of the committee raising money for the fleet. The treasurer has been arrested. The loss seems to affect also the funds for fire-sufferers in Stamboul and Darudja as well as those for fighting the cholera.

Mme. Tcharykoff, wife of the Russian Ambassador, has received from the Greek Patriarch of Jerusalem the golden cross of the order of the Holy Sepulchre.

Hadji Adil Bey, till now secretary of the Committee of Union and Progress, has been appointed Minister of the Interior. He was formerly Vali of Adrianople.

It is announced that several Opposition and Independent Deputies have turned over their salaries for the ensuing four months to the Imperial Treasury in view of the extraordinary expenses caused by the present war.

The Greek religious society "Anorthosis", organized last year, has started a fortnightly organ entitled *Palingenesia*.

His Majesty the Sultan has presented a carriage and a span of fine horses to the new Sheikh-ul-Islam.

On Sunday last the Tokatlian Hotel in Pera had a narrow escape from destruction by fire, the prompt action of the employes extinguishing the flames before great damage was done.

THE PROVINCES.

In spite of the great and trying vicissitudes of the past three years, the churches of the Cilicia Evangelical Union have succeeded in paying in full up to July, 1911, their Home Missionary pledges, amounting to Lt. 100 a year, for the assistance of the weaker churches of the Union.

Dr. F. D. Shepard was sent recently by the local government from Aintab to Nizib, an important village twenty-five miles east of Aintab, on the main road to Ourfa, to investigate the cholera, which proved to be of a very bad type. It was brought from the vicinity of Adana. It appeared also in other villages near Nizib. The municipal physician from Biredjik is now there looking after the situation.

The Board of Managers of Central Turkey College held its winter meeting at Aintab, Jan. 3rd and 4th. Plans are being matured for offering specialized courses of study. Prospects are good for closing the current college year without debt.

Of the 279 students in Anatolia College, Marsovan, 141 are classified as Orthodox, 65 as Protestants, 56 as Gregorians, 9 as Moslems, 6 as Roman Catholics, and 2 as Jews.

The Administrative Council of Jerusalem has just passed an edict forbidding the Jews to visit the famous Wailing Place outside the wall of the Mosque of Omar. This has caused great indignation among the Jews, who have an Imperial firman from Sultan Abdul Aziz giving them the right to use this place for wailing.

The Near East states that the population of Beirut has grown from 25,000 in 1860 and 100,000 in 1885 to 150,000 today; that of Piraeus from 11,000 in 1870 to 80,000 now; that of Gaza from 16,000 in 1887 to 48,000 today.

NOTES.

Mr. Walter Seager has been appointed American Harbormaster at Constantinople to succeed the late Mr. Theodorides.

Mr. Müller, the new resident architect for Robert College, has arrived and taken up his work.

Rev. Henry H. Riggs and family, of Harpout, have gone to Clifton Springs Sanitarium for a short stay.

Rev. Dr. John W. Nicely, formerly of the faculty of the Syrian Protestant College, received on Christmas Eve a box containing \$214 as a token of love and appreciation from the congregation of the Crerar Memorial Church, Chicago, of which he is pastor.

Rev. and Mrs. R. H. Markham, who are under appointment to the European Turkey Mission, expect to sail from New York for Trieste on Feb. 14th on their way to Samokov. With them comes Mr. Luther Fowle, who expects to make a short stay in Constantinople on his way to Aintab.

Dr. Herrick delivered by invitation in November and December at Union Theological Seminary and afterwards at Andover Theological Seminary a course of six lectures on "Christian and Mohammedan." The lectures will now be published in the form of a book which will appear next month. The titles of the lectures are, The Present Outlook in the Near East; Their Past; The Ethical Problem; Present and Possible Approaches; The Problem of the Convert; and The Missionary of Today.

Miss Morley, sister of Mrs. J. K. Marden of Marsovan, after visiting her sister has come to Constantinople and will give assistance in the Gedik Pasha school.

No. 3 of the *Levant Trade Review* has appeared, and will be given more extended notice in our next issue.

Dr. Christie of Tarsus has gone on from Khartoum to Gondokoro.

OTHER LANDS.

Turkey has a deservedly large share in the January *Missionary Herald*. Dr. Geo. F. Herrick writes of the effects of

This space reserved

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Italy's "colossal scheme of piracy and brigandage," and pleads for a reply to the Ottoman Appeal. Rev. W. C. Cooper of Salonica deals with the high cost of living. We also read extracts from descriptions of installation services at Kapou Kaya and Eybez, a zealous pupil in Mardin, the Y. M. C. A. at Adana, conditions in Albania, and a miller's tale from Van. There is an appreciative notice of Shahin Adjemian, Euphrates College, 1910; and also a warning against a fraudulent Armenian named George Barsoom who is posing as a converted Turk and swindling American churches out of their money.

On their return from India the British Sovereigns at Port Said entertained His Highness the Khedive and Kiamil Pasha at luncheon. King George presented the latter with his photograph in a jewelled frame. Reouf Pasha, the Imperial high commissioner in Egypt, saluted the royal pair in the name of the Sultan.

One week from today Crown Prince Boris of Bulgaria will reach the age of eighteen, and will be officially declared of age.

Alfred Tennyson Dickens, eldest surviving son of the novelist, died in New York Jan. 2nd, aged 65.

Violent storms resulting in many shipping disasters are reported from the British Isles.

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