

The Orient.

Dec. 7, 1910

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE

No. 34

THE OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT.

9th Session (Nov. 30). After the despatch of minor items of business a proposition to adopt certain measures for preventing the spread of the plague from Odessa to Turkey was presented and passed. A resolution bearing on the law of military pensions was placed on the docket. The examination of the law of the judiciary was then taken up. The third article was passed after slight changes had been made, and the fourth was returned, with suggestions for amendment, to the Committee. The proposition for the reduction of postage on letters carried between stations on any given railway line was read but consideration of it was postponed. It was announced that Said Effendi (Uskub) had withdrawn his resignation. The law of the judiciary was again taken up. Seven articles were passed, slightly modified. In reply to a question the President announced that the reply to the Speech from the Throne would be read and discussed before the Ministry presented their statement on the policy of the Government.

10th Session (Dec. 3). After the reading of the previous day's minutes a discussion arose as to whether the Cabinet ought not to be present when the reply to the Speech from the Throne is read. It was finally decided to consider the reply section by section, without the presence of the Cabinet, on the understanding that this should not be taken to mean a vote of confidence. Shortly after the noon recess the reading of the reply was finished and was endorsed, a few verbal changes having been made. Immediately after this the Ministry entered the Chamber and the Grand Vizier began his speech. [A complete summary of the speech begins on the second page of this number.] Dr. Riza Tewfik Bey, Kosmidi Effendi, and Pavloff Effendi severely criticised the policy of the Government and condemned particularly the course pursued in Albania and the violation of the rights of individuals. [Riza Tewfik Bey's speech appears on another page in this number]. After voting to continue the discussion on Monday the session closed at 5.40 p. m.

11th Session (Dec. 5). A bill on primary schools together with a vizierial letter was referred to the Committee. Then the discussion of the Cabinet's statement was resumed and continued with increasing heat until 5.45 p. m. The chief speakers were Ismail Hakki Pasha (Amasia), Hoja Vehbi Effendi (Konia), Ferid Bey (Kutahia), Melhdi Effendi (Basra), Zohrab Effendi (Constantinople), Shefik Mueyed Bey who ridiculed the idea that the Executive branch of the Government under the old regime was superior to the present one. Finally Bosho Effendi spoke but was not able to finish his speech.

THE CABINET AND THE COMMITTEE.

An editorial in the *Puzantion* of Saturday, Dec. 3, by Mr. Puzant Ketchian reviews the political situation with reference to the significant struggle still going on between the Ministry and the controlling element in Parliament. The case is put fairly and a patriotic appeal is made to the sober judgment of the members of the Committee. Mr. Ketchian says, "we have spent a whole week discussing questions with reference to the Cabinet and the Ottoman Committee of Union and Progress. Hakki Pasha gave several days time to preparing a statement of the foreign and domestic policy of the Government but was unable to present it to Parliament because the parliamentary party of the Committee insisted on knowing the contents of the statement prepared, and, on receiving the information they wanted, they made suggestions and demanded certain abbreviations and revisions. Those who have been members of the Committee from the beginning wished to adjust the matter by agreement, but Hakki Pasha preferred to be left free, as was to be expected from a man of his past and of his intelligence. In this way disagreements have arisen in the Committee itself and between the Cabinet and the Committee."

The writer then alludes to the hot discussion which has been going on the Ottoman Press as to how the Cabinet should be organized. The *Sabah* and the *Ihdam* urge that a person who is not a member of the Committee may become a Minister, whereas the *Tanin* declares that being a member of the Committee or being wholly in accord with its platform is a *sine qua non*. "According to the views of their opponents the Committee is very stiff and uncompromising in the matter of allowing any but their own representatives to get into power. Here for instance is a Grand Vizier, Hakki Pasha, who after expressing his agreement with the platform of the Committee, was chosen to fill the office, but they wish to retain their control over him, to subject his statement to censorship instead of allowing him liberty and giving free play to the constitutional system, in accordance with which the Grand Vizier is called upon to explain the policy of the Government and defend it before the Deputies of the Nation, and, if he fails to secure an expression of confidence, then to fall."

