

The Orient.

Vol. II., No. 7

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE, May 31, 1911.

Price, One Piastre

THE OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT.

104th Session (May 22). The first four chapters of the public instruction budget were passed without discussion. The fifth, dealing with school inspectors in the provinces, called out a motion by Vehbi Hodja (Konia) to suppress these posts. Abdurrahman Bey, the new Minister, declared that the school inspector of today had not, as under the old régime, the position of a spy on the teachers, but rather the position of friendly adviser. He asked for the reduction of the appropriation for inspectors from Lt. 10,164 to Lt. 6,000, and this was agreed to. The amounts assigned to the University and to the Law School were approved. The chapter on the Medical School called forth violent criticism of the inefficiency and wastefulness of the management of the Haidar Pasha School, but the chapter was finally voted, as were the remaining chapters of the budget.

105th Session (May 23). A bill embodying a special appropriation of Lt. 200,000 for establishing during the next two years secondary and normal schools in Albania, Arabia and Kurdistan, was at first declared passed by the president, but this was so objected to by many deputies, and by the Minister of Finance, that the bill was referred to the budget commission, but was later brought up again and passed. The budget of the ministry of finance was then taken up, and discussed at some length, especially on the question of discontinuing the tobacco Regie. The motion, signed by over 130 deputies, demanding that the session of Parliament be extended till the end of June, provoked a three hours' discussion. The right of the Chamber to make such a demand was conceded, also the desirability of passing certain essential laws. But the fact of the approaching heat of summer, the weariness of the deputies, and the announced departure of His Imperial Majesty to his European provinces, coupled with the imperial decree already issued, were too weighty arguments, and the motion was finally rejected by a vote of 100 to 96.

106th Session (May 24). The Senate having returned the budget of the bureau of real estate registry without adopting it because it contemplated the forming of a sub-bureau at Mecca, this budget was referred back to the commission. The finance budget was then discussed by chapters. Nail Bey, Minister of Finance, urged the necessity of carrying out the reorganization begun by his predecessor in this department, Djavid Bey, and for which an additional Lt. 2,280 was needed for officials in the provinces. After strenuous efforts by the opposition to prevent this, the added amount was voted. Artin Effendi (Aleppo) called attention to the danger of letting crown lands, — whose area, he said, equalled that

of Belgium, — in Syria get into the hands of a certain Nedjib Asfar, when they ought to be sold in small lots to farmers or villagers. The Minister replied that the government would sell, there or elsewhere, its surplus lands wherever it could get the best terms. Several chapters of the budget were voted.

107th Session (May 25). The appropriations of the finance budget for the school of finance and for the mint were passed, also Lt. 100 for purchasing collections of ancient coins. A motion to grant Lt. 100,000 to the *Evkaf* for the repair of its beneficent institutions was defeated. Messrs. Dagavarian and Boussios spoke of the reduction of the allotments of bread and meat to the Armenian and Greek hospitals of this city, and asked for Lt. 2000 to be voted for the restoring of these rations. After a most appreciative speech in favor of this by the *ulema* Hassan Fehmi Effendi, the sum was granted. Among other items passed were Lt. 125,850 for the construction and repair of State buildings, including the Parliament House and the Imperial Palace.

108th Session (May 27). The law regarding the sale of dedicated (*vakouf*) property, returned by the Senate modified so as to exclude from sale ruined mosques and places of prayer, was passed as modified. The budget of pensions for retired officials was taken up, and after a short discussion passed. A proposition was made to abolish the pensions of former dignitaries deported by the court-martial, but a vote on this was postponed. The Chester railroad project was then taken up. A printed report of the commission on public works regarding the project had already been distributed to the deputies. The Ottoman-American Development Company, represented by Messrs. James Colt and Arthur Chester, applies for a concession to build a series of railroad lines from Harpout to Arghuna, Diarbekir, Billis and Van, from Harpout through the valley of the Seihoun to Youmourtalik, a port on the Gulf of Alexandretta, and from a point on the Harpout-Van line through Mosoul and Kerkouk to Suleimanié, near the Persian frontier; also permission to work all mines found within two years from date in a belt of territory extending 20 kilometres on each side of the railroads. Mr. Chester has also expressed a desire to construct a line from Harpout to Sivas. One of the questions under discussion is whether these roads should be standard gauge or narrow gauge. The discussion was not finished at this session.

