

# The Orient.

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## KOURDISH INDEPENDENCE

One of the local dailies prints an interview with Sirri Bey, general secretary of the Kourdish Democratic Party, in which the latter, in answer to the question whether Sherif Pasha was duly authorized to represent the Kourds, says:—

"The Turkish press has no right to decide whether Sherif Pasha represents the Kourdish nation or not. We are the ones to make a statement as to that, and to give Sherif Pasha the mandate to speak for us or to withhold it from him. We can well understand the motive of the Turks in discrediting Sherif Pasha when he demands the emancipation of the Kourds. But their efforts will deceive nobody. Sherif Pasha has the absolute confidence of the Kourds, who recognize him as their titled and duly accredited representative before the Peace Conference. Our Association, the best known Kourdish political party, in a general meeting gave him the title of representative of the nation. Then the Kourdish Democratic party that has been constituted among us, confirmed this action. And lastly the mission of Sherif Pasha was approved at the Congress which was held in the interior of the country itself, some months ago, where about two hundred delegates from all the Kourdish regions assembled. This congress, which was the most striking demonstration of the will of the Kourdish people, gave a unanimous vote of confidence to Sherif Pasha, and thanked him heartily for the eminent services he has rendered and still renders toward the emancipation of his country. What use is there in the efforts of the Turks to lessen the authority of Sherif Pasha, in face of these facts?"

In further answer to the question whether the Turks, as the most numerous Moslem population, had the right to govern all the rest of the Moslems, Sirri Bey said:—"We have shown how attached we are to the yoke which binds us, by demanding from the Peace Conference our absolute independence. After all the deluge of blood in which the Turks have drowned the non-Turkish nationalities, both Christian and Moslem, during this atrocious war, their pretence to rule over the people they have sacrificed can be met only with a smile. It is not true that the separatist movement represents only a small minority. A national Kourdish congress, representing all regions of Kourdistan, has placed itself solemnly on the side of those who demand independence for their country. As for the friendly feelings said to unite us to the Turks, the only bond that binds us to them is that of religion. But the fact that we are Moslems cannot give the Turks the right to domineer over us and treat us as slaves, as they have done

till now. According to Islam, all Moslems are brothers. So that if the Turks are faithful to the spirit of brotherhood enjoined by our religion, they ought not to be anxious to keep us under their yoke, but rather they should recognize our right to the free expression of our own will."

## PEACE TERMS FOR TURKEY

In a very important speech before the House of Commons last week, Premier Lloyd-George spoke of the policy of the Peace Conference as to Constantinople. Referring to his own speech delivered in December last, in which he had spoken of the Dardanelles as the gate to the Black Sea, and had declared that the porter of the gate was no longer to be the same, that there must be a new gate-keeper, he went on to say that this was to be carried out to the letter as well as in spirit, and that the Dardanelles were to be internationalized and made neutral.

Regarding the objects to be attained by the peace, he stated as the first object, the freedom of the Straits, and the second was the liberation of all the non-Turkish communities from the Ottoman Government, the granting to the Turks of self government for the essentially Turkish regions, on two very important conditions, namely: there must be sufficient safeguards in the hands of the Allies for the protection of the minorities which in the past had been oppressed by the Turks, and secondly that the Turk must be shorn of his power of veto over the development of the rich lands under his domination which had once been the granary of the Mediterranean. Turkey, he said, would be entirely deprived of the control of the Straits; the forts would be dismantled, and she would no longer have any troops anywhere in the vicinity of these waters. Further, the Allies had decided to maintain garrisons themselves at the Straits; that they had entirely taken away from the Turk the guardianship of the waterway leading into the Black Sea, possession of which had in the past given him such a power for evil at the Dardanelles. Finally the Premier said that the Allies had taken every precaution in their power to see to it that the Christian minorities, who had suffered so much in the past, should never again have to rely for their protection on despatches from the Foreign Office or on an exchange of notes; that they would now be conscious that they were under the protection of the British, French and Italian guns.

In conclusion Mr. Lloyd-George declared that the British Government was fully resolved to carry out its engagements.



## NEAR EAST RELIEF SECTION

### REVIEW OF THE YEAR'S WORK AT TREBIZOND

The amount or kind of relief work done in any given locality is determined by local conditions. The Trebizond unit is proud of the obstacles it has overcome in the work done within its area this year. Unlike many centers in which the Near East Relief is now doing work, such as Harpout, Sivas, Caesarea, Aintab and Marsovan, Trebizond was not, before the war, the seat of a thriving missionary station. There were but three missionaries in the station, a thing hard to understand in such a large area, and of those three not one remained or returned to lead in the relief work as was the case in so many other stations. Every member of the personnel was a foreigner to the city, and all but two of them, foreigners to the land. Therefore it was not like going "home" to work among people and in a city known to them, — but indeed a great adventure in which all entered with a great deal of zest.