"At the same time we are hearing other voices from outside. The chief of the malcontents in foreign countries, Sheriff Pasha, once Ottoman Ambassador in Stockholm, now engaged in publishing an opposition paper in Paris, with the ultimate object of getting a hold on the Ottoman Army and of bringing forward a counter-revolution, addresses

himself to the Turkish officers, painting the condition of the country in dark colors, declaring that the Committee of Union and Progress is ruining the country for selfish ends, after saving it from Hamidian tyranny, that they are robbing the *Malia* (Finance Dept.) and the *Nafia* (Public Works), that the Minister of Finance, Javid Bey, has embezzled out of the loan hundreds of thousands of liras and has purchased immense farms in Dobruja. In Sherif Pasha's opinion there is no difference between the tyranny of Hamid and the tyranny of the Committee. Hamid was overthrown, but hundreds of Hamids have taken his place. The Committee, he says, has brought the country into such a condition that Turkey must secure loans at the sacrifice of independence or else die of hunger. The Committee seems bent on destroying the native elements of the country. Its foreign policy too is carrying the Government toward a repetition of the Reval Conference (partition of the country). The loans secured will not be sufficient to quell the insurrections caused by the Committee's policy. The Paris *Le Beau Chérif* (by some was pronounced *bosh herif*, meaning loafer) makes an appeal, in the name of a self styled and brand new Ottoman Committee of Constitutional Reforms, to the Army to turn against this evil regime and overthrow it as it overthrew the Hamidian regime."

"The only way to protect the country and the army against such absurd agitation and charlatanism is for disputes between the Cabinet, the Committee and the Majority in Parliament to be set aside and attention be given seriously to passing those laws of which the country stands in urgent need."

"In the meantime we are hearing what the Deputies, both Turks and Armenians, returning from the provinces have to say. They all tell the same sad story of the prevailing poverty and ignorance, the stupidity of Government officials, the over bearing of the plutocrats, while the people are awakening to the danger of the country, to a keener sense of their own poverty and are begging their representatives to arouse the Central Government to find means for the people to earn their livelihood and to restore a sick country to health."

"The trusteeship which the Committee has established over the Cabinet is coming by degrees to resemble that of the conceit of the man who tried to save the arm of the butcher. The poor butcher, at last, in order to escape once for all from his unendurable would be deliverer, was obliged to cut off his right arm. It seems to us that the Committee ought not to place too heavy a price on the part it has played in saving the country, and it ought to allow perfect freedom in the normal processes of Ministerial accountability and Parliamentary responsibility. Otherwise, in a way, the old condition of things will be renewed, when there was no Sublime Porte, since the irresponsible officials at Yildiz turned the screw on the Porte and destroyed its independence, with this geographical difference that for the Yildiz officials will be substituted the irresponsible managers in Salonica."

"The Ottoman Committee of course is not willing to have a misconception like this go abroad throughout the coun-

try. But so long as these internal dissensions between the Committee and the Ministry continue unsympathetic critics are likely to form wrong opinions."

The writer then appeals to the Committee's party to state its positions frankly before Parliament and defend its course before those who are opposed to its policies. He points out some of the mistakes of the Committee, notably in the Adana affair, which they might have nipped in the bud, but admits that the Committee represents the best element of strength in the country today and ought to continue its work honestly, dealing justly with all the nationalities of the Empire, instead of adopting chauvinistic methods. The fact that the Committee contains men of large and patriotic purposes is acknowledged and the desire is expressed that they and men like them be heard and that the field be not left to narrow minded persons who might attempt to manipulate the Government and reduce Parliament to a fiasco.

THE GRAND VIZIER'S SPEECH BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

The long expected statement by the Grand Vizier, setting forth the foreign and domestic policies of the Government, was presented to Parliament on Saturday Dec. 3th. The following is a brief summary of Hakki Pasha's speech.

Albania.— During the last sitting of Parliament unfortunate events occurred in Roumelia and necessitated military measures. Although the leaders in this movement did certain unconstitutional things, the Government did not regard the movement as reactionary. The Albanians still retain their loyalty to the Government and the Caliphate. The causes of this movement were, first, the suggestions of influential men who wished to take advantage of the weakness of the Government, second, the fact that the people were armed. These were social factors and nothing else. When one is armed he is prepared to commit murder. In Albania when one committed this crime, the Government was unable to arrest the murderer; instead the relatives of the one murdered avenged the crime. So that in Albanian cities many, even officials, were unable to leave their houses; now however there is no occasion for fear. The insurrectionary movement broke out in Preshtino, Kochanik, and Chernalova and conflicts with the troops took place, so that in the first instance the Government lost two cannon and many soldiers. The military forces were increased and the insurrection was checked. If we add to these reasons the prevalence of ignorance, the Albanian Affair is explained. What has been the advantage of this military movement? First the existence of a Government in Albania was not known practically; to day, the Government exists and is respected in three provinces. Second, a census is being taken and soldiers are being enrolled. Third, taxes are being collected and the financial burdens are equally divided. Fourth, the arms of the people have been collected and are being collected, so that, the insurgents are deprived of their means for creating trouble and crimes are prevented. In order to secure these results,

