

The Orient.

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HOWARD SWEETSER BLISS, D.D.

A cable from New York in the London *Telegraph* of May 4th announces the death of President Howard S. Bliss, D.D., of the Syrian Protestant College, Beirut. Previous letters had indicated, as given in our issue of April 14th, that he was seriously ill with a complication of kidney trouble with tubercular symptoms. His loss is a very serious one for the College and for the whole of Syria, where his influence was strong and positive and helpful along so many lines.

Howard Sweetser Bliss was born in Mt. Lebanon on Dec. 6, 1860, son of Dr. Daniel and Mrs. Abby M. W. Bliss. His brother, Frederick J. Bliss, Ph.D., well known as an archaeologist, who was nearly two years his senior, survives him. He was graduated at Amherst in 1882, and taught for two years in Washburn College, Kansas, then entering Union Theological Seminary, where he was graduated in 1887. After studying two more years as a fellow of that institution, at Mansfield College, Oxford, and in Göttingen and Berlin Universities, he returned to America, married Miss Amy Blatchford of Chicago Nov. 7, 1889, was ordained as a Congregational minister the following year, and became assistant pastor of the Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, Dr. Lyman Abbott being the pastor. In 1894 he was called to the pastorate of the Christian Union Church of Upper Montclair, and served most acceptably till 1902, when, upon the resignation of his father, Dr. Daniel Bliss, from the presidency of the College at Beirut, he was on nomination of the Syrian resident board of managers, elected as his successor. He arrived in Beirut in November, and his formal inauguration took place May 10th, 1903. One of his first acts after getting the college well started under the new administration, was to invite the Syrian pastors and helpers to a conference at Marquand House, his home, where for several days they discussed important religious and practical subjects and united in prayer. The delegates were the guests of the college, and this brought them in close touch with the institution.

President Bliss's administration has been strong and constructive; and his impress was stamped upon the institution he so loved and for which he lived. The number of students when he came there was 629; it has grown to 958 during the current year, and was over 900 even before the war. His winning personality and gentle firmness carried the College through several crises with great credit; and his strong hand will be missed in the period ahead of us.

During his administration the School of Commerce, which had but just begun in 1900, greatly developed and the

Nurses' Training School and the School of Dentistry were added; and further plans were on foot to make this in reality even more of a University for Syria and the surrounding regions. Much had been expected from his presence and advice this year in America, in developing a scheme for unifying the educational work in the Near East. But he has been called to higher service.

President Bliss is preeminently one of the men to whom the younger generation of missionaries have looked for inspiring leadership. They have not looked in vain. He knew how to face the baffling realities of the Near East with unwavering faith, radiant hope, and vitalizing love. I thought I knew him after hearing him speak and watching him work, but it took a few days in his home to show me that he was a far greater man than his words or his deeds. His personality was bounded on the north by insight, on the south by sympathy, and stretched far away to the east and the west to the oceans of energy and companionability. I should like to have seen him meet and talk with Matthew Arnold. The sweet reasonableness and radiance of his faith and practice made him one of the most vital interpreters of God to young men. "Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog in private duty and in public thinking."

F. F. G.

FRANK H. WIGGIN

A telegram received here on Friday of last week announced the death on May 10th of Mr Wiggin, for 24 years Treasurer of the American Board. He was born in Wolfeboro, N.H., October 27, 1851.

During the 110 years of the Board's existence six persons have served that Corporation in the capacity of Treasurer. Mr. Wiggin's term of service is among the longest. Mr. Wiggin's connection with the Treasurer's office in Boston began in 1886 as a clerk. In 1895, upon the death of Mr. Langdon S. Ward (Mr. Wiggin's predecessor), he was appointed Assistant Treasurer and, one year later, Treasurer. Mr. Wiggin's long term of service as the head of the financial department of the Board has made his name a household word in many mission stations in far distant lands. Especially is this true here where the American Board has been largely used as a relief and financial agency in times of distress and need. Millions of dollars have passed through his office in Boston sent as gifts for the relief of the poor and the destitute, for the support of orphans and widows and from natives of this land, who have enjoyed for a season the hospi-

talities and opportunities that America affords, as remittances to their needy relatives and friends here. The transmission of funds for the use of individuals in Turkey has become an important feature in the Board's business. This department of service to the people of this land has been built up chiefly during Mr. Wiggin's term of office. The execution of these trusts has entailed a vast amount of work in the home office as well as at the distributing centers on the field.

The Board in the management of its missions, the support of its missionaries and the work they direct, involving the transmission of funds and supplies to distant parts of the world, in the collection of the contributions given to it from its widely scattered contributors and in the care of its investments, has become, especially during the last quarter of a century, a great banking and business corporation with both domestic and foreign departments. To the development and management of the financial end of this wide-spread work, Mr. Wiggin has given a long, devoted and faithful service. Mr. Wiggin's intense devotion to the interests of the Board was noted by all who came into contact with it. All his energies were devoted to the development of the Board's resources in order that these might prove sufficient to meet the needs of its ever expanding work. He earnestly strove to preserve the financial soundness of the Board and to keep its credit good at home and abroad. In his work of developing and maintaining the financial department, Mr. Wiggin had the help of some of the best business men in our country. As a result of the sound and conservative policy consistently pursued through many years, the American Board stands high as a business corporation. Its business paper is recognized as occupying a place among the best in the markets of the world.

