

The Orient.

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THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

Rumors of peace negotiations begin to take on more definite form, and great hopes are entertained that an agreement may soon be reached. Whether or not it will be on the general basis of Benghazi for Turkey and Tripoli for Italy, no one can predict. It is evident, however, that both sides are weary of prolonging the struggle.

There have been several sharp fights on the Montenegrin frontier during the week, in most of which the Montenegrins have been the aggressors. Yet King Nicholas declares that his people do not desire war with Turkey. The great trouble is that the boundary is not clearly defined; and this is a matter that must be settled by surveyors, not soldiers.

The more turbulent spirits in Bulgaria, and especially in Sofia, are trying hard to force the government into war; but King Ferdinand is strong for friendly relations, and will not yield to the "national congress." The Ottoman Government is apparently determined to punish the guilty at Kotchana in an exemplary way.

As for the Albanians, they are dispersing gradually to their firesides; but it has not been possible to restrain the more turbulent of them from acts of lawlessness on the way. They are reported to have pillaged depots of arms at Diakova and Ipek and another near Üsküb, and to have killed some Turks against whom they had grudges. Nevertheless the situation in Albania is decidedly improved.

In the Cabinet, the resignation of Hüssein Hilmi Pasha was no surprise, and may perhaps lead to more homogeneity in the Ministry; but it removes a man of wide experience and has been unfavorably received by the Unionist organs. The appointment of Ali Danish Bey as Minister of the Interior rejoices the Albanians, for he is an Albanian. Rumors of other pending changes, as also of the fall of the entire Cabinet, are rife, but are probably at least premature. Many and swift are the changes among governors of provinces, and the object of these seems to be to ensure impartiality in the elections which come in October.

DEATH OF GEN. WILLIAM BOOTH.

The Salvation Army mourns the loss of its remarkable organizer and leader, General William Booth, who passed away Aug. 20th in London, at the age of 83. Of Episcopalian parents, he himself united at 13 with the Wesleyan Methodist church; at 18 he was a local preacher, and at 24 a

regular minister in the Wesleyan New Connexion. Some years later, however, with his wife he left that church and began independent preaching, Mrs. Booth preaching with equal power. The methods that later characterized the Salvation Army were used effectively in Cornwall, Cardiff, and elsewhere; and finally in 1865 Mr. and Mrs. Booth moved to London and began work in the East-end. Gradually the "Hallelujah Band" developed into the Salvation Army, with officers, uniforms, flags, brass bands and processions; it was frowned upon by most church people, but its success in actually rescuing the degraded won it recognition in spite of its unconventionality. It has reached many a person whom the more ordinary forms of Christian effort had tried in vain to touch. General Booth's book, "Darkest England and the Way Out," which appeared in 1890, was a proposition for the regeneration of the "submerged tenth," and attracted great attention. In its preparation the author had the valued help of the late William T. Stead. Some £100,000 were subscribed to assist in his rescue colonies; for the public were satisfied that the venture was a safe one. Out of this has grown the emigration work of the Salvation Army, which has aided a great many to make a new start and a successful one.

On hearing of the death of Gen. Booth, King George sent the following despatch to his son, Mr. Bramwell Booth: — "I am grieved to hear the sad news of the death of your father. The nation has lost a great organizer, and the poor a whole-hearted and sincere friend, who devoted his life to helping them in a practical way. Only in the future shall we realize the good wrought by him for his fellow-creatures. Today there is universal mourning for him. I join in it, and assure you and your family of my true sympathy in the heavy loss which has befallen you."

Other telegrams of sympathy were sent by the Prime Minister, the Lord Mayor of London, the Archbishop of Canterbury, President Taft, King Christian of Sweden, and many others.

The funeral will take place tomorrow.

General Booth had been received by many crowned heads of Europe, in the course of his travels, and the mourning at his death is not confined to his own country.