we were obliged to adopt military measures, but tried to prevent bloodshed as far as possible. In order to bring the agitators to trial military tribunals were organised which tried to apply justice in every possible way and only seventeen persons were condemned to death, while others were granted an Imperial pardon. The responsibility of the Government does not end here, but is just beginning. We have tried to prevent the importation of arms so that influential men may not make tools of the ignorant people for whom we are opening schools. In order to extend the benefits of civilization and develop commerce we intend to connect the Albanian cities by railways, just so far as our finances will permit.

Disarmament. As in Albania, so in other provinces of Macedonia, it was necessary to collect from the people their arms, which were not ordinary weapons but military rifles. The Bulgarian Committees and bands which were seeking an opportunity to deal a blow at our Constitutional Government, made this process of disarming a pretext for inciting the Bulgarians to flee to Bulgaria. The Ottoman Government gave every facility for the refugees to return and used means to arrest and punish those who were causing this disunion. These events made it necessary to establish military law throughout Roumelia, but with the exception of Ishtib military law has been removed from other places.

The Macedonian Churches.—The law of these schools and churches, which was passed by Parliament, has produced exceedingly good results and quarrels between Bulgarians and Greeks have diminished.

The Hauran.—During the last sitting of Parliament unhappy events occurred in the Hauran. The Druses of Djebeli Hauran made an attack on Basra Esgi Sham, looting and massacring the inhabitants. We were obliged to despatch troops to the Hauran and check this insurrectionary movement. A census is now being taken and soldiers are now being enrolled. Also, the courts and gendarmery are being organised.

The Armenian Provinces.—You know that Ottoman territories are of vast extent. Peculiar conditions prevail in certain places which call for the utmost watchfulness on the part of the Government. But, thanks to God, this year peace prevails in many places and gives reason for hope. In the Eastern provinces of Anatolia peace and harmony prevail. I see that Zohrab Eff. is making signs of dissent, but the occurrence of a few minor events should not occasion surprise. With respect to the question of lands (taken away from the Armenians) we are preparing a bill which will greatly assist in establishing law and order throughout Anatolia.

Yemen.—In Yemen and Assir the application of the Sheri and certain financial undertakings have produced excellent results. You know that Imam Yahya made certain demands. The Government took care that no blood should be spilled. By the construction of railways and by executive reforms we hope to make ourselves known to our Arab brothers. We trust that Yemen, which has been called "Happy Arabia", will in reality become happy and prosperous. Only, the effects of thirty years of tyranny are to be seen on every side and in order to remove them we shall have recourse to severity, justice, patience, and courage equally.

The Budget.—When the budget is presented for discussion we shall make the necessary explanations. Only we will say that the Cabinet has made every effort to economise. We have tried to develop new sources of income and among others taxes for foreigners as well as an increase in custom's duties.

The Loan.—In order to meet the deficit of the budget we appealed to France for a loan. But the French Government wished to exercise control over our financial department and appoint certain officials. We found these conditions contrary to our self respect and rejected them. Afterward we secured a loan from Germany. This affair has made no difference in our relations with France. The matter is purely a commercial affair.

Foreign Policy.—The Foreign Policy of the Cabinet is that of friendly relations and the cultivation of the sympathy of the two European groups. We have no need of binding ourselves to one or the other. The questions which have produced the Triple Agreement and the Triple Alliance do not concern us. In the Eastern Question we are concerned in the *status quo* and the integrity of the Empire, with regard to which the two groups of European Powers are practically in agreement. France was the first Power to enter into relations with us and then for a long time past England has entertained friendly feelings toward us. We have no reason not to sustain the best of relations with other Powers. We have no desire except to maintain peace and preserve our self-respect. It is therefore a mistake to give other explanations for the development of our army and navy. Only a strong Government can win the respect of others, because a weak Government cannot check domestic risings which do harm to other Governments.