The unit was not only handicapped by the lack of members in the personnel who had been in the city, but also by the lack of mission buildings and equipment with which to begin the work. Instead of a group of fine buildings belonging to the mission station into which we might enter at once, we found but one, and that the mission home which was used to house the members of the personnel. We now occupy eleven buildings, ten of which we have had to get by the slow process of bargaining for rent, or reclaiming from illegal squatters. But the greatest handicap was the lack of previously well established industries into which the relief workers could direct the incoming refugees or which they could establish for them by the expenditure of a few thousand liras for looms or other raw materials. Trebizond has always been a commercial city. We had neither the textile industries nor the agricultural opportunities which have featured so largely in the reports of Relief units in Western and Central Turkey, nor even the work incident to the production of any single product such as tobacco. In order to get work for the hundreds of men who clamoured at our gates we literally had to go out and find it.

Again in contrast to Central and Western Turkey the Trebizond area suffered not only the deterioration incident to the deportation of a large percentage of its population, but also more than any other area of equal size in Anatolia, it suffered the ravages of occupation of armed forces and the destruction of actual battle. The greater part of the district, including the city of Trebizond itself, was occupied for two years by the invading Russian army and suffered greatly during the last year of its occupation from the hands of the Bolsheviks during the Revolution. Hence homes that formerly belonged to members of the exiled races instead of merely being occupied by Turkish squatters had actually been torn down by Russian or Turkish Bolsheviks for the firewood that

was in them, and the live stock instead of being transferred from the lawful Christian owner to the unlawful Moslem owner had actually been killed for meat for the Russian or Turkish Armies.

It was therefore a difficult situation which the Relief workers had confronting them when they arrived in April. They found a local Greek Committee striving bravely to maintain both the Greek and Armenian Orphanages with meager supplies and little money. The city itself was terribly unsanitary because of filth accumulated during the terrible days of the Russian revolution. Dozens of skeletons of horses strayed the streets; cemeteries were desecrated; water mains broken, and filth indescribable was on every hand. The first task was therefore to get the orphanages under our care; and as there was no Armenian ecclesiastical representative in the city, the Greek Committee gave over the Armenian Orphanage completely to the Near East Relief, but retained their own with help from the Americans. Next a clean-up campaign was organized. Gangs of refugee men of from 15 to 30 men in a gang were supplied with baskets, brooms and shovels, and every street in the city was inspected by a member of the N. E. R. and if found needing a cleaning, one was given, the thoroughness of which surprised the natives. By the time hot weather arrived the entire city had had one going over, and the bad parts had had many, thus reducing the probability of an epidemic during the summer. In this regard Trebizond was very fortunate as very few cases of typhus or other bad diseases were reported.

Prices were naturally high, but the arrival of 500 tons of pure white American flour sent the high price of bread tumbling to the bottom. Within two weeks bread previously selling for 45 piastres an oke, was selling for 21 piastres.

Most relief units have discovered that transportation and communication are not as swift in Turkey as they were in France, or as they are now in America. The Trebizond unit discovered this early in the Spring, for after the disposal of the flour, work of all sorts was delayed because of lack of supplies. These finally came, however, about September 1st, and since that time the work has constantly gone on at an ever increasing pace. The report of the unit for December shows that there were 1589 orphans in the orphanages maintained or aided by the unit, in January the average number of persons receiving soup or bread daily was nearly 4,000; while thousands are clothed monthly. And despite the difficulties in the way of industrial work about 500 persons have monthly earned all or a part of their living in work furnished by the N.E.R. One of the greatest single employers is Miss Gillespie, who within the short space of two months began with nothing and built up a sewing-room employing 142 women of all races, which stands second to none in Anatolia for production. Under her direction these women have sewed garments for our own relief forces, the Greek Red Cross, and the Turkish Red Crescent, which have found their way into three vilayets, Erzroum, Trebizond and Sivas. The old residents say that the cold weather came early this year so we feel that much suffering has been avoided by the clothing thus made and distributed. The personnel arrived



too late to undertake any farming last spring, but recently a large hillside farm, there being few of any other kind in Trebizond, has been rented which gives work to 100 men. Another gang of 50 has been busy recently breaking stone for a big job of road-repairing which the N.E.R. has undertaken. Trebizond was so unfortunate as to have its hospital unit shunted to another district, but the two doctors of the unit have been able to do a remarkable work in clinics established in the city and in villages along the coast. Not the least of the relief work was the distribution of 130 tons of seed for spring planting between April 15th and June 15th and of 650 tons for food in the early fall. The eagerness and readiness with which the people came for miles to carry their portion home on their backs was proof enough of the value of the service rendered in this fashion. We hope to have 1,000 tons for distribution this spring.