His eldest son, Bramwell Booth, has been appointed as his successor in the leadership of the Salvation Army. He has for the past 32 years been chief of staff, and is 56 years of age. He has a genius for organization, and has already shown remarkable qualities of leadership.

DECENTRALIZATION.

In answer to a venomous article in the *Tanin*, which has resumed publication, accusing the present cabinet of tending towards decentralization, our philosopher friend Dr. Riza Tewfik Bey contributes the following to the *Ikdam* : —

We remember, and everybody remembers, that those same columns were devoted a while ago to the question of the Yemen. The Committee, or rather the government of Union and Progress, which was responsible for raising the Yemen question and provoking the first instance of decentralization, had then ornamented its columns, as it does today, with flaring headlines, after the style of Stein's advertisements, and, instead of treating the question fairly and squarely, had embroidered a tale invented at the central office of the Committee, so as to entice the people. The Unionist minister of the interior then declared in the Chamber, in an arrogant tone, that he had put the Yemen affairs in his pocket and knew how to regulate them soon in proper style. Strong representations were then made to the Minister to the effect that certain demands of the Imam were in accord with the principles of the constitution, and as to the evil consequences of a refusal, and on the necessity that would arise later of yielding still more. I remember that I myself said, in the Chamber, to the Unionists, "You yourselves will in the end concede these legitimate rights, and more too. Unfortunately, you will not do so till after you have caused the death of forty or fifty thousand Moslems and the wasting of a million or two of liras."

But decentralization is not limited to that. This lesson was not enough for the Union and Progress people, who, their hands still red with the Yemen blood, raised the question of the Malissores, settled likewise by decentralization. Yes, if decentralization is a calamity for a great nation like ours, composed of divers elements, Ottomans and Europeans are witnesses that this scourge, due to the Committee of Union and Progress, is the cause of all these evils.

When, in order to escape, at whatever cost, the decisions taken at Réval, we were obliged to try a legitimate bluff, there were hardly ten of us to enforce our orders at Constantinople. Here is what many persons did not know, that there were probably not more than three thousand Unionists all told. We proclaimed absolute liberty and equality, but we put neither one or the other in operation. We roused the suspicions of all the elements, and intrigues began. In the Yemen, in Malissia, in the Hauran, the word "Unionist" was unknown. So we thought of naught but to send delegates everywhere immediately, to organize clubs and make partisans for us. For, had bona fide elections taken place, the Union and Progress people would have secured, not 260 deputies out of 300, but not even half a deputy out of forty thousand.

So, in spite of this infinitesimal minority, the Committee was determined to keep in hand the power; there lies the secret of all the evils that have afflicted Turkey since July 23rd. The delegates of Union and Progress have been more than any others the cause of decentralization, for they have

pitted nobody wherever they have gone, and the unfortunate people have been obliged, willy nilly, to bow the head under the oppression, arrogance, slander and threats of their tyrants.

They have made everyone discontented, they have insulted and slandered the other nationalities, and even roused up race feelings long dormant among the Turks themselves. It must be granted that the *Tanin* has shown great skill and most successful zeal in this nefarious work.

And this is how, under a constitutional régime, where the majority should rule, a minority has secured its despotic domination.

FROM ONE OF THE VETERANS.

Dr. D. H. Nutting, now of Randolph Centre, Vt., sends a subscription to *The Orient*, "of which," he writes, "I have just seen a copy, by the kindness of my old missionary brother, and former associate in labor in the Eastern Turkey Mission, Rev. O. P. Allen. I was in Harpout when brothers Allen and Wheeler first arrived there, in 1857. I went out August 8th, 1854, with Mrs. N., to be associated, in Diarbekir, with Rev. Augustus Walker and Rev. G. Dunmore. We were connected with the A. B. C. F. M. until 1876, when we were obliged to return to our native land, on account of health greatly impaired by long residence in that malarious climate. Now just 58 years after our embarkation in Boston for Smyrna, on board the "Bark Racehorse", with the Richardsons, Parsons and Goodells, dear venerable brother Allen is to sail on the "Steamer Pannonia" from New York, with his daughter Annie, for Constantinople, on their way to Brousa. He is 84 years old, and I am 83. I am very thankful that Mrs. N. and I and our five children, born in Turkey, are still spared too, to learn of the wonderful changes that have taken place in Turkey as the result of the labors of missionaries in that land. My Christian salutations to any still living who used to know me when in Diarbekir, Bitlis, Ourfa and Aleppo."