Said a leading official of the American Government at Washington not long ago to the writer of this paragraph. "I consider the paper of your Board, and of other like Boards, of the very highest order. Banks may fail, often they do fail; but your supporters are so many and are so widely spread, including so many representatives of the best business concerns in the country, as to make it unlikely that your Board will ever be in a position where it cannot meet its obligations. You have such wise and conservative leaders, such careful financiers, that your financial operations are as safe, humanly speaking, as they can be. I have examined into your organizations and I believe them among the safest in the country. I always feel secure with respect to the business paper of our American Missionary Boards." Such testimony is the monument which speaks forth the praise of the late Treasurer of the American Board.

With Mrs. Wiggin, her daughter and their wide circle of friends we wish to express our deepest sympathy and fellowship in their bereavement.

W. W. P.

NOTICE

For Sale:—Hammond typewriter, Universal keyboard. Excellent condition, extra Greek type. On view in office of THE ORIENT, Bible House. Price £18 sterling. Owner A. W. Sellar.

SALONICA NOTES

Dr. and Mrs. John Henry House, with their daughter, Miss Ruth House have been for this year on furlough in America. They were compelled to remain here for the duration of the war because of lack of reinforcements for their school, the Thessalonica Agricultural and Industrial Institute, and because of the difficulties attached to getting away even for a brief rest period in the heated season. Hence they were all war-worn and weary and we trust that the year in America will restore them in body and mind.

Rev. William C. Cooper and his wife, and child, Gordon, are also on furlough three years over due because of war conditions. At the beginning of the war, when all our out-station work was cut off, Mr. Cooper started a small day school in the city on the Mission property, using some small funds which had formerly been used for out-station schools. During the war years this school has grown by leaps and bounds and, owing to the presence of the British troops here and the consequent growing prestige of the English language, as well as to the fact that the school was meeting a real community need, it has now come to such proportions that it must soon advance into a Higher school, one branch for boys, and the other for girls with Boarding departments in each.

Mr. Cooper also carried on an extensive Relief work for the refugees of the great fire in August, 1917, which was gradually extended to give food and help to all refugees whether of the fire or because of the war. Permission was gained from the British authorities to obtain food, clean but useless to the troops, which was brought to the Mission, and with the help of other supplies gotten from the market the needs of the poorest and most needy were met. We also gave the children of the school a dish each of soup for three cents each at the noon hour.

We were all cheered last fall by the arrival of Miss Lena L. Lietzau of Blue Island, Ill., who came to take over the work of the Woman's Board School and build it up into a Boarding School. She has been at work on the Greek language and has also taken over the management of the Day School. We are looking forward this autumn to the arrival of her associate who will co-operate with her in the starting of the Boarding School for Girls.

Rev. and Mrs. Russell A. Richards have also joined our Mission circle within the last year. Mr. Richards was formerly a tutor here in the Agricultural Institute for the years 1913-1916 and the work so appealed to him that after his three years of theological study at Oberlin, he applied to the American Board and was sent out to the same institution. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan where his major work was history. Mrs. Richards is a graduate of Oberlin College, 1919.

We are very glad to have two other good friends of the Agricultural School back with us this year. Mr. Arthur J. Bertholf, a scientific and practiced farmer, has taken charge of the outside work of the Farm School where he is doing

excellent work with knowledge and zest. Mr. Bertholf became a friend of the School during the war when he was voluntarily working in a French Hospital unit on the outskirts of Salonica. He used to come to the Farm on a half holiday and help the boys with their work. He was with us on the fatal day, April 16, 1916, when the entire building burned down and the boys and staff lost practically everything, and his was the first hundred drachmae given for the reconstruction of the School while the flames were still roaring. He was fortunate also in finding his wife in the hospital in which both were serving. Thus do romance and devotion to duty march together.

Rev. and Mrs. J. Riggs Brewster have been in Salonica since the fall of 1915 where they have spent two years at the Farm School and three years in Mission and School work in the city. They have seen these two institutions growing in size and usefulness, the Evangelical community growing from a small group of members to a large community, whose size crowds the limited capacity of the church auditorium, and they have experienced a very great change in the receptiveness of the authorities and people alike to evangelical teaching and principles. Now is surely the time for increased intensity of prayer and effort that the present challenge may be met and the fields occupied for Christ.

We are happy to have seen the inception of the work of the American Y.M.C.A. for the Greek Army. We have enjoyed greatly the society of the sterling Christian leaders in this work who are doing so much for the physical, mental, and religious needs of the soldiers. Mr. Brewster has been given the opportunity of speaking to the soldiers in the "Y" Huts on educational and religious themes, opportunities which he has gladly accepted. It may be worth while for these young men to learn about the "League of Nations" from an American point of view, even though we have to apologize for not being officially in the League as yet! Not yet but soon, we hope.

