

The Orient.

Dec. 21, 1910

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE

No. 36

THE OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT.

15th Session (Dec. 19). After the transaction of minor business the Judiciary bill was taken up for discussion. After a long debate the 12th article was rejected. At the beginning of the afternoon session a letter of condolence to the family of Zehravi Ahmed Bey (Basra) was voted. Two propositions from the Committee responsible for the balance sheet of the Budget were read and accepted. The first proposition was to cover the deficit in the military pensions account, and the second to appropriate the sum requested for the suppression of brigand bands. A very reluctant consent was given to a request from Essad Pasha (Draj) for permission to be absent six weeks. Announcement was made of the organization of the Sanitary Committee. The discussion of the Judiciary bill was resumed. The 13th, 14th, 18th, and 23d articles were returned to the Committee, and the 15th, 17th, 22d, 24th, and 26th articles were accepted. The session closed at 4 p.m.

ZEKIAT HAJ KOURBAN

ALMS PILGRIMAGE SACRIFICE

FROM "HIKMET"

"O ye faithful, strive manfully and heroically for God and for His profound wisdom. God has chosen you for this religion and the dictates of religion are not in the least oppressive." (Quotation from the book of *Mejid*.)

There can be no tyranny in religion because man can not live under the sufferings inflicted by violence and oppression. The law of religion and the Book (The Koran) are granted not only to help men to live but to live in happiness, in freedom, in wisdom, sovereign in will, and fortunate in circumstances.

The Ulemas (Moslem clergy) have been discussing whether the commandments of the Koran should be implicitly and immediately obeyed or whether their fulfilment may be postponed for a time—commandments which contain an obligation in the cause of glorious truth. Each one has presented his arguments. They have come to the conclusion that it depends altogether on the effects produced by that command. If its postponement is to result in a death or at least a peril, then it should be immediately fulfilled; otherwise there may be postponement as a means of grace to the selfish. However a real respect for the law is shown by immediate obedience, whereas a postponement shows a lack of respect.

If in any commandment there are several injunctions, that which is most imperative should be obeyed first and so on step by step until the obligation has been fully met.

There are four degrees in the performance of religious functions; first, obligation (*farz*); second, necessity (*vajib*); third, custom (*sinnat*); and fourth, grace (*nafileh*). There are some kinds of abstract obligations which cannot be postponed and there are others which may be postponed. For instance, a rich man's duty to fulfil all the conditions of Zekiat (alms) comes under the head of Farz (obligation). Those who are healthy and strong and yet make begging a business, should be driven to work under the lash of the whip, but when there is a man who is deprived of his eyes, or a hand, or a foot, whose unfortunate family is on the verge of starvation, when a baby can not find a drop of milk in the breast of its mother and is crying bitterly, the Koran says to the rich man in his prosperity, "Reach out and give the Zekiat (alms). Why are you delaying? The hut near you is about to become the graveyard of a family." In this case is any delay permissible? Can the believer be slow to obey?

In respect to the Haj (pilgrimage) we may perhaps believe in the necessity of its immediate fulfilment and yet it is possible to postpone it to next year or the year after. The delay does not cause a calamity as in the case illustrated above. This is why Imam-i-Shafii and Imam-i-Mouhammed are saying that the Haj is obligatory when taken in a large sense, but it is possible and legal to delay it.

Both in the case of Haj and in Zekiat, complete fulfilment (*Nusab-i-tam*) is demanded when a man possesses a superabundance of furniture, clothing, servants, animals for riding, arms for protection against his enemy, books, if he is an educated man, and when he has neither any debt to pay nor any need; but if a man has only fifty liras for the purchase of arms, and for keeping them in proper condition and one of them becomes spoiled and it is necessary to replace it by the purchase of other arms, then his fifty liras is not *Nusab*, that is, he is not called upon to give up this money for other purposes.