109th Session (May 28). The proposition of the Senate, that a mixed commission be appointed by Senate and Chamber to discuss the right of the Senate to elaborate its own budget, was rejected, thus making possible a clash between the two bodies. The tax on silk was reduced from 13 1/2 % to 12 1/2 % *ad valorem*, in spite of protests of no quorum. The afternoon session, after the adoption of some reductions proposed by the Senate in the Admiralty budget, and others in that of public works, was adjourned early on account of lack of quorum. The Sunday sessions do not appear to be popular.

APPEAL FOR KESSAB CHURCH.

In the *Missionary Herald* for June last there appeared a letter from the pastor of the Kessab evangelical church, Rev. D. H. Koundakjian, setting forth the need of rebuilding the edifice burned the previous year. Two photographs of the ruined church accompanied the letter, which was endorsed by Rev. S. v. R. Trowbridge, and which contained an appeal for aid in this work. Kessab is a town of 6,000 inhabitants, all Armenians, of whom some 2,500 are Protestants. The evangelical work began there in 1848, and the Ekiz Olouk church is an offshoot of this church. Another branch, at the village of Kaladoran, has a constituency of 56 families and a building seating 500, and will soon become an independent church.

"The church in Kessab has had, since its foundation, three church buildings, the one in course of construction being the fourth. The first meeting-place was a small house. Here gathered the first members of the church, seven or eight in number. The ambition of these communicants seems to have been not so great, as it is said that the most they could hope or even aspire to was a matful of members. One of these first communicants, a prominent physician, lived to see a churchful of Protestant adherents gathered at the fiftieth anniversary of the church, from whom we have this touching information as to the ambition of those early members.

"The second meeting-place was a group of three houses under one common roof (as is not unusual in these regions), which served as a church building for eight years.

"The third building was the one which was destroyed by fire during the late massacre. This was fifty years after the erection of the building, and arrangements had already been made to commemorate the event by proper exercises, which unhappily was never done.

"After the people rallied from the awful disaster which had come upon them, the first great work that they felt called upon to accomplish was the rebuilding of the church edifice. The old building proving beyond all possibility of repair, it being too small to meet the needs of the present congregation, it was decided to erect an altogether new and larger building. To that end efforts were made to obtain indemnity from the government for the old building, and with this amount, about 150 Turkish pounds, together with what could be raised by contributions from the churches and individuals, the work of construction has been pushed forward with energy and we are glad to see it half finished. During the two years since the massacre, we have been obliged to hold our meetings in the open air whenever the weather has been propitious, but during the winter meetings have been held in the school building, which of course was far too small to hold the people, the children meeting in another building. Under these circumstances we have often had to endure the touching sight of many people coming to church, but owing to lack of room going back disappointed. The people have shown more eagerness to attend the house of God when they were deprived of their homes; but even when this desire could not be gratified the pathos of the situation becomes more keen. In order that we may not have to endure these hardships ano-

ther winter, we are anxious to complete the building the coming summer. We find it therefore necessary to appeal to the sympathy and generosity of all Christian churches and benevolent persons who have an interest in this people and are eager to extend a helping hand in their struggle to possess a church building. No gift, however small, will be considered too little to be accepted with gratitude and appreciation."

Contributions may be forwarded to Secretary James L. Barton, D.D., Congregational House, Boston, or to W. W. Peet, Esq., Bible House, Constantinople.

BROUSA NOTES.

Brousa also was fortunate in receiving visits from speakers of the Student Federation. Miss Spencer came first and spoke several times in the Church and School. As a result of her stimulating words, a Young Women's Christian Association of about 40 members is being formed, and plans are being made for religious, literary, and philanthropic work. The members will include graduates of the Girls' School, young ladies in Brousa, and teachers and pupils in the School. It has been found that girls working in the silk factories are anxious to join classes that they may learn to read and write, and the Organization hopes to help them.