Thus, from a small undertaking in the city of Trebizond alone, the work has grown to include an area perhaps as large as that for any other single unit in Anatolia. It includes not only all of the Vilayet of Trebizond, except the Sanjak of Samsoun, but also nearly all of the large Vilayet of Erzurum, and that portion of the Vilayet of Sivas which lies north of the high mountain range with Kara Hissar as its center. The area includes parts of three vilayets and covers a vast territory where transportation is rendered difficult by high mountain ranges and deep snow. In other words the nearest relief center to Trebizond on the east is somewhere in the Caucasus (there is no relief work at Batoum, only a transportation unit), on the south, Harpout, on the southwest, Sivas, and on the west, Samsoun. Within this war and poverty-stricken area probably 1,000,000 people live, a large percentage of whom are subjects for relief. If one but thinks of the human element in the work done, he must be convinced that it has not been in vain. Wherever the N.E.R. workers have gone they have given to the oppressed of that area a greater feeling of security and a hope for the future. They have brought a hope of re-established industries and good wages, of orphanages and hospitals, warm clothing and rebuilt homes, of return home for exiled victims of Moslem politico-religious fanaticism. But relief work is temporary at best, and the Trebizond Unit of the N.E.R. is working hard and hoping that the "Council of Ambassadors" or whatever is left of the League of Nations, will give to this country a reliable government that will guarantee to its citizens of whatever race or creed, security of life, property and honor; and that will make it unnecessary for any one to say, as did one disheartened woman recently, "We returned to our village, but unfortunately we did not die."

J. C. RYAN

#### SUNDAY SERVICES March 7, 1920

DUTCH LEGATION CHAPEL, 11 a.m., Rev. Robert Frew, D.D.  
 ROBERT COLLEGE, 11 a.m., Rev. G. H. Huntington  
 CONSTANTINOPLE COLLEGE, 11 a.m., Rev. F. F. Goodsell  
 CRIMEAN MEMORIAL CHURCH 11 a.m., Rev. R. F. Borough

#### TURKEY AND THE ALLIES

Under this caption the *Bosphore* takes the *Tasviri-Efkiar* to task on its attitude toward the peace question. It says:—"Amid the repetition of attempted suggestions and naive threats, amid hypocritical declarations of friendship for France, whose worth in the mouth of an organ like the *Tasviri-Efkiar* is well known,—a paper that during the war could not find words enough to flatter all the Boches in the world, —there appears very clearly also the religious argument which certain circles in Stamboul will never let alone. The Turkish writers have never counted up the great harm they are doing their country by taking up again the idea, dear to the Berlin Pan-Germanists, of trying to rouse the Moslem world against France and England. The *Tasviri-Efkiar* says the Moslem religious power must not be compelled to take steps that might disturb the whole world. A smile of pity would be the best reply to such threats. We merely pause to mark the immense difference between European mentality and that of certain journals across the bridge. We wish to deny that the standpoint of the Stamboul press can be based on the deliberate opinion of the Turkish politicians, even though they assert that we are mistaken. The idea of a pan-Islamic revolution is not new; it was assiduously cultivated during the war as the terrible blow that was to bring England and France to their knees, and make their colonies the prey of victorious Germany. It was not in vain that Enver loved to hear himself called "Kutchuk Napoleon!" The glory of the pyramids, with their forty centuries of history, had touched this poor undervalued brain, and he dreamed of seeing his soldiers, like those of Napoleon of old, march past these ancient monuments. He was not the only victim of his own megalomania. The poor Khedive, skilfully deceived by Wangenheim, paid for it with his throne. This shows that the pan-Islamic policy that the *Tasviri-Efkiar* refers to again has never been that of leaders of thought or fanatical zealots. It has been methodically organized by politicians. The Turks invoke the immortal principles of 1789. They have never understood them; for one of the cardinal objects of those who enunciated them was the absolute separation of the political from the religious domain. The Middle Ages have gone forever, thank God, in the West. In the East they still persist, even in the hearts of those who pretend to be imbued with European methods and ideas. No modern nation can live on a theocratic basis; not that the system is bad in principle, but because it is far easier to commit abuses in the name of the very God who is invoked. This system, bad enough in internal affairs is awful in international relations. The Turkish papers want to levy blackmail of a naive sort on the Powers who have Moslems under their direction. They ought to remember that this policy will inevitably work against their own country. They should not be astonished then if, taking them seriously, these Powers decide on measures that will prevent their ever again attempting this pan-Islamic policy."