Time and space fail one to consider properly the work of the American Red Cross in Macedonia and Southern Serbia. Salonica has been used as a base from which all of the Red Cross work for Southern Serbia and Greek Macedonia has been done. At present the daily clinic for the poor of the city in connection with the Greek Asylum for Children is doing a very fine work. Dr. (Major) Hilles, and Sisters D'Alberti and Boyle are engaged in this work, for which Mrs. Adossides, the wife of the Governor General of Macedonia, is the chief patron.

We are expecting the Houses and the Coopers to return in the fall. We have also been voted an increase in the missionary staff of two missionary families for educational and evangelistic work, which we trust will be a reality in the fall.

Mr. Brewster is planning to attend the Y.M.C.A. Conference to be held at Paradise, Smyrna, and, if possible, to take a number of boys from our School over.

Rev. William P. Clarke, who with his wife was compelled to leave Monastir on the re-taking of the city by the Serbians in 1916, has been stationed at the Farm School since that time

where he has given very valuable assistance. His wife and two sons, James and Henry, are in England for this year where the boys are attending the Stramongate School, Kendall. His furlough is due this summer and he plans to join his family to go on to America.

Thus the work of the Salonica field has enlarged in scope even during the war years, and the station now has a larger staff than ever before in its history, nevertheless, much remains to be done; indeed the work is but at its beginning, and if it has a normal growth from now on in the departments which have been established, there will be a continued call for means and workers. Let us trust and pray that this call will be heard and that solid Christian structures may be built upon the good foundations which have been laid.

J. R. B.

THE IGNORANCE OF AMERICA.

The Turkish daily *Ileri* writes: — "What might those persons think of America who say that even Europeans have not succeeded in understanding us? America is so ignorant of the situation, habits, customs and traditions of the poor Turks that it would take many centuries of close relations to make them acquainted with us. Happily there is the fact that the New World does not wish to mix in the affairs of the Old. In fact it has great difficulties in lining up its traditions, thoughts and political principles with those of Europe; how much more so with those of the Ottoman Empire. What is Turkism? What is the real place of the Caliphate in the Moslem world? What is the moral and material power of the Caliph over the Moslems? These for America are so many insoluble riddles. The chasm that separates our two peoples morally is much deeper and wider than the Atlantic. This being so one may realize the situation of the Americans if they must try to understand the political and social principles of the Ottoman Empire, based on Moslem civilization.

"Have the honorable Senators of the United States who have consented to the cession of Smyrna to Greece, ever once seen Smyrna, or examined the proportion of Turkish to Greek inhabitants? Never. Maybe they considered as sufficient proof the fact that the name of the city is Greek, and so wanted to give it to Greece. Is it superfluous to recall right here that the Ottoman Empire, which by its glory and power made Europe tremble, replaced the Roman power which had developed after the eclipse of the Greeks? But it is not alone the Turkish blood that conquered these countries; it is especially the Turkish civilization and more particularly Moslem civilization. Proofs of this abound everywhere. The Turk has also been able to Turkify his surroundings. He has always served for the progress of his age. We can be confident in our future. Misfortunes have but tempered us the better. But as to the truth of this rumor about America's attitude, we would say that possibly the voice that sounds as if it came from so far away may be that of a gramophone set up in Athens, for America is so very far away!"

EDUCATIONAL SECTION

ROBERT COLLEGE NOTES

On Wednesday, May 5th, Sasha Poppoff gave an inspiring farewell concert in the Great Hall of Robert College. The day was ideal, the hall well filled and the artist in his best mood. The result was a concert that the music department will record as one of the finest it has been able to arrange for the music lovers of the upper Bosphorus.

The Goldmark Suite, which came first on the program, was rendered with admirable taste, clear phrasing and perfect intonation. The accompaniment for this number was beautifully played by Miss Inna Roubleff whose ability is well known. In Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole*, Mr. Poppoff once again exhibited his disregard for technical difficulties and, so far as the audience was aware, there were none. The selection was played with great rhythmical precision and fine emotional effect. Another number deserving especial notice was Mehul's *Gavotte*, with organ accompaniment by Prof. Estes. The violin and organ together in this selection formed a perfect ensemble, and Prof. Estes contributed in great degree to this happy effect by the remarkable registration of his organ accompaniment.

In the shorter selections, he gave free rein to his emotions. Very happily chosen, they demonstrated his command of light staccato effects and exquisite tone. The *Andante Religioso* of De Angelis was perhaps the most appealing of all.

Mr. Poppoff will leave shortly for a tour through Austria, Germany, Holland, England and America. We shall hope for an early return to Constantinople.