While Miss Spencer was still here, Dr. and Mrs. Fries and Dr. Chiba came and meetings were held in the Church, in the Girls' School, and in the Armenian National School. Dr. Chiba remained over Sunday, and as Badv. Koundakjian of Kessab came down also for that day, three services were held in the Church. The meetings were all very well attended, there being a very large number of young men present, both Armenian and Turkish. Dr. Fries met the young men at an after meeting and was much interested in the Association which has been formed here this winter.

The lecture this month was given by Miss Currie. Her subject was "Home Nursing," and she gave several practical demonstrations, such as making poultices, preparing hot applications, etc. The ladies, who were present, especially the Turkish ladies, were most interested.

On Friday evening, May 26, the Junior Christian Society gave an entertainment, songs, recitations and two plays, "Christine", and "Santought". They were assisted in the plays by the older girls and two of the teachers. All who were present expressed themselves as much pleased with the work of the girls.

Brousa has suffered greatly this week on account of a very severe storm. For about two days and nights it poured steadily and in consequence the rivers became torrents and brought down rocks and trees, and where walls had not been built to protect the steep banks, so undermined the earth that immense quantities fell, one or two houses were almost if not entirely destroyed and three or four persons were drowned. One cannot tell yet how many liras have been lost because of damage to property, but certainly the loss is very great. To-day the water in the fountains is cut off, the pipes are broken or choked with debris and things are in a bad condition. The weather is very cold and it seems more like winter than May or June. Every one hopes for a change soon.

A PHILANTHROPIC INSTITUTION IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

The fiftieth anniversary of the GREEK LADIES' PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, was celebrated last Sunday, May 21st, in its own building in Pera.

His Holiness the Greek Patriarch presided, and a crowd of all classes of the Greek community attended the festivity, the Greek Minister and other officials being among them. After prayer, doxology and some hymns, composed for the occasion, the general secretary gave an interesting account of the remarkable work of the Society, during these past 50 years. The idea of founding this society, was that of the late Dr. Alexander Paspatis, widely known in Byzantine history and archaeology.

During the first years of its existence, this society undertook the relief of poor people by helping them with food, charcoal, clothes, blankets, and medicines. But when some years had elapsed, the officers of the institution thought that it was not practical enough to give out merely temporary help, and they decided to establish five different philanthropic departments, where hundreds of poor people can find help or honestly earn their living with self-respect and self-confidence without feeling the crushing force of charity, which somehow humiliates mankind.

The mere recital of the work done last year is eloquent.

1. The work-shop (sewing and embroidering) employs 264 women and the gross amount of business done last year amounted to Lt. 4,582.

2. In the laundry of the society 111 women are employed daily, 52 in washing and 59 in ironing. The business amounts to Lt. 1,604.

3. The department of trained nurses consists of about 18 young ladies, who are attending rich and poor. The amount expended was Lt. 579.

4. The medical department has had at its disposal 12 doctors, the best specialists in town, 10 of whom grant their services gratis and two are engaged on a regular salary. This department has cost Lt. 465, and has extended its care to 10,428 persons.

5. The Charity department spent last year over Lt. 1185 and helped 1442 poor people with food, clothes, blankets, money, etc., and maintained 9 orphans in the orphanages at Prinkipo and Proti.

The field of the benevolent work of the society is chiefly confined to poor and needy Greeks, but in fact in the medical department 2616 persons of various other nationalities were accepted and medically attended.

From this brief sketch of the annual work of the "Philo-ptochos", one may get some idea of the sympathy, interest, and real Christian love, which prevail among the regular benefactors of this society, who by their liberal donations are helping the noble Christian purposes of the society. Let us hope that under the active presidency of Mrs. L. Zarifi (who last Sunday was unanimously appointed president for life) other ex-

cellent plans of the society will soon be put in practice, among which are the building of sunny, comfortable and low-rent houses for the working class, secondly, the introduction of pensions for the working women in the society, and thirdly, the laying very soon of the cornerstone of a Children's Home, made possible by the munificent donation of Lt. 4400 by the late Theodore Mavrogordato.