## THE LOCAL PRESS

The *Bosphore* says, —

"The Chamber was to discuss yesterday the Biglia incidents, in the course of which Ahmed Bey Anzavour has got himself talked about once more. However one looks at them, these incidents are the logical consequence of the abnormal and illegal state of affairs which reigns in Anatolia. They prove most peremptorily that not everybody, even in the country districts, shares the views or approves the methods of the persons that govern at Angora. They lead one to believe that if liberty of opinion actually existed in Anatolia, if the Nationalist forces did not keep down many consciences, the situation would be quite different. The incidents originated in the fact that the commanders of the Nationalist forces at Balukesir ordered in the district of Biglia a forced recruiting of 2000 men, and demanded a contribution from the population of twenty thousand liras. The population very justly demanded by virtue of what law voted by the Chamber, or at least decreed by the central government which is the sole legal authority in the country, or in the name of what power these commanders were acting. They refused to obey; and then appeared the band of Ahmed Bey Anzavour, to defend the population against the interference of the Nationalist forces. The resulting fight caused losses on each side.

"We have no intention to take sides in this matter, on either side; for from the legal point of view, all acts of the irresponsible Nationalist forces as well as the interference of Ahmed Anzavour are reprehensible. The Government is stated to have decided to treat the events at Biglia as simple acts of brigandage. Agreed; for this is the correct legal view. But it must be applied also to the acts of irresponsible forces both before the Chamber and before the Sovereign and before the whole country, — forces which allow themselves to raise troops, levy war contributions, and even carry on military operations, while Turkey is in a state of armistice with the Allied Powers and therefore every measure of a warlike nature is forbidden. It seems to us that the comedy that is being played in Anatolia, and which in fact deceives nobody, has lasted too long. The central government ought to bring the Nationalist movement under the law and thus legalize it whatever the consequences as to foreign politics. Or otherwise by its very attitude it forbids all action against that which has become a veritable tyranny. At Konia the situation is hardly any better, and there too the local population has had about enough of the acts of the Nationalist forces. We know that the Government has studied the question and has adopted certain measures, which in our opinion are merely palliative, and these have begun to be applied. The recent interview with Senator Zeinel Abeddin Effendi, a native of Konia, had to do with the quieting of spirits which the central Government is attempting. This pacification can only be secured, — we must say it bravely, — by the complete suppression of every irresponsible force, both at the capital and in the provinces. Let us await the peace treaty. That will solve the difficulty."

In connection with the visit of Cardinal Dubois to this

city, the *Stamboul* gives some interesting facts as to the influence of France in the Levant. After speaking of the material contribution to this region, it goes on to say: —

"It is however in its participation in the moral and intellectual education of the Oriental world through benefactions and education that one finds France's most original and valuable and potential work. The missionary and the schoolmaster have remarkably prepared the way for the business man, the industrial expert and the financier. While other nations made feverish efforts toward material penetration, we were seeking solely to spread the good results of education and philanthropy. According to the most accurate statistics, before the war the number of children that went out each year from the French schools in Syria, both religious and secular, was reckoned at 30,000; and aside from this already considerable figure there were more than 70,000 others when we count the schools of Constantinople, Asia Minor and Egypt. Franciscans, Jesuits, Dominicans, Lazarists, Brothers of the Christian Doctrine, lay professors, in noble emulation, worked zealously to glorify the Fatherland. Guided by the distrustful character of the Orientals, and eager to attract to us the natives of all faiths, the Congregationists confined themselves to an education that was religiously neutral, which, by the bye, must have been hard on their apostolic consciences. They had but one purpose: through the lessons and the workshop to make France known and loved the more. The patriotic motive enveloped all their humanitarian work, like a glittering tricolor flag. In fashioning the hearts and caring for the bodies (in hospitals, dispensaries and asylums they aided several hundreds of thousands of sick or feeble), these pioneers of France were conquering the peoples for us. Their work, which has been resumed, has been crowned with great success. It has in the course of centuries created for us indefeasible and inalienable rights, founded on moral authority and with material help. France is today performing its mandate of protection, centuries old, with increased prestige and power. It responds to the deep sentiments and needs of the populations. No one can ignore it or dispute it."

The Turkish daily *Ileri* says: — "In the difficult circumstances through which we are going, how much we need a statesman that will measure up to the situation! But alas, we see no such *mahdi* or guide. Yet Greece has her Venizelos. When King Constantine was hypnotized by his brother-in-law the Kaiser, Venizelos was able to take a sane view of the situation and foresee that the last word would be for the Entente and especially for England, the mistress of the oceans. And who was this Venizelos? A Greek from Canea, a city with a Moslem as well as a Greek population. Then why wasn't Venizelos born a Turk instead of a Greek as he is, and so has rendered such service to Hellas? The reply to this is very simple. The Greek people, Greek society, live in an atmosphere suitable to the generation and development of such political talent. Our own atmosphere is utterly different. We must recognize this truth, bitter as it is. Just as soon as we see any personality among us that shows promise of qualities or ability other than that of the crowd, we do everything we can to prevent its development."