The students' concert on the afternoon of May 7th was very enjoyable to all who attended, and certainly a great credit to those who instructed and trained those taking part. A very interesting part of the program was that taken by the members of the Community School. They contributed four songs which they sang from memory, not only with enthusiasm, but also with a skill which showed the careful training of their teacher, Mrs. Middleton Edwards. One of the songs was in French, and one had a whistling accompaniment. Another feature of the program that especially appealed to the students was an Indian song in which the central figure was an Indian, whose appearance at least left no doubt as to his genuineness. Three songs by the Freshman class and two by the Sub-Freshmen, were sung with a vim and co-ordination that constitute a further proof of Prof. Estes' success in this line of work. All the piano solos showed the careful instruction that has been given by Mrs. Manning and Mrs. Dike to their respective pupils. They were as follows: Beethoven's *Sonata*, Op. 36, by Mr. Hagopian; Chopin's *Waltz* by Mr. Ionas; *Spinning Song* by Miss Babayan, who evinced unusual talent; a selection by Mr. Terzian, played remarkably well, and from memory; Schumann's

Warum by Miss Dilsizian; and Mozart's *Sonata in C Major*, by Mr. Diamantoglou.

The annual Angell Prize Speaking contest under the auspices of the Humane Society took place May 14th, and the three prizes were won respectively by Vasil Liatsos, Vasil Andoni, and Bulend Talaat.

CONCERT AT CONSTANTINOPLE COLLEGE

A very interesting concert was given in the Assembly Hall of Constantinople College on Wednesday, April 28th under the auspices of the Alumnae Association. The Alumnae for some time have been making plans to give an organ to their Alma Mater in memory of Miss Florence A. Fensham, who for years taught at the College when it was situated in Scutari. Miss Fensham conducted vesper services which were of unusual beauty, and the memory of them has led the Alumnae to choose for her memorial an organ, as being the most fitting symbol of the spirit and inspiration of her life.

Although during the war, the Alumnae Association was handicapped by poor means of communication and transportation, as well as other restrictions, it now hopes to revive the society and looks to all friends of the College for co-operation and assistance.

This concert on April 28th, besides being a demonstration of enthusiasm among both Alumnae and their friends, was a rare musical treat. Mlle. Roubleff, the Russian pianist composer, delighted her audience with the vigor and delicacy of her technique and by her very pleasing accompaniments. M. Dinquer, violoncellist, was prevented from appearing because of illness but his place was filled by Dr. Bendit who played several numbers with great feeling. M. Branguine, barytone from the Petrograd opera, pleased his hearers by his rich, powerful voice. He sang two groups of songs, Russian and German, with equal charm and distinction.

It was interesting to note that upon the platform on the day of the concert, were three gifts of Alumnae, further evidences of past loyalty to the College. The beautiful grand piano upon which Mlle. Roubleff played was presented to the College by the Alumnae Association of the United States and the two exquisite vases, which added color to the stage, were gifts of the Sofia Alumnae.

The audience was large and enthusiastic, and the artists as well as the cause received heartfelt approval. The Alumnae were much gratified at the sympathy shown them and hope in the early fall to enlarge their Organ Fund by organizing another benefit concert.

DRAMATICS AT CONSTANTINOPLE COLLEGE

At five o'clock on Saturday afternoon, May 29, there will be a presentation of Barrie's *QUALITY STREET* in the Assembly Hall of Constantinople College, given by members of the faculty and community. Admission one Lira. Seats reserved for guests no request. Proceeds for College Activities.

THE ORIENT

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All communications and payments for subscriptions should be addressed to the Editor,

Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Constantinople

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE

MAY 19, 1920

EDITORIAL SECTION

Today there opens in Smyrna the sixth annual student Association Conference at Paradise, the home of the International College, Smyrna. As far as heard from, five delegates have gone from Constantinople; others were expected from Salonica, and perhaps Beirut and Tarsus. The Conference promises to be one of great power and helpfulness. We would ask all the friends of students in this country to unite in prayer for a blessing on the gathering itself and on its effects. The value of such prayer will be measured by its sincerity and earnestness. The Master does not wait for prayer before bestowing a blessing; yet His richest blessings are for those who pray and for those for whom prayer is made. The testimony of the apostle James regarding the effectualness of fervent prayer has been so often corroborated by those who from experience have gratefully added their evidence, that no honest persons, however ineffectual their own prayers have been, can deny that the petitions of others have been answered in a wonderful way. This is about the only way in which most of us can this year have a share in this Smyrna gathering. We envy those who can be there, and get in touch with the live and progressive Associations in those institutions. And we look forward to the near future when it may be possible to gather in such conferences the representatives of many more of the Colleges and High Schools of the country. Memories of Lake Geneva and Northfield and other student conferences in America, warm the hearts of those of us who have been privileged to share in their benefits. And Bible Lands surely inspire such gatherings with even deeper and more tender memories than any others. What a wonderful heritage to be following in the footsteps of Paul and John and Barnabas and Peter, and Polycarp and Chrysostom and Basil and Gregory! But even more inspiring is the thought of the potential leadership in the youth of today, who under the influence of Association life and energy may and will go out from the Colleges to meet in a new

spirit of service and helpfulness the tremendous problems waiting to be solved. The students need Christ, and Christ needs the students, to carry out His plans for the Near East. Happy those who can help the young men and women to prepare for such service.