Ottoman relations with the Balkan States.—If heretofore peace has not been preserved in the Balkans the reason has been the weakness of our Government, where as now the Powers are confident that the existing peace will not be broken. We are trying to establish relations with our neighbours on a basis of mutual self respect.

Rumania.—The rumors of an alliance between Turkey and Rumania are incorrect, but we can affirm that our interests and those of Rumania in the Balkans are identical, so that there is no call for a formal agreement.

Bulgaria.—Our relations with Bulgaria are excellent. The unfortunate incidents on the frontier will cease soon when the delimitation of the frontier has been finally settled. A commercial treaty between the two countries is about to be concluded. If the Government at Sofia is ready to take one friendly step, we are prepared to take two.

Greece.—Our relations with Greece unfortunately have not yet developed in the way we would wish. Greece wishes to interfere in a matter which has been committed to the four Powers. The Cretan question is not a Greeco-Turkish question. The island belongs to us and for the time being we have placed it under the guardianship of four Powers. These Powers have promised to protect our sovereign rights in the island.

Montenegro.—After the close of the last sitting of Parliament Montenegro declared itself a kingdom. This change has not altered our friendly relations in the least. Questions arising in connection with the frontier are being gradually settled.

Persia.—Persia, with which we are connected by religious and neighbourly bonds, is passing through a great crisis. We wish to see Persia an independent and strong Government, because our adjoining frontiers extend for two thousand kilometers and, moreover, Persia is an Islam Government. We have no secret purposes against Persia. The incidents on frontier are purely those of wandering tribes. This section of the frontier belongs to the Ottoman Government. The Ottoman Consuls in Urmia, Khoy, and Salmas have received small bodies of Turkish soldiers to protect them. When peace has been established in Persia these soldiers will be withdrawn. The measures taken by Great Britain in Southern Persia for insuring peace and protecting her commercial interests have been explained by the British Government in a reassuring manner.

This then is a statement of our domestic and foreign policies and, if you express your confidence in us, we will continue the course we have undertaken to follow.

RIZA TEWFIK BEY'S SPEECH.

REPLY TO THE GRAND VIZIER.

Hakki Pasha's words deal with external appearances, I shall go to the heart of the matter and criticise every thing from my own standpoint. When Hakki Pasha became Grand Vizier, he adopted as the watchword of his policy "Justice and Humanity." For a whole year I have followed closely his course and find that his acts contradict his words. First of all we have not seen the Constitution applied in a practical way. One who adopts the policy of "Justice and Humanity" should not be guilty of a partisanship which produces oppression, and results in the imprisonment of a deputy like Riza Nour Bey, in regard to whom they were not able to secure evidence and establish the charges made. Riza Bey may have had evil intentions, he may have been possessed of opinions opposed to those of the Government, but it devolved on the Government to produce good reasons for its course. It is a disgrace for a government, without sufficient reason, to confine a deputy for four months in prisons not unlike the Bastille. Hakki Pasha brings forward arguments from history. I also have read history but have read it through my own glasses (Applause). The Government persecuted all the members of the Democratic Party, and punished them. Is this the Constitution? He says that the course pursued by the Government has made a good impression on Europe. On the contrary I know personally how bad an impression it has left (Applause). Under a Constitution opposing opinions are not subjected to tyranny. Up to the present time you (addressing the Center) by your anti-constitutional methods have destroyed the sixty five articles of the Constitution. Is this the right

course for a Cabinet with a policy of "Justice and Humanity?" In Hamid's time they imprisoned me but they treated me as a gentleman, and allowed me to have my books. You have done worse, you who pretend to be Constitutionalists. Last year when the Albanian movement began I said that it was not an insurrection. Now after creating havoc and ruin in that country you repeat what I said. You say "Justice and Humanity" and bring them (The Albanians) to the cannon's mouth. Like an ignorant barber you wish to let blood but you pierce the main artery. In order to destroy a flea you burn up the whole quilt. For the sake of a Governor you burn and ruin a country. We don't want a Constitution like this (from the Left..! Bravo..! Bravo). You have hung seventeen persons and imprisoned many others, beating and torturing them. Why then do you wish to remove the bones of Hassan Pasha from Beshiktash (a notorious minion of Abdul Hamid) who, you say, is unworthy to be buried in that soil. What fault had Fehim Pasha, since you do more than he did and beat all that come in your way?

Talat Bey, Minister of the Interior.—I refute those charges. When you compare us to the men of Hamid's day it is purely personal revenge. Don't step beyond your limits (on the Left great uproar and slamming of desk covers, on the Right "Bravo", and cries of "Go on").