But we must remember that this ordinance was instituted 1150 years ago. The conditions of that time were different from those existing today. The political and military administration of that day has long since disappeared. This is in conformity to the essential law of the Sheriat—"By the change of times dispensations also change." Now life is different, the administration is different, policies and international relations are different. At the present time all nations are building forts on their frontiers out of human flesh and bone, and these are bristling with rifles and cannon. Gunpowder

is their defense. They are obliged to protect their seas and harbors, not however with Noah's Arks, because that time has passed, but by Dreadnoughts. Granted that you have several revolvers and Mausers, but against whom are you going to use them? Possibly against some enemy of your life; but eight hours' distance to the north of the country in which you live there is a sea raging and destructive, which is trying to force its waves to the skies. May God cause those black waves to enter an abyss and disappear. What are your revolvers and Mausers worth when the enemy can approach your country with his Navy and can land, without any check, one hundred brigades of soldiers within eight hours distance of the Capital and bring your country under his sovereignty? That is to say there must be arms for protection on the frontiers and on the sea. These arms for defense are your right; they belong to the nation from which you have descended, to the Fatherland in whose bosom you live. The Zekiat (alms) or the Haj (pilgrimage) can not be Farz (obligation) till the Fatherland is completely protected by land and by sea, because the first command of God is to establish the security and the happiness of our Islam Fatherland.

(to be continued)

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE FOR GIRLS.

Weather report. Dec. 10th - 17th.

(Observations at 8 a.m. daily)

Maximum temperature	(Dec. 10)	61.5° F
Minimum	(Dec. 15)	39.°
Rainfall during the week		0.
Rainfall for month to date		.69 inches

Mr. Hugh Poynter of the Public Debt and Mrs. Poynter passed several days of the Bairam holiday at the College to the great pleasure of students and faculty. We always feel that we have a truer insight into public affairs after talking with Mr. Poynter on account of his official and personal acquaintance with men and affairs, and his sympathy with the government always finds a responsive audience here.

Rev. Herbert M. Allen and Mrs. Allen spent Saturday night at the College and Mr. Allen conducted our regular services on Sunday morning.

The work of the Construction Department of the American College for Girls at Constantinople is progressing satisfactorily.

The buildings are being erected by Shepley, Rutan and Company, a Boston firm that has erected many buildings for schools and colleges all over the United States, among which perhaps the most notable are the beautiful marble buildings of the Harvard Medical School in Boston.

The work here is under the immediate supervision of Mr. Robert R. Kendall, architect, and Mr. W. S. Hibbard, contractor. They have in their charge four American foremen and are employing beside many workmen from this country.

Four buildings will be erected in the immediate future, an administration Building, a Science Building, a Dormitory and a Power House to supply heat and electricity.

The site of the Power House is already staked out about half way down the hill by the side of the private road leading to the College.

The site of the three College buildings can easily be identified by the high derricks which now rise on the heights above the Bosphorus at Arnaoutkeuy.

This is the first time that an American firm has erected buildings in Constantinople and the methods of construction are attracting much attention. American machinery is used, and there are even one hundred red and blue American wheelbarrows which are trundled merrily up and down on the sites of the new buildings.