Enough has already been learned of the contents of the peace terms as handed to the Turkish delegates last week, to make it very evident that the document is to them a very bitter pill. And, like many another sick person, the recipient of this pill cannot now realize that it is meant not to kill but to cure. The treatment decided on by the consulting physicians is surgical as well as medical, and they know far better than the sick man what is the only hope for him. It will not be easy for Turkish public opinion to accept this as inevitable; and the Allied Powers have wisely given this Government a month in which to make reply. But in the end, with possible slight modifications, as was the case with the other treaties, the pill must be swallowed. It ought to be self-evident that resistance is useless. A country as impoverished as this one, a nation that has suffered so, not only as the result of the great world war, but also from the effects of centuries of misrule, and of a decade of almost constant fighting, first with the Albanians and Arabs, then with the Italians, then with the Balkan States, and then on the wrong side of this war,—a nation with such a past surely looks for peace, and not for further struggle. Some of the papers are trying to persuade the people that the giving up of Smyrna and Thrace will throttle any further development of the commerce of the country, and even make it economically dependent and crippled. This however is far from true. The resources of Turkey are not in these regions, but in the great plateau still left to her. Moreover a quiet acceptance of the inevitable will secure sympathy and cooperation toward the recovery of internal quiet and prosperity, which would be absolutely lost by any stubborn refusals. Her best friends trust that wise counsel will prevail, and the proffered terms be promptly accepted.

AMERICAN MASONS DINE

On Saturday evening May 1, 1920, a Masonic Dinner was held at the Union-Française Club by twenty-two American Masons. The object of the dinner was to bring together all American Masons in Constantinople with a view to organizing an American Masonic Club. After a delightful dinner, Rev. C. F. Crathern spoke of his experiences at Marash during the siege. It is the intention of the board of managers to have some informal gathering at least once a month and it is their desire that all American Masons interested communicate with Brother H. E. Boyde, Business Sec'y, American Y.M.C.A., 40 Rue Cabristan, or Brother P. H. Barton, 72 Grand' Rue de Pera.

Rev. Henry H. Riggs and Miss Annie M. Denison were married at Harpout May 7th.

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE LEVANT

NEAR EAST COAL RESOURCES

(From *The Near East*)

PERSIA

Coal is mined at many places, but in a very primitive way and on a very small scale, shallow shafts being sunk, which are abandoned as soon as the crude hoisting apparatus (hand windlass and bucket) is unable to cope with the inflow of water.

The Tehran Coalfield.—The Tehran-Kazvin valley contains an area of about 1,000 square miles, covered with alluvium, and bordered on the north by the Elburz range, largely built up of coal-bearing rocks, which are considered to underlie the alluvium, and to contain at least an aggregate thickness of 2 ft. of coal, which it is estimated would contain a possible reserve of 1,858 million tons of coal. In the north-west coal district the annual output in 1890 was estimated at about 11,000 tons, the following coal occurrences being worthy of mention:—At Sapidaran and Kelinul five seams are known. At Feshend, the thickest seam known is 19 in., with a shale parting, the coal analysing 7.08 per cent. of ash. At Abyek, two seams occur, 2 ft. 2 in. and 1 ft. 6 in. thick respectively, the coal of excellent quality analysing 1–2 per cent. of ash in the thicker and 1.9 per cent. in the thinner seam, all the known coal seams above water level having been mined. At Agachah and Chamburek, in the neighbourhood of Hiv, coal has also been worked, at the former locality a seam 2 ft. 6 in. thick having been worked down to water level and three lower seams occurring, the chief one 2 ft. 6 in. thick. At Chamburek six seams ranging from 4 ft. to less than 2 ft. in thickness occur. At Khur the coal is much crushed. In the north-east of this coalfield the annual output in 1900 was estimated to be about 4,000 tons. Since then it has been greatly increased. At Shamsek, situated about thirty-three miles north-east of Tehran, three seams are known, the main one 3 ft. thick with a parting, the coal analysing fixed carbon 72.21 per cent., volatile matter 16.65 per cent., ash 11.14 per cent. At Vergedar two seams 10 in. and 20 in. thick occur, the coal being very earthy and brittle. At Gil-i-Gach the output is 325 tons yearly, the coal being very similar to that at Safidab, where six seams are found ranging from 5 in. to 30 in., the coal, suitable for gas coke making and domestic purposes, burning with a clear flame, and the annual output amounting to about 490 tons. At Piazek the mine is situated at an altitude of 7,000 ft., the seam being 30 in. thick, the yearly output being 325 tons.

At Div-i-Siah a 20-inch seam of good coal is mined; as also at Bastan and Fil-i-Zamin, the annual output aggregating 350 tons. At Alasu Valasu 30 tons a year is produced, at Yunesar 325 tons; and the combined yearly output of the

mines at Garmabdar, Lalun, and Rudek is about 1,300 tons. Coal also occurs at Khatun Bargah.