The Orient thus passes on, to many of his old friends, these salutations from our venerable brother. Even in the early 'fifties, when Dr. Nutting began medical work in Turkey, a physician led a strenuous life; for during 1855 about 1350 different patients were treated in his Diarbekir dispensary, and 350 were visited at their homes.

CENTRAL TURKEY MISSION MAP.

A map of the territory included in the Central Turkey Mission has been prepared by members of that mission, and has been duplicated; and blue-print copies of it may now be obtained from the office of *The Orient*. The map is 18×32 inches in size, and covers an area of about 60,000 square miles, from Mersin on the west to Severeck on the east, and from Kessab and Ekizolouk on the south to Shar and Yarpouz on the north, with Aintab nearly at the centre. It shows all stations and outstations, as well as the physical features of the country. The price is ten piastres silver, or, mailed to any address outside of the Empire, fifty cents.



WORKERS OF KORTCHA STATION, ALBANIA.

MISS F. EFTIMOVA MISS P. KYRIAS
 REV. P. B. KENNEDY MRS. P. B. KENNEDY

MISS E. PETRO MISS E. JANAGI
 MRS. S. K. DAKO MR. CHRISTO A. DAKO

PRESENT CONDITIONS IN ALBANIA.

Conditions in Albania are changing rapidly. We must remember that the Albanians made great sacrifices for, and took an important part in winning, the constitution in Turkey four years ago. With the adoption of the Constitution they expected to have religious liberty and receive such national recognition as do the Bulgarians, the Greeks, the Servians, the Roumanians and other races in the Empire. The days immediately following the proclamation of the constitution seemed filled with promise. Albanian clubs, as centres of educational influence, were opened in many cities and in a short time some sixteen newspapers were being published in the Albanian language. Very soon, however, it was discovered that the policy of the Government was really opposed to the liberal spirit of the Constitution. The Albanian clubs and printing presses and schools were actually closed by order of the Government.

This explains the continued unrest on the part of the Albanians. The Albanian revolutionists under Hassan Bey of Prishtina, a former member of the Turkish Parliament, with others in the neighborhood of Avlona and Scutari probably

number one hundred thousand. Two of their demands, the fall of the cabinet and the dissolution of the Parliament, have been obtained; and it now looks as though a brighter day were dawning. As we know in our American history, many of our steps in political advancement were made at great sacrifice. May God deal mercifully with this virile Albanian people who are now so thoroughly awakened to the justice of their demands for an education in their own language.

It is interesting to note that this movement on the part of the Albanians has encouraged that section of the army which is opposing the Committee of Union and Progress to come out in the open and join with the Albanian party in demanding reforms. Since in accordance with the usual method of the American Board we are working among these people in their own vernacular, this fact in itself associates us more or less with this movement.

The practical question of the hour is this: "How is the American Board to keep in the van of this wonderful national movement?" So far the Board has outlined its methods for reaching this nation for Christ along the lines of Christian education. As a people they are natural leaders and are holding many important political and military positions throughout the Empire. Therefore, whatever is done for