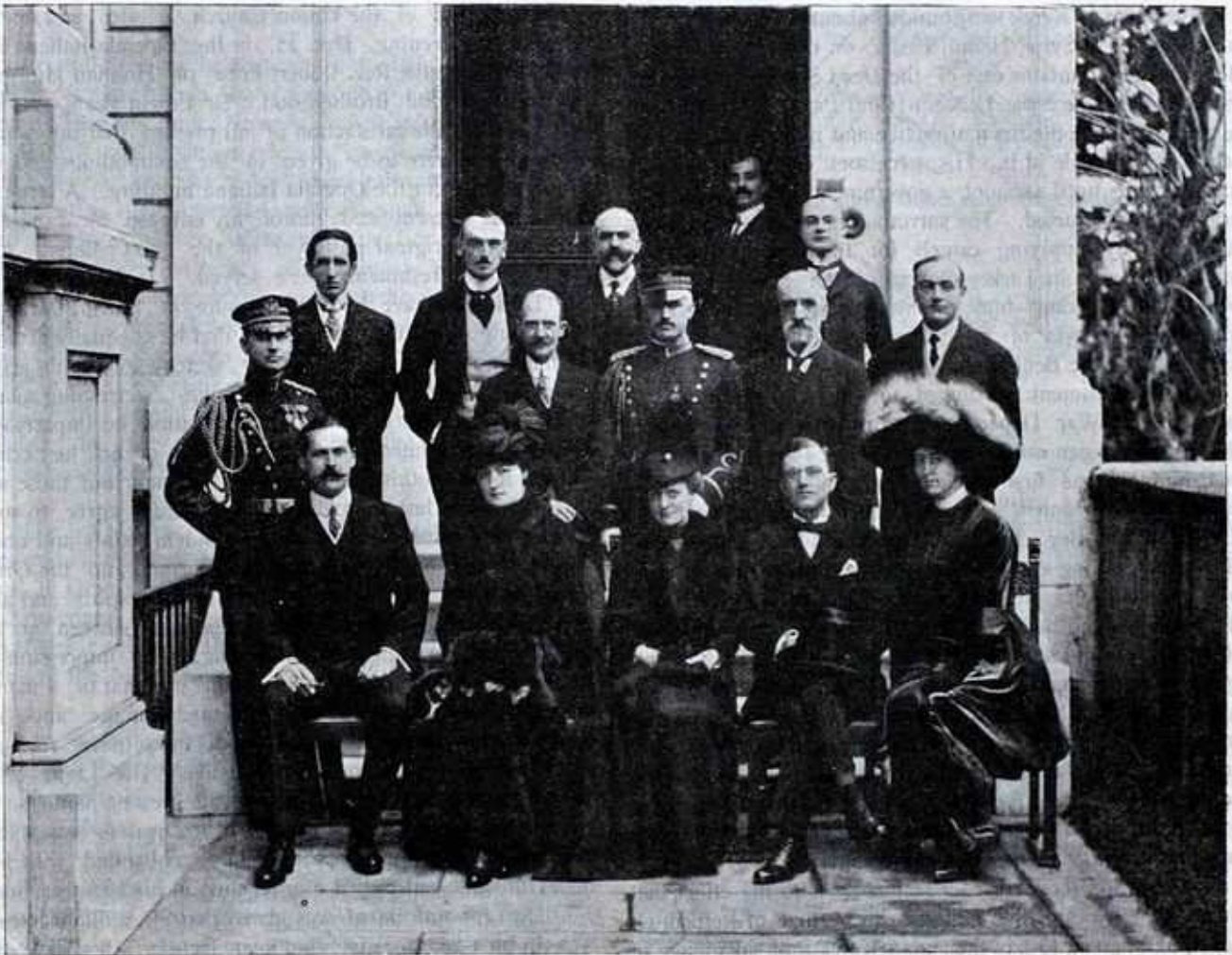
The foundation of the dormitory is already laid, and work is soon to be begun on the Administration Building, excavations on the site of which took place sometime ago. There is nothing so much needed in the Turkish Empire as industrial training and the American College for Girls congratulates itself that the money given for the new buildings is to a certain extent serving two purposes by the training American oversight and American methods are giving to the large number of workmen employed.

The Preparatory Department of the College on the quay at Arnaoutkeuy is making steady progress, but will soon suffer as does the College in Scutari for want of room. The registration from a distance, both in the College and Preparatory Department, has suffered from the strict quarantine everywhere imposed. This quarantine began five days after the registration began and has not yet been lifted. The number of students at present is about two hundred and fifty.

THE HAURAN EXPEDITION.

WHAT IT COST.

The Beirut correspondent of the *Temps*, writes that the military expedition against the Druses of the Hauran is practically at an end, not however because the rebellion has been suppressed but because the Government realises that in order to subjugate these fearless mountaineers time, money, and more men will be needed. Sami Pasha and his 25,000 soldiers did what they could, but the expenses in two months amounted to about 500,000 liras. Therefore the Ottoman Government either through discretion or from necessity regarded the results at hand as sufficient for the present and Sami Pasha withdrew his army to Damascus, leaving only 3 regiments on the north side of Djebeli Druse, on the edge of the Arabian desert. In the battle of Kanavat eight hundred soldiers were killed. In the battle of Kafi on Oct. 3^d the number killed from the troops was five hundred. In both of these battles the Druses fought with supreme courage. The losses of the Druses are estimated at two thousand men, which is not an exaggeration. As a result of these battles a part of the Druses were disarmed, and from 4-500 fled to the desert and were received by the Bedouins. Of the Druses who surrendered 3000 were immediately enrolled as soldiers and were sent to Salonica and Monastir. By means of searchlights Sami Pasha was able to ward off night attacks. Those who know the Druses realise that the war is not at an end and that the results of the expedition are only partially satisfactory.



Sébah and Joallier, Pera.

THE AMERICAN SPECIAL MISSION AND THE STAFF OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY

1st Row (from left to right). Hon. J. R. Carter, American Minister. Mrs. Wilson. Mrs. Carter. Hon. Huntington Wilson, Special Ambassador. Mrs. Shartle.