Riza Tewfik Bey.—Can you deny that these things have been done by your associates? When I was in Europe I was asked by every one, "what became of Sami Bey's murderer?" I too inquire, where is he? Why do you not arrest him? Why do you not find him? Deliver us from the guilt of this blood (applause). My merchant friends tell me that business is at a stand still, that conditions are worse than when bombs were thrown at the Ottoman Bank. These merchants are afraid to tell you, but they tell me, When a person does not belong to the majority he meets with misfortune. This however is the doing of the Committee and not of the Government. We have been bringing every thing from Europe playing the part of mimics. But let us not make the Constitution a part of our mimicry, for then the people will say, is this the Constitution which you have brought from Europe? In saying all this my intentions are of the best. Thank God, I have no desire for any office. The condition of Yemen is also bad. We ought to respect and establish the natural rights of the various nationalities, if you do not do this, you may be sure that you will fall. If you are going to govern with bayonets and a police system you will lose the country as you have lost Egypt and other places. The Constitution as it is now is no Constitution at all. You will not be able to continue much longer in this way. In the matter of the loan Djavid Bey succeeded last year, but not this year. The reason for this was his lack of statemanship. This rostrum evidently is not a platform for truth; if it were, every thing would be discussed in an open and straightforward manner. *Esgi chamlar bardok oldu*, (times are changed). On every hand people are disgusted and show signs of hatred. They say to me "God protect us from danger, since this Cabinet is unable to do so; in time of terror they (the Cabinet) will be the first to flee".

The work of Parliament is not to come here and indulge in small talk. Our principal duty is to protect the liberty of the people. The winning of a majority in the Parliament means nothing to the people. The course that you are taking is not natural; you turn every thing in the direction you want. You are not ready to say that "this is alum, and this is sugar". Every thing else aside, let us not allow the Constitution to slip from our hands. We have a Sovereign who is like an angel. May God give him long life ("amen") and may the Cabinet benefit by the impression which he has left on Europe. I do not see a Constitution in this country. This Cabinet has done nothing constitutional and if it follows this policy it will destroy the laws of the Constitution and some day we shall find that no part of the Constitution is left in our hands. I used to regard Djavid Bey as a man of patriotic sense but I do not so regard him to day. If he had been, he would have resigned at least for a time so that the loan might have been terminated in an honorable manner. By silencing this one or that one, by imprisoning some and persecuting others, this problem is not going to be solved. (Applause).

ARMENIAN MUSIC.

On Dec. 4th an Armenian Concert was given in the Petit Champ theatre. The music was purely Armenian. The program was in two parts. The first consisted of selections from the choicest Armenian Liturgies and the second of a remarkable collection of folk-songs. The most remarkable feature of this concert however was the leader himself, Gomidas Vartabed, an archimandrite in the Armenian National Church, who, within a short space of five weeks, had brought together a chorus of 300 voices and trained them almost to perfection. The main part of the chorus group consisted of young girls from 8-12 years of age, the rest were young men, 110 in number, among them several excellent soloists. The program lasted for nearly three hours and held the interest of those present to the very last. The singing of the Lord's Prayer would have done credit to any high class chorus, and the singing of some of the folk-songs created such wild enthusiasm as is seldom witnessed. Gomidas Vartabed, who has himself a very fine tenor voice, sang several of the solos, playing his own accompaniment on the organ or piano. There is no doubt that the man is a musical genius, who has set himself to the task of discovering the sources and the spirit of Armenian music and of developing the material, which he finds, in accordance with the best methods of modern composition. He has visited a large number of the provinces and has lived among the peasants, so as to learn their songs. These he has recorded, always preserving the elemental melody. One of the wedding songs sung in the concert gave a fine illustration of his methods of composition. The music was a breezy joyous chorus of happy wedding guests, in which the measured tread of the village dance was distinctly heard. Prof. Lange, leader of the Imperial Orchestra, was present and expressed his admiration, declaring that he never knew that the Armenians had such excellent music.

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE FOR GIRLS.

Weather report. Nov. 26th - Dec. 3rd.

(Observations daily at 8 A.M.)