### THE ORIENT

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**Charles T. Riggs**

Bible House, Constantinople

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE

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## EDITORIAL SECTION

The ministry of interior has addressed to all the vilayets and independent sanjaks a circular, stated to incorporate the desires of His Majesty the Sultan, relating to the birth-rate, and recommending the valis to do all in their power to encourage marriages, and drawing their attention to the fact that while in other countries the birth-rate is highest among the rural classes, this is not true in Anatolia. Nobody will have any objection, we fancy, to the encouraging of marriages. But the vital statistics of the empire, if such are kept ought to show conclusively to the ministry of interior that the trouble does not lie there. Two problems must be solved before an increase in the number of marriages will result in an increase of population. One, on which we need not dwell is the awful prevalence of venereal disease, as attested by the records of all reputable physicians. Until drastic measures are taken, through education and by legal means, to cure this evil, not much improvement can be expected. The other problem is that of the fearfully high rate of infant mortality, especially in the country districts. Figures are not at hand to show the relative mortality of infants in this country as compared with that elsewhere; but reports would indicate that it is far higher. Estimates made by two of the leading American physicians in Turkey would indicate that from 50% to 60% or even in some districts 80% of the babies born die before they are a year old. In American cities, infant mortality ranges between 6% and 22%, according to the available statistics. Children's diseases run rife with no efficient medical control; an epidemic gets into a village and practically all children die of scarlet fever or small-pox or dysentery, and nobody knows what to do, or where to turn for help. Pitiful ignorance on the part of mothers, coupled with a fatalism that is akin to criminal negligence, are annually sacrificing thousands of little lives that need not have been snuffed out if ordinary care had been taken. These problems are so great that it will challenge the resources and

the ingenuity of a Rockefeller Foundation to solve them. But only in some such way can a real increase in the birth-rate be hoped for; and only under circumstances thus improved would such an increase be a blessing to the country. One might be justified in saying that under existing conditions it were better to keep down the rate, rather than increase the amount of suffering and misery.

The time is approaching when it will be best to make arrangements to turn over to permanent boards the hospitals which have been temporarily under the management of the Near East Relief. In fact, tentative steps have already been taken on both sides looking toward such a move. During the months immediately after the armistice, and until these hospitals could again be put on something approaching a regular and normal schedule of work, it was natural that the Relief Committee should have them in charge. A goodly force of skilled physicians was sent out by them to open up again the medical work throughout the country. Old locations for hospitals were not always to determine the new steps to be taken. Hospitals were opened at places that had never known them before. In some cases it was impossible to reopen a mission hospital. And in several cases, the missionary physician formerly in charge was either in America or no longer living. Since that time, some of the former physicians have returned; and in other cases, new ones have been officially appointed by the American Board to take up the work of those who have fallen. In the mean while, the existing hospitals and those newly started have all been equipped with a new outfit from America, so that in many cases they are in better shape than ever for a large advanced work.

The Near East Relief is at most a temporary organization. It never intended to enter on a permanent job in this region. Its term of activity will probably be longer than at first contemplated, for there seems no present likelihood of its being able to close up its work inside of another year and a half at the very least. Yet the ultimate purpose is to withdraw, and leave the plants they have started to the more permanent organizations. Probably the branch with which there will be the least difficulties in such transfer is the medical one. The generous friends who have made it possible to secure and put into use so splendid an outfit for fifteen to twenty hospitals, will be glad indeed to have their funds made of more permanent usefulness under an efficient management, when the Relief Committee is ready to lay down its part of the task.

It would be hard to pay too high a tribute to the men and women who have during this year given of their skill and strength to this ministry of healing. The splendid corps of nurses as well as doctors who have represented America's contribution to the restoration of health and happiness and sanitary living in the Near East, have earned the undying gratitude of all nationalities. Most of them gave up more lucrative positions in the homeland, and came out at considerable sacrifice of future prospects, to do Christlike service here. The stemming of the tide of contagious and infectious



diseases, the cleaning up of whole districts and cities, the treating of wounds of all sorts amid anything but favorable conditions, — and all this in the spirit of love and unselfish devotion, has made an impression that will be of permanent benefit to all classes in the country. Their names deserve a place on the honor roll of the war's heroes and heroines. Whether they elect to remain permanently in the Near East or go back to the homeland, they have done noble service and earned the Master's approval.

### ASSOCIATION NEWS

**ADANA:** A very interesting report comes in from Adana of the work there under the direction of Mr. O. P. Lee. A fuller account will be given in the next issue of THE ORIENT.