The Khorasan coalfield.—The coal in this district was mined on a very small scale from ten to fifteen years ago, and the mines are now all abandoned, the shafts having been flooded in most cases. The coal is of good quality, but the seams are thin, and the total output during the period it was worked amounted only to a few hundred tons.

Astrabad, Shahrud, Bastam, and Semnan districts.—Coal has been reported from many places in these districts, but little is known as to the extent and thickness of the seams. In the Shaver district east of Tash, at Shahkuhala, there are said to be seams of coal; and at Tash there was a mine which had been worked for some time, the coal being carried to Qez to supply the Russian steamers. At Pir-i-Khan a seam 12 in. thick is known; the coal is bituminous, of good quality, light, and hard. At Tazerieh four seams of good coal occur, 1 ft. 10 ins., 6 ins., 5 ft., and 2 ft. in thickness respectively.

Mazanderan District.—Coal is reported from several places in this district. At Gabugah three seams are known, 1 ft., 2 ft., and 3 ft. respectively; the coal here is of poor quality. Coal also occurs in the districts of Ispahan, Shiraz, Ahwaz, and Azerbaidjan, but the area, thickness of seams and quality of the coal are not stated. Anthracite of good quality, but in thin seams, is said to occur in the districts of Kerman and Yezd.

JOHN KIRSOPP, M.I.M.E., F.G.S.

ATHENS HOUSING EXHIBITION

The Greek Minister of National Economy has organized at Athens an exhibition of houses whose parts can be assembled. The exhibition is open until the end of December, 1920, but could be prolonged, should important firms declare in time that they wish to take part. Firms taking part in the exhibition must send their model houses complete and ready for use. The types of houses required are destined principally for workmen in towns, and the middle classes generally, but also for the mountain population and the country people. The houses must be offered at a reasonable price, and be provided with necessary conveniences. They may be composed of one or more storeys. It is necessary that the ceilings should be high and the roof not too steep in the types destined for the people of the plains. Firms may also send buildings for schools, barracks, hospitals, public meetings, baths, etc., as well as villas and other luxury buildings for well-to-do classes.

The cost of the transport for the buildings for exhibition must be borne by the exhibitors. However, the importation of models consigned to the Ministry of National Economy will be facilitated by the dispensation of import duties, and

the unrestricted sale of models to private purchasers will be allowed after the close of the exhibition. A special commission will be appointed to select suitable models for the Government, who will buy them for various public bodies. The shortage of houses all over Greece, above all in Athens, Piraeus, Salonica, etc., is so considerable that the buildings exhibited, which are not subjected to import duties, should sell easily among the large number of buyers. For detailed information application may be made to Le Ministre de l'Economie Nationale, Section de la Prévoyance Sociale, Athens.

RELIGIOUS CONGRESSES IN SOFIA

(Continuation from last week)

The Temperance Congress. The temperance cause has from the very first found Bulgaria, on the whole, good soil. Thus far it has encountered no serious opposition while the interest and sympathy manifested towards it have steadily grown—of late even rapidly. On this occasion the cause achieved the triumph of having for its speakers at the great public evening meeting Dr. Naytcheff, one of the prominent Sofia doctors, and the already mentioned travelling evangelist pastor Mishkoff. The array of statistics presented and skilfully handled by Dr. Naytcheff was simply overwhelming, and, although showing that in many respects Bulgaria was not so far down as several European countries in respect of drunkenness, yet proved that she was desperately in need of prohibition. This he boldly and strongly advocated before his hearers, and that—speaking from the platform of the Protestant Church. Mr. Mishkoff, as might have been expected of him, made telling use of Dr. Naytcheff's figures and arguments, urging them home in a speech of remarkable vivacity, interest, and power. The expectation of many does not seem utopian, that it will not be very long before Bulgaria ranks herself amongst the "dry" countries of the world.

Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society. The Society is really 45 years old; but wars have robbed it of 5 of its Annual Meetings. The delegates actually present numbered 98; but they held voting mandates for others, so that the total representation was brought up to some 380. The following are the principal items of the action taken by the Meeting:—

1. The Society put itself on record as anxious to see the work of the Baptist, Congregationalist, and Methodist bodies working in the country, united.

2. Also as anxious to encourage to the utmost the entry into the gospel ministry of desirable young men. Of this there is very great need, a considerable number of the churches being pastorless, in spite of the fact that four of the older pastors are not at present serving churches.

3. It acknowledged with thankfulness a gift of 20,000 levs from the widow and daughter of the late Mr. Vulko Ivan Shopoff of Philippopolis, to constitute a fund, to be entitled the Vulko Ivan Shopoff Fund, the income from which is to be used for aiding students preparing for the gospel ministry.

4. Because the Society's present building in Leggé St., Sofia, on account of its narrow entrance and winding stair virtually defeats the intention of its donors that it should be used mainly, in part, for the holding of useful meetings, etc., and, in part, as a kind of Protestant hospice, the Society decided to approve the letting of the entire building to suitable tenants, with the condition that a certain portion of the rent received be annually set aside towards the renting or purchasing of a more suitable building.