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-------|
| Maximum temperature | (Nov. 29) | 54° F |
| Minimum | (Dec. 1) | 34° |

Rainfall—

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Nov. 28 | .03 inches |
| Nov. 29 | .12 |
| Nov. 30 | .19 |
| Total for November | 5.215 |
| Dec. 2 | .13 |

Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 30th, there was a delightful concert by Mr. Hegyei and Mlle du Chastain, violinist. The following program was given.

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|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Violin Concerto (1st movement) | 2 extracts from Wagner | MEDELSSOHN. |
| Aria | | BACH. |
| Passacaille | | HANDEL. |
| Pianoforte Sonata (1st movement) | | WEBER. |
| Negro Melody | | COLERIDOE TAYLOR |
| Tarantelle | | WIENIAWSKI |
| At the Pianoforte | | M. HEGYEI. |
| Violin | | Mlle DU CHASTAIN. |

Mlle du Chastain played with skill and force and was very warmly received. She has but recently come to Constantinople and is considered a skilful player and a most welcome addition to the musical colony.

On Wednesday evening, Miss Robinson gave an illustrated talk to the Musical Club on the Opera 'Lohengrin'.

Sunday, December 4th., Rev. Herbert Gibbons of Robert College conducted the morning services. The Gloria used was written by a member of the College Choir.

In the evening Prof. Manning of Robert College spoke to the Christian Association on Humane Education, and dwelt upon the importance to man as well as beast of the humane treatment of animals.

THE COLONIZATION OF TURKEY.

Parliament recently voted 200,000 liras to help the Moslems of Bosnia to settle in Turkey as colonists. Commenting on this the *Tasviri Efkiar* says "What have we to gain by a Moslem colonization from Bosnia? By the coming in of 400,000 Bosnians the population of our country is not going to increase to any appreciable extent. We must concentrate our efforts on caring for the millions of inhabitants we already have. The Arab looks with suspicion on the Turk, the Turk on the Kurd, the Kurd on the Armenian, the Greek on the Bulgarian. We must try to establish love and harmony between these races, and the only way to do this is by the application of justice for all. In the course of fifteen years 150,000 Armenians have emigrated from Anatolia to America and 200,000 Syrians to Brazil. The reason for this emigration is

well known. The reason has been removed but the emigration continues. As yet we are not in a position to return to the Armenians the lands taken away from them, therefore we ought not to undertake new enterprises and invite a Bosnian colonization.

During the last forty years we have had colonists from the Caucasus. Many of these settlers worked injury to the natives of the country while evil minded officials treated the newcomers with terrible injustice. If the stones of the Courts of Justice could speak what awful tales they could tell of the suffering and wretchedness caused by these colonizations. At one time there were as many as 300 deaths a day. Of those who came at one time, in the short space of two months, we caused 75 percent to emigrate to the other world!

EMPIRE NEWS.

The Capital.

Dr. Demitrievitch, Servian deputy from Monastir, has received the following telegram from the secretary of the Servian Club. "Last night an incendiary set fire to our club and it was burned to the ground. We were not able to save anything."

There is to be a strict surveillance in the wine shops of the city. Those who drink to excess are to be arrested and fined. This new departure is on account of cholera.

The *Köhlische Zeitung* announces with great satisfaction the fact that the terminus of the Bagdad railway is to be on the Persian Gulf. If this plan is realised it will mean not only much greater commercial success for the railway but will be a signal triumph for German diplomacy. It would appear that the point at which the railway terminus will be located has not yet been determined.

The *Ikdam* announces that a large boat built in the time of Sultan Mehmed IV, about 250 years ago, has been discovered in the boat house of the Yali-Kiosk. The boat is heavily gilded and inlaid with mother of pearl and mosaics. It is said that the only model of this boat is to be found in Lisbon. The manager of the Ansaldo Ship Building firm went to see the boat a few days ago and expressed his admiration at its ornate beauty. An appeal has been made to the Admiralty to place this boat on exhibition.

The department of Public Works is calling for bids for the construction of electric tramways in the city of Adana.

The Heir to the Throne, Youssouf Izzedin Effendi, will represent the Sultan at the coronation of King George V, next June. On his return he will go to Rome and visit the King of Italy.

The skins and horns of the sheep killed at Kourbar Bairam (The feast of the Sacrifice of Isaac) will be offered as contributions to the Ottoman Navy Fund. The Committee is making arrangements to sell at auction what ever is received in this way.

The editor of the paper *Socialist* has been condemned to imprisonment.