**SMYRNA:** One of the most interesting features of the work at Smyrna this year will certainly be the large agricultural camp which Mr. G. C. Stearns is organizing.

**EMERGENCY WORK:** An Emergency Work Executive Committee, composed of Messrs. Harry E. Boyde, W. E. Bristol and E. C. Stevens, has been formed to carry on until further notice. Plans are being made for an extensive summer camp work for orphans, the camps to be run much along the line of the Derindje Camp. Eleven secretaries are expected soon from America to assist in the execution of this programme.

**CONSTANTINOPLE Y.M.C.A.:** The series of lectures on Shipping Law which was interrupted by the holiday season and the illness of some of the lecturers will be resumed on Thursday of this week. There are five lectures remaining in the series, and the lecturers will be Messrs. Djevedjian, Philikos, and Rosasco.

The Bible Discussion Groups meet Sunday evenings at 6:30 in Greek, English, and Armenian. Last Sunday evening there were forty-nine present in the Greek class.

Major Hoover delivered an interesting and helpful address at the Men's Meeting last Sunday. There was an attendance of sixty.

On Friday last a luncheon of the Association Instructors was held at the Constantinople Club. There were sixteen present. The educational programme for the remainder of the season was discussed.

A camera club is now forming.

**RUSSIAN WORK:** Mr. F. A. Gaylord and Mr. J. Brackett Lewis, representing the work of the International Committee of the Y.M.C.A.'s for South Russia, on the 22nd of January last left for Odessa for an interview with Archbishop Platon of the Orthodox Church concerning the distribution of certain supplies expected soon from America.

Reaching Odessa on the 29th they found the Archbishop in despair as to the defence of the city and advising them to leave. They had been scarcely two days in the town when they were asked to take part with some Americans in the evacuation of the city. On February 7th they were obliged to leave with other fugitives and returned to Constantinople

on the U. S. Destroyer "Biddle." Since reaching Constantinople, Mr. Lewis and Mr. M. S. Baker, also of the International Committee, have temporarily been busy aiding the Russian refugees on the Island of Proti, and Mr. Gaylord has been making several addresses concerning the Russian work on various occasions in Constantinople.

**CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE:** The second monthly conference of the Christian Association Workers of Constantinople was held at Red Triangle Club Tuesday, Feb. 24. Mr. C. L. Bates, Executive Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. with the British Expeditionary Forces, presided. Mr. E. C. Stevens led the devotions and Mr. Franklin A. Gaylord gave a masterly address on Causes and Effects in Russia.

This conference which includes the Association workers of the British Y.M.C.A., the American Y.M.C.A., the American Y.W.C.A., the Y.W.C.A. Service Center, and the Constantinople Young Men's Christian Association, is proving a very useful means of promoting fellowship and co-ordinated efforts, and is a source of valuable inspiration.

**PERSONALIA:** Mr. J. Peters has joined the Secretarial Staff of the Constantinople Association.

Dr. C. F. H. Crathern spent the month of January and the early part of February in Marash. He left Adana February seventeenth for Beirut.

Mr. Harry E. Boyde, whose efficient service as Business Manager of Emergency Work of the Y.M.C.A. has been appreciated by a large number of friends in this city and in the various centers where the Emergency Work is being conducted, has consented to remain in Constantinople another year.

**Y.M.C.A. Members' Meeting:** Some 250 members of the Constantinople Y.M.C.A. gathered at the city "Y" to discuss certain features of the Association programme, Monday evening. A tribute was paid to the memory of the late Senior Secretary of the Emergency Work, Mr. James Perry, and to Mr. Frank L. Johnson. Brief addresses were made by Messrs Constantinides, Costikian, Porta, Peters, and Peckar. A resolution was passed in favor of holding a dinner in the near future open to the entire membership.

**Y.M.C.A. Checker and Chess Club:** The Y.M.C.A. team played the Sailors Club a five-board match Monday evening and lost to the sailors by a score of three to two. This is the first defeat that the Y.M.C.A. team has suffered this season.

### FOREIGN EXCHANGE, March 2nd

(Values in paper liras)

Dollar . . . . .	1.17	20 leva . . . . .	0.33
Pound sterling . . . . .	4.07	20 marks . . . . .	0.30
20 francs . . . . .	1.91	20 kronen . . . . .	0.10 <sup>1/4</sup>
20 lire . . . . .	1.47	Gold lira . . . . .	4.97
20 drachmas . . . . .	2.52		



## AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE LEVANT

### DANUBE-RHINE CANAL AND COMMERCE

A discussion of the advantages to be derived from the proposed deep-water canal between the Danube and the Rhine is published by *Die Zeit*, of Vienna, which states that it would be an advantage of great importance if, from the industries of west Germany, products could be shipped by a cheap waterway to the Balkan States and Turkey, while in exchange the agricultural products of the East could be shipped via the Danube and Rhine.