them must be a *strong* work. It is nearly five years since the Board began direct work in this field. The plans laid out then were suited to the opportunities existing under the old régime. The situation is changed. Albania will soon have its own institutions of learning in which, we have reason to believe, on account of the two main religious divisions of the population, Moslem and Christian, religion will probably be omitted from the courses of study. Upon our arrival among this people, we were greeted with enthusiasm and great confidence was manifested in the work we proposed to do among them. This was in the days of Hamid II., when the Albanians were under constant suspicion if they manifested any special interest in their own written language. When the granting of the Constitution dispelled this cloud of fear and suspicion, the people still looked to the Board's representatives for guidance in their effort to seize the opportunity for educational advancement. Unfortunately both in Elbasan and here in Kortcha we have been seriously hindered in fulfilling these expectations. What is the result? you ask. Some who approve of our principles and realize that they need some assistance from our Mission until they can stand alone, are beginning to grow discouraged and almost impatient, others who are indifferent feel that they do not need us, while others still, and we are glad they are but few in number, are antagonistic to us and are questioning the advisability of countenancing any Protestant work in their midst. Understand, please, that no reference is made here to the Hellenized Albanians or Girkomans, who not only despise us but also their own language and their brother Albanians, the Nationalists.

The readers of *The Orient* will be interested to look into the faces of the present working staff of the American Board at Kortcha, Albania. Mrs. Kennedy and I are now located here, and encouraged to continue a practical interest in the boys and young men in the way of teaching them as private pupils or possibly of opening a boarding home for a few of the most promising ones. It seems to us that there is a splendid opportunity here to open a good strong Preparatory School for Boys to prepare them for Robert College, or Beirut College or later for our College at Elbasan.

Many of you are acquainted with our Girls' Boarding school here in Kortcha which was founded in 1891 by Rev. Gerasim Kyrias and his sister Sevasti (now Mrs. Dako). Its increasingly hopeful growth and the offer to pass over the title to the property hitherto only nominally owned by Mr. Kyrias' son Stephen (now in Oberlin College), who has just come of age, has encouraged our European Turkey Mission to take over its management with a view to retaining it in Kortcha and making it the principal American Girls' school (and in time college) of Albania. It is urged that an American principal be appointed at once. When Mrs. Dako was married two years ago, her sister Parashkevia took her place as principal of the school. She and her brother-in-law, our preacher and also a teacher in the school, are about to sail for America where they will take a year of post-graduate study at Oberlin College, Ohio. They will be ready on their

return to cooperate with the principal, whom the W. B. M. I. may appoint, in building this school up to an increasingly higher grade.

This is the opportune time for the friends of our work here in Albania to cooperate with us in finding a suitable location for this school. Its present quarters are very much crowded. My workers and I are united on a suitable location which we hear we can buy for some Lt. 3,000 or about \$ 13,000. Pray with us that large gifts may be forthcoming without delay.

I am sure you would have been pleased had you been permitted to attend the recent Commencement exercises of this school. The attendance was very large, taxing our small quarters to their utmost capacity. Many Moslem beys and some representatives of the local government were present. The acting governor of the city, who was present, said, "I have visited many schools but never before witnessed exercises which have shown such real progress. What the girls get here is made part of their lives, and this is shown in their behavior and in these exercises. Congratulate for me those who are back of this work and the teachers and the scholars. Also please congratulate the fortunate parents who have their daughters in this school."

August 8th, 1912.

PHINEAS B. KENNEDY.

COMPULSORY RELIGION.

An official communication to the press says:—

"The Sheikh-ul-Islamate gives notice that Mohammedans must respect the rules of the Sheriat regarding the fast of the month of Ramazan. Those who disobey in public these rules as to fasting are liable to the penalties prescribed in Art. 99 of the code, which were long since sanctioned by imperial iradé according to the decision of the Council of Ministers. If Mohammedan women neglect the regulations concerning the veil and other customs of Islam, the police authorities must see to it that they observe them, taking, however, such prudent measures as shall not wound Moslem sentiments."

In an era when men—and women—are awake to meditate on the reasonableness or otherwise of religious prescriptions, the employment of police force to compel the observance (in public) of ancient custom may be deemed necessary. In fact, we are inclined to think it is the only efficient means. For the prescriptions are those of the middle ages, and we live in the twentieth century.