Robert College.

M. G. MICHAELIDES.

A LYCEUM FOR TURKISH GIRLS.

His Excellency Ahmed Riza Bey, President of the Chamber of Deputies and chief promoter of the plan for an Imperial Lyceum for Girls, has given the following letter to the press:—

"The most powerful factor in the progress and education of human society, is woman. Those civilized nations which are farthest advanced on the highway of progress are undeniably those that have made the greatest effort for the education of woman. Woman is the fountain and source not only of the human race itself, but of every moral quality of humanity. As mother, woman is a veritable treasure-house of tenderness; as manager of the home, she is the regulator of the happiness and wellbeing of the family. Education and training are therefore the indispensable means of attaining perfection in woman, who has such an exceptional function to exercise in human society.

"By reason of all these considerations the initiative has been taken toward founding a great educational institution to be known as a Lyceum for Girls, combining all the elements of modern progress in education. To meet the needs of our times, it was necessary that this school be located at a point removed from the noises of the city, yet not far from the homes of the parents; that it be possessed of apartments large enough to secure quietness and restfulness, of study-halls, halls for recreation, diningrooms and kitchens arranged hygienically, and lastly a spacious garden.

"The palace of the Princess Adilé Sultan, situated on an eminence above Candilli on the Bosphorus, a place renowned for its climate and possessing every desired qualification, has been offered for the location of the school. The formalities connected with the transfer of the property have been fulfilled. This great building, abandoned for many years, had need of extensive repairs. Part of these were carried on last year; the rest of the work of repairing, painting and furnishing was taken in hand at the opening of spring. The lighting and heating apparatus is being installed at the same time; and the school will be opened toward the end of September.

"But whatever repairs and transformation might be made, it was impossible to make a first-class dormitory out of a building specially designed to serve as the residence of a princess. It has therefore been found necessary to construct an entirely new dormitory on the most approved lines of modern architecture. Three of the most distinguished architects of our city, Kemal Bey, Vedad Bey, and Franghia Effendi, have graciously undertaken the overseeing of this work.

"The estimated cost is, Lt. 1,600 for repairs, Lt. 11,000 for new buildings, Lt. 4,000 for lighting, heating and water-works. The Ottoman Bank, to facilitate the task of the administrative board of the school, has opened for it a credit of Lt. 5,000. The present expenses are being deducted from this sum.

"The administrative board, having no capital to start with, has undertaken this work with a call for the generous and patriotic assistance of the nation. The task assumed by this board is as important as it is heavy, namely to educate Ottoman young ladies in accord with the needs of the age, and in accord with the requirements of their religions, their manners and their national customs. In order to carry to a successful issue this work, which is a great service to render to the country, and not willing to burden the State's budget of public instruction, the administrative board calls directly upon the generosity of the Ottomans, who have never failed to show it for enterprises of public utility. And it makes this appeal by means of a prize lottery, to raise Lt. 60,000, under the authorization of the government; Lt. 25,000 to go in prizes, Lt. 5,000 for the expenses of the lottery itself, and Lt. 30,000 for the school. Not only has the Imperial Ottoman Bank, which is always interested in national works, offered its aid in realizing this project, but the Agricultural Bank, the Public Debt, and the Tobacco Monopoly have promised to work through their agencies all over the Ottoman Empire for the success of the lottery.

"The plans for the lottery are published separately. We confine ourselves for the moment to commending our undertaking to the good will and the patriotism of the Ottoman people. We look for the cooperation of a large number who appreciate the urgency of the need, for the Fatherland, of instruction in general and more especially of the instruction of women and girls."