5. Understanding that the American Board's Mission in the country is willing to negotiate with the Society for the passing over to it of the weekly *Zornitza*, the Society voted to enter into such negotiations, and, if possible, secure the *Zornitza* as its own organ. It also voted to grant the paper from its funds an annual subsidy of 20,000 levs, and for two years to entrust the editing and publishing of the paper to pastor Ivan M. Tsakoff, until three months ago pastor of the Philippopolis Church, the financial responsibility to be his. The present circulation of the *Zornitza* is a little over 2,500 copies. [This action of the meeting, although approved by all in principle, was strongly opposed by many on the ground that it would leave the Society without funds for the printing of books or tracts, or for the aiding of needy churches.]

6. The Society reported its Million Lev Fund as having well passed the 100,000 lev mark.

7. In view of the many calls for good literature, and the awakened interest in reading brought about by the war, the Society decided to strengthen its literary activity, and took various steps tending to secure the desired aim.

8. As the Society had the pleasure of having with it Mr. A. S. Tsanoff, already referred to as one of its founders 45 years ago, it voted to salute Mr. Tsanoff, and along with him two other of the older workers, by standing to the feet in their honour. This was done twice,—once at the business meeting when the vote was passed, and once at the close of the address which, as already mentioned, Mr. Tsanoff so vigorously delivered, when he and the other two were on the platform.

The United Conference. Not very much fruit emerged from this gathering. From the report of the committee on united action, and from the attitude of the Baptists present (close-union), it seems almost certain that they, the Baptists, will withdraw. As the others said to them quite openly and *brotherly*, they would always be a thorn in the side if they staid! As to the Methodists, they agree in the heartiest way to cooperation, but, for the present, not to incorporating union; and that is quite enough meanwhile. It should be said that of the 44 evangelical pastors in the country of the three denominations, 27 were present at this Conference, besides missionaries and lay delegates.

An interesting paper was read before the Conference on "Protestants and the Civil Powers." Its general aim was to urge upon Protestants the duty of taking a much livelier interest and effective part in the politics of the country. Hitherto, the fact that elections are held on Sundays, as also most political meetings, has hindered Protestants from sharing in them. But it was urged that patriotism is so sacred a thing,

the right government of one's country so clearly part of that "good" which our Lord said it was lawful to do on the Holy Day, that such a consideration (if not abused) ought not to stand in the way. General approval was given to the paper and its suggestions; but very rightly, the proposal made by some people that a Protestant Political Party should be formed, was decidedly condemned. This little country, of barely 5,000,000 inhabitants, is already cursed with 22 political parties; and to add one to the number would be a sin. Besides, the result would be to rend Protestantism into who knows how many parts, instead of binding it together more closely.

Finally, after the official Representative before the Government of all the Protestants in the country, viz., the Rev. D. N. Fournadjieff of Sofia, had read the most interesting report of his activities during the last few years, he was by a standing vote enthusiastically reelected to the same position for another term of years; and it was agreed to remind the churches of their duty to make adequate provision for the meeting of his many and heavy expenses.

Samokov, Bulgaria.
22nd April, 1920.

R. T.

DESPERATE PLIGHT OF ARMENIA

We quote the following from the *Bosphore*:—

The news coming from Erivan and Batoum has for some days been serious and alarming. The Pan-Turanian idea, which some proclaimed as utopian, is on the point of taking bodily form in Bolshevik shape, but really to realize the beloved program of the Envers and the Talaats, pupils of Berlin. We cannot disregard the seriousness of a situation created by the fall of Baku, where Azerbaijanis, Caucasians, northern Moslems and Russian Bolsheviks have joined hands with varying purposes but united under the same secret command of Germany, which through Moscow is still carrying on a dark policy in this part of the East. Berlin knows that the north of Persia, where land tenure is what it was a few years ago in Russia, is fertile ground for Bolshevism. From there it might be possible to extend the movement still farther and try to strike in the rear those whom they have never ceased to hate.

Armenia, thus caught between two millstones, wants to appeal to the old Armenophile sentiments of the Russian circles in Moscow and Petrograd, to try and protect herself indirectly from the terrible danger that threatens her. She has overthrown her half-conservative, half-extremist cabinet. She hopes that thus Moscow may protect her; under the fear of annihilation she prefers to revert to the Russian tutelage to which she is accustomed. She believes that the old Christianity to which the Russian masses are still true will again rouse the multitude in behalf of the little martyr people whose history for a hundred years has been but blood and tears. In her extreme distress, abandoned by everybody, thanks to President Wilson who has indefinitely dragged out the Armenian question, the Armenian nation seems to be trying to find safety in something worse. Long ago the poet said:—

Una salus victis nullam sperare salutem

We hope that Armenia has not been mistaken in her calculations, and that she will not pay for her intriguing with Moscow by the disappearance of another big share of her children. For the Russia in control today is far from being that of former days. In the Bolshevik squall in the Caucasus, where the elements at work are mainly the local ones, absolutely hostile to the very existence of an Armenia, what can a few Armenophiles in Moscow do, even supposing there are such? Anarchy can accomplish no good. It is essentially destructive. And when troublesome elements are once let loose, who is to stop them? Who can strike down the murderous arm that religious fanaticism or racial hatred raises? We fear much that the experiment now being tried by the little Erivan Republic may prove a very bitter one for it.