A fierce fire on Monday afternoon swept away about fifteen houses, a mosque and nearly a hundred little shops within a stone's throw of the Bible House, at the top of Finjanjilar Yokoushou and down the street of the woodturners. There being a very slight south wind, the Bible House was never in actual danger.

sympathetic nature, differences of opinion never affected deleteriously the personal friendship that grows on confidence and honest intention and action.

Of greater consequence however, was the association growing out of fellowship in work. As a fellow-worker he commanded my cordial confidence. He had been in Adana several years when I arrived and he was familiar with the whole station-field. It was to me a great satisfaction to find that we harmonized so well concerning the principles and methods of missionary work. We were one in the thought that missionary effort, in the very nature of it, must be temporary, while the native church with its ministry must be permanent and inspired by the true missionary spirit. We were at one also in the thought that cordial co-operation and concentration of effort of all workers were essential to enable the missionary organization to do its work with best effect and make it possible for it to foster and strengthen the native organization, and to enable the native church to develop those characteristics that are calculated to make the church vitally evangelical in its mode of thought and spirit, with a broad outlook on the kingdom of truth. A spirit fostering self-reliance, developing self-support, and encouraging a reasonable independence should be inculcated as a vital condition of healthy growth in the individual congregations. With this there must be a lively sense of duty towards associated churches and congregations, and an appreciation of a transcending obligation to the world at large.

Knowing that Badv. Bedros was imbued with the thought that these and such like principles were of vital importance in the development of a healthy and vigorous church as a *sine qua non* of the spiritual uplift and moral development of the communities, it was a very great satisfaction to me when the way opened for securing his services as traveling evangelist for the Adana and Hadjin Stations. The work he was able to accomplish amply vindicated the plan, — a plan that is vital to the best growth of the churches. In his capacity as station evangelist, his efforts of this past winter in Tarsus were greatly blessed and will now appear as the crowning work of a most useful and successful life service.

Of his work in the Cilician Church Union as pastor of Birejik, of Adana, and of the Second Church of Aintab, others may speak. I only desire to express my own personal sense of loss in his death, my high appreciation of his worth and work, and the expression of my feeling that he was a workman that needed not to be ashamed. Our plans for work in the Adana and Hadjin stations were large, and the place of Badv. Bedros in them seemed of the greatest importance. His loss will be deeply felt in recasting those plans for work on the Cilician plain. For the moment I am at a loss what to say. None of us are essential to the prosperity of the work. We are necessary to it while we are in it. It is only our faithful service that is essential, the influence of which will remain permanent as woven into the very warp and woof of our work. As I write I recall to mind our martyred fellow-workers of the Adana Station, Kaloustian, and Malian, and Küpelian and Seyhian, — men of serious mind, devoted spirit and

enthusiastic effort. Even the massacre was not sufficient to eliminate their influence and memory. We remember them and their work. We now have to add the name of Badv. Topalian to the list of those who have passed on. They rest from their labors and their works do follow them. While we mourn our loss, let us in like spirit of devotion assume the added burden arising from depleted numbers and carry on the work coming to our hands in the true spirit of self-abnegation and in that faith that exalts the truth, spending and being spent in service to God and to our fellow men.

May the Lord in His love and mercy comfort the sorrowing, especially in the fulfilment of His promise to the widow and orphan, and sustain the work that has dropped from the hand of our departed brother and fellow-worker, and imbue us all with a like spirit of devotion and zeal.

Wood's Hole, Mass., W. NESBITT CHAMBERS.
July 28, 1912.

DEMANDS OF THE ALBANIANS.