While an American mind naturally recoils from the method suggested for raising funds, the establishing of such an institution for Turkish girls appeals to the heart of every well-wisher of the empire. And with the energetic backing of Ahmed Riza Bey, and the able direction of his talented sister, who is to be in charge, this lyceum or college ought to have a successful start. The most knotty problem seems to be the securing of suitably trained female teachers, — for no men, unless past the Osler limit of age, could be admitted to such a faculty.

We are glad to note that His Majesty the Sultan has made a donation of Lt. 750 to this Lyceum, and H. R. H. Prince Yousouf Izzeddin one of Lt. 450.

The distribution of prizes at the English High School for Girls took place on Empire Day, May 24th, in the presence of the British Ambassador, Sir Gerard Lowther, and many other notables. Speeches were made by the Ambassador, President C. F. Gates, and Sir Edwin Pears, and the Head Mistress, Miss Charters, gave the annual report. The prizes were distributed by Mrs. Tyrrell.

NOTES FROM SIVAS.

The Normal School Building Fund. The most cheering item of news from Sivas for this report is the fact of the completion of the building fund. This fund has absorbed considerable attention and effort during the past few years and it gives us unusual pleasure to inform all who have helped in making it of a gift of \$4,000.00 which completes the \$10,000.00 we have been trying to raise. It gratifies us very much that the donor, Mr. Edmund P. Platt of Poughkeepsie, having visited Sivas and seen the situation here, makes this gift which insures the speedy erection of the building. We derive great satisfaction from such a gift from a successful business man, who after personal investigation on the ground, gives this testimonial to the need of the Normal School and its great opportunity for Christian education. We expect within a few weeks to perfect plans for the building and ask for a permit, which, as this is a foreign institution, must come from the central government at Constantinople. While waiting for the permit we shall continue to gather material and arrange things for as rapid work as possible after the permit comes. The price of lumber and all building materials has so increased during the few years since the estimate was made that we shall have great difficulty in finishing the building with this completed fund. But we feel confident that unpaid promises and gifts from friends who will wish to have a part in this building will increase the amount as the building work goes on.

Fifty of our Alumni in Turkey have pledged \$600.00 out of very small salaries, half of which is paid and pledges from others are coming in. One of our graduates in America has sent \$100.00 and is working to unite our handful of Alumni there in support of the School.

The hospital work. The past winter has been an unusually severe one, so there has been great suffering among the poor, and when sickness is added to poverty the condition is sad indeed. We have had a regular epidemic of typhus fever in the city, which still continues. In some families there have been six cases, all sick in one room, and many of our patients have been found in terrible condition. So far we have had 38 cases of this fever with 6 deaths. Many of these were sad cases. One man was found in a miserable hovel outside the city, the father of four little children, the youngest a baby. Two older children were also sick with the fever. Our Armenian physician said he had never seen a more destitute place than their house. There was no fire and no food except a little bread and in the coldest part of winter. The father and daughter were brought to the hospital, the boy having passed his crisis. It was too late to save the father's life, and he passed away in a few days. We took in the boy to nourish him and he and his sister remained with us till they were well and strong. The Gregorian Church is now helping the widow with a little flour each month. Another man, a stranger in the city, was found in a little room near the public bath. He had been sick with typhus more than a week with no care. We brought him to the hospital and did what we could, but we could not save his life.

THE ORIENT

A weekly, English paper published at the American Bible House, Constantinople. Charles T. Riggs, Editor.

Terms. Annual subscription for Turkey, Bulgaria, Egypt, and Persia 20 piasters gold.

For America, England, and other Countries \$1.00, or 4 shillings.

Single Copies 40 paras, or 2 pence, Special Numbers 60 paras, or three pence.

Cheques, money orders, cash, or stamps in payment for subscriptions or advertising should be sent to W. W. Peet, Esq., Treasurer, American Bible House, Constantinople, Turkey. (Open Mail, via London.)