The other day a comic paper appeared for the first time with the name *Eshek* (donkey), and was sold by the news-boys, whose cry was "a donkey for ten paras (one cent)". The head piece of the paper represented this much abused animal dressed in clothes, and seated at an editor's desk. It is some what difficult to describe the impression produced by this extraordinary sheet. On the one hand no one could resist the effect of this daring joke; the paper sold like hot cakes. On the other hand it was plain that the Ottoman sense of dignity was deeply offended. As a result the Military Tribunal lost no time in suppressing the paper and subjecting its manager to a "punishment that should fit the crime". A some what amusing sequel of this is that a paper having the same headpiece is being sold on the street with the name *Kibar* (strictly proper).

On Thursday of last week a double wedding took place in the Palace of Dolma Baghtché. The Princess Shahzieh, a daughter of Abdul Hamid was married to Ahmed Takhir Bey, son of the late Galib Bey, former Minister of Ekaf, and Prince Mehmed Selim Eff.'s daughter Princess Nemica was married to Kenan Bey, son of the first architect of the department of Forests, Mines, and Agriculture and graduate of the French Academy of Fine Arts.

The Department of Public Safety has issued instructions that when His Majesty is on his way to Selamlik or is driving about the city, personal petitions to be presented must be given to the aid-de camps or the servitors attending him.

The Turkish Democratic Party whose organ the *Hur Memleket* was suppressed by the Government, on Friday started its seventh paper with the name *Azad*, and that too has been stopped.

On Monday morning while one of the Bosphorus steamers was coming from Kadikeuy to the bridge one of the passengers, a woman, was taken ill very suddenly. The captain, suspecting the case to be cholera, at once hoisted the yellow flag and stopped the steamer before reaching the bridge. Officers from the Sanitary Corps came on board and, after examination of the sick woman, pronounced it to be a case of heart disease and not cholera. After two hours the steamer tied up at the bridge and the 700 passengers were allowed to land.

According to the *Moniteur*, at a meeting of the Cabinet last week, the Grand Vizier proposed to the Ministers of Education, Efka, and Agriculture, that they resign, on the ground of their unpopularity. They declined to resign.

The celebration of the festival of Kourban Bairam will take place in the mosque at Tophanneh in the presence of H. M. the Sultan.

In Teheran a mass meeting of 15000 persons was held to protest against the policy of Russia and Great Britain in Persia. The speakers emphasized the need of coming to an agreement with Turkey.

Cholera in Constantinople. From Nov. 30th. to Dec. 7th. the number of fresh cases was 115 of which 65 proved fatal.

THE PROVINCES.

The Executive Council of Brousa has communicated to the Ministry of Public Works the decision of the management of the Moudania-Brousa Railway that the Company cannot undertake the extension of the line to Kutahia without a kilometric guarantee. It is said that the Ministry contemplates calling for bids for the construction of this extension.

The management of the Anatolian Railway has requested permission of the Ministry of Public works to plant fruit tree nurseries along the railway line, in order to distribute trees gratis among all the villages of Anatolia, and transport them free of freight charges. The Ministry gave its permission adding that the Company should charge regular rates for trees transported to Constantinople, for the reason that the trees brought to Constantinople will not have a distinct commercial value.

The Salonica papers announce that the principal of the Bulgarian School at Keuprulu and the secretary of the Metropolitan, while entering a house in the day time, were shot and killed by two unknown persons.

A local paper announces that an Armenian young man living in Set Bashj, Brousa, quarrelled with an Albanian and was set upon by other Albanians until he defended himself with his dagger. The chief of police (an Albanian) of that quarter arrested the Armenian and instead of handing him over to the government beat him until blood came from his mouth.

During the year, 24 primary schools have been opened in Yemen, one of them for girls, the rest for boys. In addition to these, 20 more schools are to be opened in Sanaa and in Hodeyda a modern High School is to be constructed.

In the village of Karakeuy, near Manissa, a quarrel originated over some land. A sergeant and four or five gendarmes were sent to make arrests. The people, men and women, attacked them with stones, beat them and took away their arms and even imprisoned them for a time in the mosque. When the news reached Manissa a small detachment of soldiers was sent to arrest those guilty and bring them to trial. When they entered the village they also were attacked and several of the soldiers were wounded but they succeeded finally in arresting the ring-leaders.

In Afion Kara Hissar a company has been organised for the development of the opium trade. The Company is capitalized at 20,000 liras.