According of the official statement of the Ottoman government, the demands formulated by the Albanians were fourteen in number, as follows:—

1. Elaboration of a special code of laws for places where the judicial system now in operation is not applicable.
2. All recruits from Albania to perform their military service in Roumelia (European Turkey) except in case of war or in exceptional internal difficulties.
3. Restoration of the confiscated firearms to their owners.
4. The appointing of experienced officials who know the local language and customs.
5. The raising of the *idadié* (preparatory) schools at Kossovo, Monastir and Yanina to the rank of lyceums, and the founding of new lyceums and agricultural schools where the Albanian language shall be used, in counties with over 30,000 inhabitants.
6. An addition to the budget of Pious Foundations of the necessary sum for the upkeep of Moslem schools of theology and the founding of new ones.
7. Freedom to start private schools.
8. Instruction in the Albanian language in primary and secondary schools.
9. Extension and development of public works, commerce, agriculture, railroads and carriage roads.
10. Organization of communal districts.
11. Protection of Moslem manners and customs.
12. The impeachment before the High Court of the cabinets of Hakki Pasha and Said Pasha.
13. General amnesty for all persons engaged in this last uprising.
14. An indemnity for the buildings destroyed in the last military operations.

The Government has agreed to all these demands, excepting that regarding the restoring of military rifles in No. 3, and No. 12, which question belongs exclusively to the Chamber of Deputies and is referred to the incoming Chamber.

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Charles T. Riggs, Editor.

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EDITORIAL.

THE ORIENT is cautious about admitting advertisements into its columns; and we therefore feel safe in recommending to our readers the firms whose notices appear therein. It will be a kindness to us if, when answering advertisements, you will mention THE ORIENT.

One lesson enforced by the movements for relief for sufferers from the recent earthquake is the necessity of publicity in the administration of relief funds. Thousands of liras are flowing in from many lands and from many nationalities. Much is being done for immediate relief; large quantities of food, clothing, medical and surgical supplies, building material, etc., have been despatched to the stricken towns; and more is being contemplated. Nobody has as yet raised any cry of misappropriation of funds in connection with this disaster; but unless an account is rendered in some form by the committees in charge of relief, such a charge will certainly be heard, as it has been heard regarding the fund for the fire-sufferers of last year, and several other subscription funds. Publicity is a great preventer of malappropriation.

At a time when political conditions in Albania are of such moment, and the Albanians are showing such remarkable vigor, it is gratifying to know that the Americans working among them have the respect and confidence and admiration of the people. It is gratifying, not merely as showing that our co-laborers there have shown the love of Christ to these people to such a degree as to win their love in return, but more especially as showing the appreciation of the Albanians for the truest and best kind of Christian training. Both in Elbasan and in Kortcha, most of the opposition to the work of the American Board has not come from Albanians. Mr. Kennedy's article in this issue shows the attitude of the people toward the girls' school in the latter place. Such a virile, capable people surely deserve the very best we can give them, through schools, through religious instruction, through the press, and in every way. We expect great results for the Master among the Albanians.

Next week the annual congress of the Committee of Union and Progress is announced to take place in this city. Its results will naturally be awaited with the greatest interest. One could wish that the Committee had the grace and the courage to come out into the open, and hold their congress in public. The organization, whether rightly or wrongly, has fallen under the gravest suspicions. Tardy reports that leaked out as to decisions taken at previous congresses included foul plots that would blacken the fairest pages of Ottoman history. And if the Committee is to clear itself from imputations of illegality and high-handedness, not to say treason, the surest way to do so is to hold all its sessions open to the public. If it does not fear exposure, if it is willing to submit itself to the judgment and approval of its constituency, then let it not hide behind closed doors. There was a time when this was necessary, when the power on the throne was bitterly opposed not only to all committees or organizations, but also to all union and all true progress. But today, if the Committee is really true to its name, if it is working for the union of all the elements of the nation, and the real moral and material progress of all, and not merely of the Committee, then it has nothing to fear. Publicity is a check on unwise legislation, and tends to allay suspicion and ensure confidence. Let us hear exactly what is the platform of the Committee, and what are its proposals for the good of the country. The Government has guaranteed that the coming elections shall be conducted without fear or favor, without threat or intimidation, so that each elector shall have a fair show. It then behooves the Committee of Union and Progress to place fairly and squarely before the electorate its principles, if not its history; its future, if not its past. We would be the last to deny the inestimable services of the Committee to the country four years ago. It were kindness in us to pass unmentioned its doings of two years ago and one year ago, and if possible forget them. The Committee has now a chance to make a new start, and win adherents by a fearless and truly patriotic appeal to the enlightened public in a public way.