2nd Row. Major Mott and Mr. McLaughlin, Members of the Special Mission. Captain Shartle, Military Attaché at Berlin. Mr. A. A. Gargiulo, 1st Interpreter to the Embassy. Mr. J. H. Gregory, 2nd Secretary to the Embassy.

3d Row. Mr. William Smith, 3d Secretary. Mr. Hoffman Phillip, 1st Secretary. Mr. A. K. Schmavonian, Legal Adviser. Mr. Wirth, Clerk.

THE BEDOUIN ATTACK ON KEREK.

The town of Kerek was founded about fifty years ago by the Governor of Syria, Hamdi Pasha, on the ruins of Kir of Moab in the mountains east of the Dead Sea. The first *mutesharif* of the place was Hussein Hilmi Pasha, who did what he could to make the town attractive and induce the tribe of Beni-Sahar to settle in it. His successors continued to make improvements until a school, a government building and barracks were constructed. The surrounding tribes of Bedouins live largely by supplying camels for the pilgrims to Mecca. Few people, even in Turkey, knew of the existence of this town until it sprang into prominence a week or so ago through the reports of the savage and unexpected attack made on it by the Bedouins.

The Government version of the story of this attack, as issued by the War Department, is in substance as follows. The trouble began on the night of Dec. 4th. The Government building was first attacked and some of the shops in the market were looted. Then the rebels attacked the house of Captain Jelal Bey. For about ten hours he defended himself bravely, killing eight or ten Arabs, but his ammunition finally gave out and he was killed. Five or six gendarmes, who happened to be outside and unarmed, were also killed. Other officials and soldiers took refuge in the fort. The instigator of these attacks is a certain Mejali whose salary was cut off some months ago by order of the Governor of Syria. An attack was made also on the railway station of Maan, but the Arabs lost eleven men and retired. Those who attacked the station of Katrane belonged to the Hijaba tribe. They looted and burned the station and destroyed portions of the track and a bridge. Later the soldiers arrived.

Information received from Damascus is to the effect that when all the tribes of that region, except that of Refikan-el-Mejali, had agreed to pay their taxes Kerek took advantage of the situation and called on the Bedouins to attack the Government building.

The people besieged in the fort were able to find among themselves three volunteers, who were soldiers, to take a message to the nearest railway. One of them at least reached his destination but with very great difficulty. This soldier stated that he saw the dead bodies of several officers and soldiers on the way.

One report states that the number of Bedouins in arms around Kerek is 12,000. The last despatches received from Sami Pasha, Commander of the military expedition to Syria, were reassuring and promised a speedy termination of the trouble.

A telegram dated Dec. 15 from the Governor of Syria states that by the arrival of troops at Kerek those besieged in the fort were released. The telegraph wires were being repaired and a search was being made for the missing officials and gendarmes. The rebels had partially destroyed the Government and Municipal buildings, also the Regie, the telegraph building and the boys and girls school. They had burned and completely destroyed all the official documents and had looted the safes in the Government buildings.

LECTURE ON HOLMAN HUNT.

The course of the Union Church lectures was opened on Thursday evening, Dec. 15, in the Operaia Italiana hall by a lecture by the Rev. Robert Frew on Holman Hunt and the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. Sir Edwin Pears presided and expressed the satisfaction of all present that the lectures of the course were to be given in the commodious and well ventilated hall in the Operaia Italiana building. A large audience was present and thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Frew's interesting and original portrayal of the great painter. After the lecture refreshments were served.

Those who have had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Frew in the pulpit only may not know that he is equally at home on the lecture platform. An easy sketchy style with a generous sprinkling of Scotch humor gives a refreshing quality to Mr. Frew's lectures while the information he imparts is as valuable as it is interesting. In the field of art he declares himself to be nothing more than a layman but those who listened to him last Thursday would hardly agree to so an modest an estimate. Years of independent study and observation of the best productions in Europe and the Orient have given Mr. Frew a rare insight into the spirit and aims of art. His explanation of the relations between art and religion was particularly illuminating. The impression left by the delineation of Holman Hunt was that of a man of singularly high ideals, of an undaunted courage, and of a genius which conquered criticism of the bitterest sort and placed some of his productions, like "The Light of the World," among the masterpieces of the greatest painters.

An additional interest on part of his hearers was due to the fact that Mr. Frew was intimately acquainted with Holman Hunt and had visited him recently in his beautiful home.

The announcement was made that Sir William Ramsay was to be asked to give the next lecture a few days after Christmas.

EMPIRE NEWS.