An engineer who urges that the canal work be started at once, estimates the water freight rate from Cologne to the Middle Balkans (2,500 kilometres=1,553 miles) at 8.67 marks (\$2.06) per long ton, and probably even less, while the water rate for that traffic (7,340 kilometres=4,561 miles) was 14 marks (\$3.33) per long ton before the war. *Die Zeit*, in a further explanation of the situation, states:

"It is well known that the greater part of the shipments go up the Danube, while it lacks return freight. This is the principal reason why the Danube is deserted and can in no circumstances be compared with the Rhine. The connection with the Main and the Rhine would doubtless cause a very considerable downstream traffic. While corn, wood, petroleum, etc., could be shipped upstream, coal, iron, chemical products, and other articles could be transported downstream."

### IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF BULGARIA

That on signing the peace treaty Bulgaria's indebtedness to France will probably exceed one billion francs, and that the only way of helping her to pay her debts and restoring her to a normal economic condition, would be to intensify production, is the resumé of a second article in the "France-Europe Orientale" on the economic situation of Bulgaria, written by Professor Athanase Jaranoff of the University of Sofia.

Bulgaria is a new country, and consequently capable of realising rapid development. More than three-fourths of her population are engaged in agriculture, but as the methods employed are very primitive and the means at the laborer's command very scant, the Bulgarian soil yields only half of what it might give. The following table shows the average yield per hectare, before the Balkan wars:—wheat, 10.0 metric quintals, rye, 9.0; meslin, 10.5; barley, 9.0; maize, 10.0; rice, 13.0; beetroot, 170.6; oats, 7.0 metric quintals.

This proves that the Bulgarian production is about half of what most western countries have succeeded in obtaining on a less fertile soil. Prof. Jaranoff states that in order to obtain a larger yield, it is necessary to equip the cultivators, who actually possess on an average only one pair of oxen and

one wooden plough, with better facilities. In 1912, Bulgaria had only 7,776 reaping machines, 1,167 sowers, 1,112 threshing machines and 91,386 sorters, winnowing machines and others. One result is that twice more seeds are thrown than are necessary; and, owing to bad distribution only a half crop is obtained.

Besides the loss of men and beasts of burden Bulgaria has undergone during the war, she lost the largest part of her small stock of modern implements which were in Dobroudja, former Bulgarian territory, now ceded to Roumania. Owing to this combined loss, the productive power of the Bulgarian people has suffered materially. A fertile soil and an industrious population still remain, so that now the chief thing necessary to improve this country's production is modern machinery which will replace men, beasts of burden, and wooden ploughs, by motor power and iron ploughs.

The Agricultural Bank of Bulgaria is now working for this end. Though this institution has a capital of 75,000,000 francs, it actually is in a difficult financial position on account of the low exchange rate of the Bulgarian francs. It is believed that a long-term credit granted to this organization would be the best means of enabling it to make large purchases abroad of agricultural machinery, which will be sold or rented to the population.

## NOTES

### CONSTANTINOPLE

The suit against the editor and proprietor of the Armenian daily *Vertchun Lour* has been quashed.

Sir Adam Block, President of the Administrative Council of the Public Debt, and delegate of the British bondholders left Constantinople Thursday last on a trip to London.

Reshad Hikmet Bey, President of the Chamber of Deputies, died of cancer on Saturday last.

Six new trolley-cars of modern system have arrived from Belgium, and ten more are reported as on the way; they will be put into service during April, according to the local dailies.

The British First Battle Squadron, after a stay of ten days in the Bosphorus, sailed yesterday morning up to the Black Sea and back again, and left the harbor.



The Turkish daily *Vakit* prints an appreciation of the American regime among the Russian refugees in the island of Halki, saying that a democratic system like that in the United States has been put in operation, that bone-dry prohibition is being enforced, and that each refugee is given some work suited to his ability. It states that certain officers had tried to refuse to do the service assigned them, but that the Americans in charge had made them understand that they must carry out their part like all the rest of the refugees.

The mortality report of the Health Bureau for the city of Constantinople for the month of January last shows a total of 2,941 deaths, as compared with 1,415 in December and 1,258 in November. Of the January deaths, 587 are attributed to pneumonia, 235 to tuberculosis, 24 to accidents. There were 61 still-born.

The cistern of the Thousand-and-one Columns is to be lighted by electricity, and to serve as head quarters for the building of the projected new warehouses in Stamboul, according to the local dailies.

The bill prepared for the Ottoman Parliament on the reorganization of the gendarmerie provides for a force of 50,000 men, whose pay shall be the magnificent sum of twenty paper liras per month. It is difficult to see how such men can afford to be honest on so meagre a wage.