REV. BEDROS TOPALIAN — A TRIBUTE.

One's mind is agitated with various thoughts,— the sadness of personal bereavement at the loss of a friend so highly esteemed; distress at the removal of a fellow-worker commanding one's highest respect and confidence, and consternation at the confusion of long cherished and carefully thought out plans for the station work. How very sad indeed it is!

In 1899 Badv. Bedros Topalian was one of the first to greet and welcome me and my family on our arrival in Adana from Erzroum. At that time began the association in work which was only partially interrupted by his removal to and service in the Second Church of Aintab. During these 13 years Badv. Bedros commanded my highest esteem as a personal friend. In our association I prized his friendship very highly. He was a man of strong convictions, definite opinions and excellent judgment. Being of broad view and

OTTOMAN FINANCES.

In many quarters the opinion still holds that the Ottoman Empire is hopelessly bankrupt, and that her finances are as bad as can be. It is no doubt true that the ministers of finance have found it very difficult at times to secure the needed loans for meeting the annual deficit in the budget. And yet there are not lacking signs of an economic improvement in the face of a war that has lasted eleven months, and that was preceded by an unusually severe cholera visitation, which itself followed a most disastrous winter season. Despite these untoward events, while the estimated income of the Treasury for the year 1326 (1910-11) had been placed at Lt. 27,053,652, the actual receipts amounted to Lt. 29,075,988, or a surplus of over Lt. 2,000,000. So also the estimated receipts for 1327 (1911-12) were put at Lt. 28,477,391, but the end of the fiscal year showed an income of Lt. 31,163,846, or a larger surplus of nearly Lt. 2,700,000. Within the last five years, the revenues of the state have increased by over 27%. A glance at the same period in the history of the United States treasury shows an increase of less than 12%; and this in times of great prosperity, with a rapidly increasing population. Statistics were published two or three weeks ago, showing the increase in receipts from railroads. From the 6,232 kilometres of railroad in Turkey, over 6,000,000 francs more were received in 1911 than in 1910. This has relieved the Government of a gratifying slice of its kilometric guarantees. Export and import trade receipts similarly show a movement in the right direction.

It is easy to be a pessimist if one prefers so to be. But these figures are worth study, as proving that the Empire is by no means in as hopeless a state as its detractors would have the world believe. With the return of peace, with the Albanian question properly settled, and with quiet in the Balkans, another year ought to show still more remarkable results.

EMPIRE NEWS.

THE CAPITAL.

This being the 15th of Ramazan, the ceremony of the Khurka-i-Sherif takes place at Top Kapou this afternoon.

With a physician, Dr. Djemil Pasha, as Prefect of the city, Constantinople ought soon to be a famous health-resort.

Danish Bey, who was very recently appointed Vali of Salonica, has been made Minister of the Interior. Senator Halim Bey has been made Minister of Justice and Religions. Sabri Effendi, formerly Minister of Finance, has been made Minister of Posts and Telegraphs.

A fire at Tophané last Friday night destroyed 69 houses, 13 shops and two hans.

Last Sunday was "tag-day" for the whole city and suburbs. Many thousands of little red flowers were pinned on to as many thousand lapels, for the benefit of the earthquake sufferers; the proceeds going through the various benevolent organizations in the capital.

The telephone company is pushing rapidly the laying of its subterranean lines in Stamboul and Pera. It expects to begin operating them in the spring.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria has conferred on the Bulgarian Exarch the grand cordon of the Order of Saints Cyril and Methodius. This honor has been conferred on only four other persons till now, all four being reigning sovereigns.