We try to take in all poor cases that apply, and sometimes our faith has grown weak, fearing our money would give out. But God has not forgotten us and so far we have been able to meet expenses. With Dr. Clark away we have not so many operative cases as usual, on which we count to pay running expenses. Wood has been both scarce and high this year. Not having funds in the fall to buy the necessary amount we have had to buy at an exorbitant price in mid-winter. With the thermometer 30 below zero it has been hard to keep the hospital even moderately warm and typhus patients had to have fires day and night.

We have had some patients from the wealthy classes, both Christian and Moslem, and it is becoming more common for the better class of people to send their sick to us to be taken care of. So we are coming into close contact with all classes. We hope as the years go on to increase our work in all its branches, and are praying that Dr. Clark will succeed in his efforts to raise money for a dispensary building and an assistant physician.

LAST WEEK'S STORM.

The cold storm of last week was by no means confined to Constantinople. Several accidents to fishing craft are reported from the Black Sea, and Athens reports a rainfall unprecedented for this season of the year.

Constantinople seems indeed to have escaped very fortunately from the extraordinarily heavy rain of four days, from Thursday through Sunday. There was a collision between a British freight steamer and a Greek in the harbor, by which the former was badly damaged and ran ashore off Harem Iskelesi to avoid sinking. But from various other cities comes word of worse disasters. In Adrianople, indeed, there was a heavy fall of snow, as also through Bulgaria as far as Tatar Bazardjik. At Karamoussal, on the gulf of Nicomedia, torrents from the hills did great damage both to houses and to gardens and vineyards, the loss being estimated at Lt. 10,000. At Tepe keuy and Kara Pounar also houses were demolished. Brousa suffered perhaps most of all. Old Olympus, alternately her benefactor and her enemy, sent down a deluge which swept away or badly injured three bridges, two shops and seventy-five houses. A little girl eight years old is reported as carried away by the flood. The plain is transformed into a lake, and several villages have been isolated. The kaimakam of Moudania was appealed to, to send up ten boats that the villagers might be rescued.

SYRIAN HAPPENINGS.

The Lebanon Hospital for the Insane.

This unique institution in this land is the outgrowth of missionary endeavor. Theophilus Waldmeyer, missionary to Abyssinia and Syria, at the age of 70 founded this blessing to the country. He has retired from the management but still lives at the hospital and assists in its conduct. In commemoration of his 80th birthday the committees in the several cities in his native Switzerland have given a gas plant to the hospital to light the 12 buildings and the grounds, and for heating and cooking.

Since 1900, when the hospital was opened, 983 patients have been admitted. 334 of these have been discharged cured. Others have been improved, and naturally others have not been cured nor improved, but they have had what in many cases was impossible elsewhere, thoughtful and scientific care. 185 patients were enrolled last year. Of the 107 new patients admitted last year 30 were Moslems, 23 Maronites, 26 Greek Orthodox, 14 Jews, 7 Greek Catholic, 3 Protestant, 3 Roman Catholic, and 1 Druze. At present 96 inmates practically fill the pavilions, and new houses are needed for this Christian, international, non-denominational charity. Dr. H. Watson Smith is the director.

Mr. Robert C. Byerly has been appointed to Girard Institute, Sidon. He was 3 years an instructor in the Syrian Protestant College. The past year he has studied at Princeton Theological Seminary. He comes in October.

EMPIRE NEWS.

NOTES.

Miss Rachel B. North, on her way to Mardin, and Miss Theda Phelps, on her way to Talas, sailed from New York May 20th and are coming via Naples to Constantinople.

On Wednesday, May 10th, there occurred at Oberlin, O., a unique ordination service, when Mr. Arthur C. Ryan and Mr. Ernest C. Pye, who are under appointment to Constantinople and Marsovan respectively, and Mr. Stoyan Ivanoff, of Philippopolis, Bulgaria, and Mr. Henry A. Stick, of Brownhelm, Ohio, were set aside to the Christian ministry. The right hand of fellowship was given by Rev. Edward Riggs, D.D., of Marsovan; other parts, Rev. Charles E. Burton, Rev. Jason N. Pierce, Rev. E. S. Rothrock.

Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson, minister, author, soldier, died at Cambridge, Mass., May 9, aged 87 years.