NOTES

CONSTANTINOPLE

Sir William Ramsay, the well-known archaeologist, arrived in Constantinople May 12th, and will spend several weeks at the College for Girls at Arnaoutkeuy. He is delivering a series of lectures at the two American colleges during his stay here.

A strike of the employés of the tramway and tunnel companies tied up the city pretty badly last week from Tuesday to Saturday. Finally the Grand Vizier was asked to intervene, and as a result the cars began running once more Sunday morning. The limit of nine hours per day was fixed, a compromise between the former twelve to sixteen hours and the men's demand of eight hours. The pay was increased to Lq. 1.50 per day, whereas the conductors had been receiving 70 piastres and the motormen Lq. 1.20. The men are to have one day off in seven, and 20 piastres per hour for extra time.

Haim Naoum Effendi, ex-Grand Rabbi of the Jews, left last Friday for France.

Another case of plague was recorded last week, the victim being a Jew in Haskeuy.

Four more are recorded this week.

We hope to give next week a full account of the annual dinner of the University Club, held last Friday evening at the Union Française.

Today is the date for the beginning of the fast of Ramadan, if the moon is reported as having been seen.

The U.S.S. 'Pittsburgh,' with Vice-Admiral Knapp on

board, left this harbor last Saturday for Alexandria, whence it will proceed on its return to America. A farewell reception was tendered Admiral Knapp at the Embassy on Thursday afternoon.

THE NEAR EAST

As a result of developments in the Caucasus, Mr. Haddissian has resigned the presidency of the ministerial council in Armenia; the minister of justice also has resigned. Mr. Ohantchanian has been chosen as president of the council.

The Paquet steamer "Souirah" left Batoum in the afternoon of May 6th, for Trebizond and Constantinople, with a number of the Near East Relief personnel on board, including Mrs. Haskell and her children. Two hours later, a score of the steerage passengers made an attack on the captain and officers, and turned out to be pirates fully armed. Holding the officers at bay with their revolvers, they relieved the passengers of their valuables after wrecking the wireless apparatus. After getting a rich haul, they compelled the captain to steam up near the shore west of Khopa, and put them ashore with their plunder in two of the steamer's boats. By two o'clock in the morning, the steamer was in shape to proceed again on its voyage.

Through presents of ore brought by grateful patients to the American Red Cross Hospital at Prisrend, on the Albanian frontier of Serbia, chrome deposits have been discovered in Serbia said to be large enough to meet the world's demands.

OTHER LANDS

For the first time since the first Conference in 1887, the Students' Conference does not figure this summer on the Northfield, Mass., list of appointments. The Young Women's Conference is to be from June 29 to July 6; the Summer School of Women's Foreign Missionary Societies July 8 to 15; the Women's Home Mission Summer School July 16 to 23; Summer School of Religious Education, July 23 to 30, and the General Conference of Christian Workers July 30 to August 15.

The Italian steamer "Assiria," plying between Sicily, Sardinia and Leghorn, struck a floating mine last week and sank, with some loss of life among the passengers.

President Carranza of Mexico has been defeated and captured, and General Obregon is *de facto* President in his place. It is announced that Carranza will be allowed to leave the country.

PERSONAL

The engagement is announced of Miss Helen G. Jones, of the Y.W.C.A., and Mr. Paul Airgood, both of the Harpout N.E.R. Unit.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. McDaniels, Mr. Gardiner C. Means, Mrs. Larson, Miss Niles, Miss Stively and Miss Bliss, all of the Harpout Relief Unit, arrived in Constantinople May 12th on their way to America.

President Gates of Robert College was University Preacher at Princeton on Sunday, April 18, and conducted morning chapel exercises during the week. Mrs. Gates and he were guests in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Gibbons, formerly of Robert College, who have recently returned to America from Paris and settled down in Princeton.

SUNDAY SERVICES May 23, 1920

At 11 a.m.

DUTCH LEGATION CHAPEL,	Rev. Robert Frew, D.D.
ROBERT COLLEGE,	Rev. Charles T. Riggs
CONSTANTINOPLE COLLEGE,	Capt. Weston
CRIMEAN MEMORIAL CHURCH	Rev. R. F. Borough

FOREIGN EXCHANGE, May 18th

(Values in paper liras)

Dollar	1.08	20 leva	0.32
Pound sterling	4.32	20 marks	0.47
20 francs	1.60	20 kronen	0.11 1/2
20 lire	1.13	Gold lira	5.21
20 drachmas	2.48		

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