Dr. Bouchet, dentist to His Majesty the Sultan, has gone to Paris for a six weeks' vacation. His place is being occupied in his absence by Dr. Contopoulos, who is a member of the Greek Evangelical Church of Constantinople.

Rev. Kevork Demirjian, who has recently returned to Gedik Pasha after a year in Scotland, has accepted the call of the church in Van and leaves soon for his new field.

THE PROVINCES.

Among the gifts of the past week for the earthquake sufferers are: \$ 500 from the American Red Cross to the Red Crescent; King George and Queen Olga of Greece, each 10,000 francs; the French Government, 10,000 francs; the German-Jewish Philanthropic Society, 10,000 francs; the Greek Red Cross, 10,000 francs; Emperor Francis Joseph, 10,000 kronen; the German Emperor, 10,000 marks; His Majesty the Sultan, Lt. 1,000. The sum of \$ 5,000 has also been received from the Panhellenic Union, of Boston.

An Athens despatch reports a plot in Crete for an armed expedition to the island of Samos with the purpose of expelling the Turkish garrison and forcing the Samians to proclaim their annexation to Greece. The consuls of the protecting powers are said to have taken measures to prevent this.

A large number of cases of cholera are reported from Damascus, Ourfa and Diarbekir.

The Government has decided to try by court-martial the civil and military authorities at Kotchana, to determine their responsibility during the recent massacre of Bulgarians there. It has further decided to distribute Lt. 1,000 as relief among the families of the victims there.

The *Times* gives an account of Italian exploits in aviation in Tripoli during the war. Four officers have made from 70 to 82 flights apiece, some of them 140 miles over their enemy's country, to Gharian and back. Two airmen have been wounded by rifle bullets, one of them seriously. Airships as well as monoplanes and biplanes have been used, and the practical uses of aviation in war have been demonstrated.

NOTES.

Mrs. Margot passed through Constantinople on Monday last on her way from Marsovan to her home in Switzerland.

President MacLachlan of the International College arrived from Smyrna on Monday, and left Tuesday on his return.

Dr. and Mrs. Levon Sewny left on Monday by rail, returning to Sivas.

Prof. N. M. Steffens, D.D., LL.D., of Western Theological Seminary, who died July 25th at the age of 73, was sent out at the age of 19 by the Free Church of Scotland as a missionary to the Jews at Constantinople, and remained here for three or four years. He married Miss Jane Sutherland, who was in the same mission in this city, and who survives him.

OTHER LANDS.

The Allan liner *Corsican*, which had a collision with an iceberg on Aug. 12th near the Straits of Belle Isle, arrived in Liverpool last Wednesday, with a badly battered bow. There was no damage below the waterline, and none of the 200 passengers were hurt.

The Catholic Church will hold a Eucharistic Congress in Vienna Sept. 12-15. Already 115,000 persons have signified their purpose to attend. The great meetings will be held in the Stefanskirelie. At the close of the Congress there will be a grand procession nearly a mile long, in which the Emperor Francis Joseph will ride.

H. R. H. Prince Yousouf Izzeddin who is accompanied by Senator Azarian Effendi, and who is making his present journey in Europe in strict incognito, is staying at Edlach, near Vienna. His health has already greatly improved.

In the triangular cricket contest in England this summer, England won first place with four victories and no defeats; Australia was second with two victories and one defeat; and South Africa was last with no victory and five defeats. The remaining games were tied.



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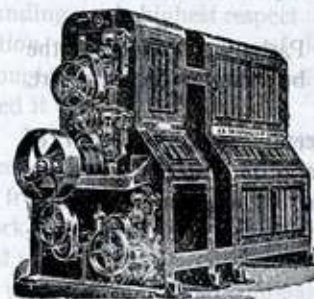
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