Dr. and Mrs. Edwin St. John Ward, and their two children, who have left Diarbekir and are to be located at Beirut, passed through Constantinople on Monday on their way to Vienna for the summer.

THE CAPITAL.

The Sultan attended Selamlık on Friday at the mosque of St. Sophia, in spite of the inclement weather, and afterwards went to Top Kapou to venerate the sacred mantle of Mohammed.

The Ecumenical Patriarch is presenting to King George V., on the occasion of the coronation, a beautiful copy of a very old icon of Saint George. The original icon was discovered in an ancient Byzantine Church in Salonica by the Patriarch while he was Bishop there some thirty years ago.

Next Friday occurs the Moslem festival of *Leilé-i-Reghaib* or the Night of Desirabilities, which is the anniversary of the conception of the prophet Mohammed. It is regarded as a night of supererogatory devotions.

The Government has decided to send Zoiros Pasha, a member of the civil sanitary council, as its representative to the international tuberculosis congress, to meet soon in Rome, and Prof. Aristidi Bey, of the Medical School faculty, in a similar capacity to the general hygienic exposition, also to open soon in Rome.

A Russian communication to the Ottoman Government, urging the advisability of the enunciation by Turkey of pacific intentions toward Montenegro, though couched in most friendly terms, has caused great irritation among the journals of this city. The ostensible purpose of Russia in taking this professedly disinterested step was to facilitate Turkish policy in Albania and to make it easier to counsel Montenegro to refrain from warlike preparations.

On Saturday the announcement was made in Parliament that the session of Parliament would be prolonged one week, i. e., till next Saturday, June 3rd, in order to allow of the passage of the budget. The departure of the Sultan for Salonica is likewise postponed till Monday, June 5th.

Work has begun on the approaches for the new bridge at the Galata (Karakeuy) end. The central sections are being pushed to completion in the inner harbor.

The Union and Progress party on Friday, after two days' discussion of the ministerial situation, passed a vote of confidence in the cabinet of Hakki Pasha by 96 votes to 11.

Abdurrahman Sheref Bey has been appointed Minister of Public Instruction in place of Babanzade Ismail Hakki Bey, resigned.

THE PROVINCES.

A special deputation from Syria and Mt. Lebanon has arrived here to assure H. I M. the Sultan of the loyalty of his subjects in those provinces and invite him to make a visit thither.

The Annual Meeting of the Eastern Turkey Mission is to be held in Bitlis beginning on July 17th.

A telegram from Konia reports a terrible hail-storm near there, which severely damaged the vineyards and gardens, and killed 300 head of cattle.

A telegram from Mersin announces the destruction by fire of the Gregorian Church and the house of the "Arach-nort", or priest in charge. The school building was torn down to prevent the spread of the flames.

Another encounter on the Bulgarian frontier, this time near Küstendil, took place on Saturday, when a Turkish sub-lieutenant was killed and a private wounded.

A theft of some importance is reported from the Greek church of the Assumption at Nicaea. Among other valuable objects, two pieces of black marble bearing very ancient inscriptions were stolen. For these a large sum was but recently offered by some European archaeologists.

The inhabitants of Tripoli in Africa are suffering severely from famine. The Imperial government is rendering some aid, but cannot meet all the need.

OTHER LANDS.

The Continuation Committee of the World Missionary Conference held its first meeting May 15 to 20 at Auckland Castle, England, the residence of the Bishop of Durham. Twenty-eight of the thirty members were present. The sessions lasted nearly seven hours per day, Dr. John R. Mott presiding throughout. Dr. James L. Barton is a member also.

The twenty-eighth annual meeting of the International Missionary Union takes place at Clifton Springs, N. Y., May 31st to June 6th.

The French relief column arrived at Fez May 21. All the Europeans were found safe and well. The Moroccan Sultan has now demanded a French protectorate.

A severe earthquake was felt at Leucas, Greece, on Friday last, doing considerable damage to houses.

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Printed by H. MATTEOSIAN, Constantinople.