The Capital.

The local papers have been giving considerable space to the bloody encounters which have been taking place in Calcutta between Hindus and Moslems, who during the festival of Kourban Bairam sacrificed cows according to their custom and in this way aroused the fanaticism of the Hindus. Events similar to this have taken place more or less every year but it is said that this year the hostility between these two elements of India was more pronounced and gave reason for serious anxiety.

The regulations for the police have been issued and are being put into effect. One important rule is that when a member of the police is on duty he must not enter into conversation with any one on any matter not connected with his immediate duties. The necessity of answering any call for

assistance is emphasized. The punishments for remissness in duty are also outlined and rewards are promised for good service. A new high grey cap is now worn by the police.

According to the local papers the delay in the Chester scheme of a railway in Anatolia is due to a stipulation in the commercial treaty signed between Turkey and America on May 7th, 1830. This stipulation refers to American subjects against whom there are charges making them amenable to law. The agreement is that American subjects shall be arrested and tried only by American Ambassadors or Consuls, "as in the case of other free citizens." The Ottoman Government objects to this whole paragraph in the treaty and finds in the last clause a contradiction to what precedes, because in the case of European citizens a trial is conducted in an Ottoman Court in the presence of official representatives of the country to which they belong. It is also stated that until this fourth article of the treaty has been changed the Government will not consider the Chester scheme.

The list of those pardoned by the Sultan recently has been published and the nationalities represented are as follows, 30 Greeks, 42 Albanians, 12 Bulgarians, 36 Turks, and 30 Armenians. Among these five are said to be teachers who are Hellenic subjects, the Armenians were imprisoned on account of the Adana massacre.

On Thursday Ahmed Pasha Zehravi, member of Parliament from Basra died at his residence in Nishan Tach. He was 45 years old and belonged to one of the wealthiest families in Basra.

Ahmed Shuayib Bey, attorney of the Bureau of Audit and professor in the Law school has died. He was a distinguished lawyer and said to be one of the strong men of New Turkey. He was only 35 years old. His funeral on Thursday was attended by Ministers, Deputies, Senators, and a large body of representative men. His pupils plan to establish a memorial library in the University as a tribute of esteem and affection for their professor.

Dr. Nigoghos Esmerian the noted Armenian oculist of Constantinople, who had a very large practice in the Capital as well as in Paris died on Saturday. His death brings a very great loss and he will be missed especially by the poor, to whom he gave his services free.

An agreement has been reached between the local Government and the Oriental Railway by which the Government is to pay for the buildings and properties which are to be purchased in order to allow the construction of a double track as far as San Stefano.

The municipality is going to ask for another appropriation of ten thousand liras to cover the expenses of fighting cholera.

The Government, on being informed that the Deutsche Levant Steamship Line intends to sell the *Stamboul, Galata, Pera* and *Scutari* steamers, decided to investigate their condition. The Company asks 12,000 liras for a single steamer and 40,000 liras if the four are sold together.

The *Yeni Gazetta* says that the increase in cholera cases was due in part to the feast of Bairam, to overeating and lack of precautions in partaking of refreshments during calls.

The Warship Fethi-Bulend is to be sent to the sea coast of Yemem.

The War Department has decided to give bread only and the necessary money for food to the Christian soldiers during church fasts. The Head Rabbi of the Jews has requested that the Jewish soldiers be allowed to purchase their own food since their religious scruples do not allow them to eat with others.

His Majesty has promised to contribute ten thousand liras to the Government tannery at Beykos. The first instalment of 1,500 liras was paid over on Saturday to the War Department. New machinery is to be ordered from Europe at once. It is hoped that in this way the army will not be dependent on foreign sources for shoes and other leather articles.

The Department of Public Works is preparing to call for bids for the building of power plants on the Sihon near Adana and on the Maritza near Adrianople, also on the Tunja and Arda rivers. The electricity produced is to be used for motor power and the lighting of the cities near these rivers.

The Sultan, it will be remembered, received from an Armenian a silver model of the Sultan Selim mosque, in Adrianople. His Majesty has sent this beautiful work of art to be placed on exhibition in the Treasury.

A wireless telegraph station is to be established in the Capital at Ok Meydan for communication with the warships.

The bill for the reorganisation of the administration of the provinces has been placed in the hand of the President of the Chamber of Deputies. It is said that this bill provides for a larger freedom to the Governors and that they will even be allowed to make loans without consulting the Central Government. The provisions of the bill also give a wider field for individual enterprises of all kinds. The regulations for the organisation of the local gendarmery also promise great improvement.