On the 1st. of Dec. a bomb exploded in the station at Koumanova, wounding five persons severely and causing great damage, particularly in the baggage room. It appears that the box containing the bomb was brought on a cart by a man who insisted that it should go on the next train to Salonica. The baggage master replied that there was no time to do this and that he would send it on the next train. The explosion took place exactly at 1.30 p. m. which would show that it was planned to have the bomb explode on the train. The man who brought the box to the station is the son of a Bulgarian hotel keeper in Koumanova and has been arrested.

The *Tanin* says that as a result of the efforts of the Military Tribunal of Monastir some important letters, written in 1903 and 1904, show that Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria was at that time in communication with the Bulgarian bands, and adds that this very important discovery shows the direction from which the revolutionary winds have been blowing.

A translation is given of a letter dated Dec. 22, 1903 and signed by Dobrovitch, the private secretary of Prince Ferdinand, and addressed to the Bulgarian Committee. In this letter the receipt of a letter is acknowledged and messages from the Prince are included.

La Turquie says that conditions in Albania are calling for the serious attention of the Sublime Porte. At the request of the Minister of the Interior the Governor of Skodra has telegraphed for information. The new insurrectionary movement has begun in Northern Albania. The mountaineers, chiefly Catholics, have formed bands and withdrawn into the mountains. They proclaim that they recognise only the law of Jebal (mountain law). This law is very old and is used even now among the Albanian tribes when difficulties arise between the tribes. The rebels, although few in number, refuse to pay taxes and render military service. At the same time they declare that they are loyal to the Ottoman Fatherland. It is said that the application of the new educational law is one of the reasons for their action. The Sublime Porte will postpone the withdrawal of troops from Albania and additional troops will be sent, if necessary.

Letters from Salonica published in a local paper give a dark picture of affairs on the Montenegrin frontier. Minor conflicts have been taking place between the Ottoman soldiers and Albanians crossing frontier. It is said that the Montenegrins are supplying those returning with arms. The hope is expressed that the commission at Skodra will be able to put an end to this condition of things.

A despatch from Konia announces that six villagers were frozen to death between Alaya and Sari-ot-khan.

A despatch dated, Nov. 30th. from Sweydieh, Hauran, states that the Ottoman troops stationed on the brow of a hill, six kilometers in length, carried on an all day battle with 10,000 Druses. The losses on the side of the Government were three officers killed, one wounded, eighteen soldiers killed, and sixty wounded. The losses by the Druses are placed at 500 wounded and killed.

According to the *Berliner Tageblatt* Seid Edris of Yemen gathered many Arab tribes and surrounded five regiments of Ottoman troops. In the battle that followed several hundred were killed on both sides. The Governor of Yemen has asked for additional troops and cannon. The paper adds that the situation in Yemen has never been so bad.

The gifts of the 120,000 pilgrims in Mecca, on the occasion of Kourban Bairam, are to be applied to the Ottoman Navy.

In a village near Aleppo two Armenian Catholics, a young man and a young woman, have become Moslems.

A despatch from Hania in Crete announces that on Friday last the Christian members of the Cretan Assembly voted to present another appeal to the four Powers, urging the annexation of Crete to Greece. The Moslem deputies entered a strong protest against such action.

NOTES.

Dr. Reynolds writes that a genuine spiritual revival is in progress in Van and has developed to such an extent as to become the talk of the city. The young people particularly seem to be deeply stirred. The members of the Young Men's Benevolent Association and the young women of a similar organization are very active in the movement. Readers of the *Orient* will remember that this Association, which has been in existence for ten years, was described in a recent number by one of its members.

Dr. C. H. Patton went to Brousa on Tuesday in company with Rev. C. T. Erickson and Rev. C. T. Riggs. He returned to Constantinople on Tuesday, and on Saturday afternoon sailed for Beirut.

The *Orient* is learning from week to week that it has a most appreciative set of readers and would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have written kind words of encouragement and have helped in many ways to make the existence of the paper known to others. The editors are more than ever sanguine that, in the not distant future, they will be able to carry out certain plans for improvement which will still further meet the wants of the subscribers.

The Business Manager is wondering whether **The Orient** all neatly folded, with a bright new stamp on the wrapper, and marked "Paid, Dec. 25, 1910 - Dec. 31, 1911" would not make "A HANDSOME and USEFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENT." Only this morning he was running over his list of subscribers and thought he could count on **each one** of them to take up with this "Christmas Offer," provided **some one would give the hint!**

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