Pertev Tewfik Bey and Subhi Bey, editors of the *Mouahede*, have been arrested by order of the Military Tribunal, on account of articles published in their paper.

The Jeune Turque, which was suspended last week, has received permission to resume publication.

Sunday evening, about 5.30, Mahmoud Mukhtar Bey Minister of Marine was leaving his department in the launch Nahib when it collided with the small steamer Levazim. The Minister and those with him were able to get on board the latter, just before the Nahib sank. This occurred near the upper bridge on the Golden Horn at Oun-Kapan.

The committee appointed for the reorganisation of the finances, has taken up the new Tithes bill. The bill prepared last year consisted of three hundred articles. This will be used as the basis but the articles will be reduced to sixty. It is not expected that the new bill will be ready to present to Parliament during the present sitting.

By a decision of the Military Tribunal the *Ergatis* (labour organ) and *Mouahede*, (democratic organ) also the comic papers *Alafranga* and *Yuha* have been suppressed. The last mentioned was the new form of the *Kibar*, in which the head of the donkey had disappeared behind the editor's desk with the exception of its ears.

The new nickel coins will have on one side the Tughra (Sultan's monogram) and the words "Ottoman Empire". On the other side the words "Liberty, Equality, Justice", with an olive branch.

The Department of Public Works has agreed to the plan of the Tunnel Company for the enlargement and improvement of its stations in Pera and in Galata.

Cholera in Constantinople. From Dec. 14th to Dec. 21st the number of fresh cases was 221, of which 132 proved fatal. The number of cases up to the present amounts to 1100, of which 634 have died.

THE PROVINCES.

It is reported that two thousand Albanian Catholics who fled from Skodra and Tonzi have returned to their homes. A sailing vessel is said to be on its way from Albania to Constantinople with 22,000 rifles taken from the people during the process of disarmament.

According to the report of the Haidar Pasha Custom-House, the harvest as never been so abundant in Asia Minor, since the building of the railway, as this year. It is estimated that up to March from 20 to 30 thousand car loads will have been brought to Haidar Pasha. The greater part of this grain is for local consumption, for the coast cities and for the Archipelago. Large quantities of barley are sent to Spain.

The Smyrna papers report that the principal of the Greek School of Nokludja near Smyrna, has been placed under arrest and imprisoned. The charge made is that Mr. Apostolopoulos, who is a Hellene, had been asked to withdraw from the school and that no attention had been paid to this request of the Government. He however had replied that the matter should be referred to the Metropolitan.

On Tuesday of last week there was an earthquake in Erzerum which did some damage to buildings but there was no loss of life. Intense cold prevails in the region, the thermometer registering from 20° c. to 30° below zero.

A telegram from Latakia announces that the Governor called the Syrian mountaineers to Djebel and told them that within three months time they must give up all their arms, pay their taxes, and be enrolled as soldiers, otherwise the Government would be obliged to take military measures. The Governor of Beyrut remained at Djebel five days and went on to Bania. He will return to Djebel to continue his negotiations with the mountaineers.

In the province of Yemen a gendarmerie force has been organized consisting of three thousand gendarmes. Each one will receive 120 piasters a month.

The harvest reports from Trebizond are very favourable. The hazel-nut crop is particularly large, the yield along the coast being 4,500,000 kilos.

The income of the Hejaz Railway from the beginning of March to the end of October was 112,516 liras. Last year for the same period it was 89,348 liras.

The tenders for the construction of the Samsoun-Sivas Railway have all been received and on Sunday the examining Committee began to open the envelopes.

A report comes from Uskub that the noted leader of bands, Apostole, has been killed in an encounter with gendarmes.

The despatches received from Yemen at the war Department indicate that the situation there is satisfactory.

OTHER COUNTRIES

Several Athens papers announce that, in order to establish the friendly relations between Bulgaria and Greece on a permanent basis, Prince Christophoros is to marry the Princess Eudoxia, daughter of the King of Bulgaria.

The Ottoman merchants in New York have organised a chamber of commerce. The Ottoman Consul in New York has declared in an interview that this is an evidence of Turkey's wish to enter into commercial relations with America. He says that there is a large field for American goods in Turkey and emphasizes especially the need of agricultural machinery. According to the Consul's statements more than 15000 Ottomans visit America annually and return.

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