The French cruiser "Jurien de la Gravière" arrived in the harbor of Constantinople Wednesday morning last, and was received with a salute of seventeen guns. She brought to this city Cardinal Dubois, Archbishop of Rouen, with his suite.

At the impressive ceremony at the Cathedral of Saint-Esprit last Sunday, more than two thousand pupils of the French Catholic schools of this city were blessed by Cardinal Dubois. His Eminence was accompanied by the French High Commissioner, and the whole staff of the French Embassy and Consulate, as well as by Vice-Admiral de Bon, General Claudel, and many ecclesiastics of the various Catholic communities of the country. The representative of Cardinal Dolci, Mgr. André Cesareno, welcomed the visiting prelate; and at the close of the ceremony the great organ of the Cathedral pealed out the *Marseillaise*. The High Commissioners of Italy and Greece were also present.

In the session of Sunday last the Chamber of Deputies passed the provisional budget, which was sent to the Senate and approved also by that body. On Monday the Chamber decided to ask the minister for foreign affairs to tell what is being done by the Government at this critical time while the London Conference is making decision regarding Turkey. The election of Ahmed Rustem Bey, former Turkish Ambassador to Washington, as deputy for Angora, was confirmed.

The Kourdish chief Sheikh Abdul Kader Effendi, a Senator of the Empire, has given to the press a statement fully upholding Sherif Pasha in his representative character for the Kourds before the Commission in Paris. The Chamber of Deputies in indignation has decided to send the Senate a note asking whether it is true that such a statement was given and saying that in case it is, the Senator ought to be ejected.

### THE NEAR EAST

According to the local papers, Captain Hamdi Effendi, of the Gendarmerie, who had tried to extract a large contribution from the people of Bigha, was killed in the ensuing struggle, with about twenty others. The commission of inquiry sent down there by the Government reports that quiet has been restored. It is known however, according to the papers, that Ahmed Anzavour Bey is still at Bigha, where the Nationalist forces had to destroy 7,000 Mauser rifles to prevent their falling into his hands.

The Armenian Patriarch, the *locum tenens* of the Armenian Catholic patriarchate, and the civil head of the Protestant Armenians have presented to the Allied Powers a new joint note calling their attention to the lack of security for Armenians in various parts of Asia Minor.

The Hellenic Government has restored to Moslems who have chosen Hellenic subjection the properties which had belonged to them, and has decreed an amnesty in favor of Moslems confined in prison for offences committed during the war. It has ordered the incorporation of Moslems in the gendarmerie, and has decided to construct a mosque in Athens, and to bear the expense of building several Moslem schools in Athens and Salonica.

Mr. Venizelos is on his way back from Paris to Athens and it is probable that Mr. Politis will be the one to sign the treaty of peace with Turkey in behalf of Greece.

The building next to the American Hospital at Konia was destroyed by fire three weeks ago. By heroic efforts the hospital was saved, though some damage was done, espe-



cially to the furnishings. The saving of the hospital was fortunate but the loss of the other building was unfortunate. Anyhow, it was on Friday the 13th.

### OTHER LANDS

News comes from Washington of the death of Rear-Admiral Robert E. Peary, the discoverer of the North Pole. His interest in Arctic exploration began over thirty years ago, and he made at least nine voyages to the far north. It was on April 6th, 1909, that he finally reached the Pole, for which feat he was awarded gold medals by seven different geographical societies. He was born in 1856.

Mr. Robert Lansing, Secretary of State, has resigned, and Mr. Bainbridge Colby of New York has been appointed to take his place. The strangely arbitrary act of the President in thus practically dismissing the Secretary of State seems to indicate that he has not entirely recovered from his illness; for it is not normal to him to act in such a way. The Cabinet has undergone several changes since the armistice. Mr. McAdoo resigned from the Treasury portfolio Dec. 16, 1918; Mr. Gregory from the Attorney-Generalship Feb. 27, 1919; Mr. Redfield from the Department of Commerce Dec. 2, 1919; Mr. Carter Glass from the Treasury Jan. 27, 1920, when he was replaced by Mr. Houston, Secretary of Agriculture, who was succeeded by Mr. Meredith; and Secretary Lane of the Interior resigned Feb. 8th, his resignation going into effect March 1st. Of the original members of President Wilson's cabinet, only four now remain.

Many restrictions as to food consumption have been put in force in Italy, among which are two meatless days per week.

A writer in our esteemed contemporary the *Congregationalist* tells of having attended a prayer meeting in the American Board rooms in Boston, where "Dr. Mc Callum of our International College in Syria" read the Scriptures. Who will volunteer to go to benighted Boston and start a class in missionary geography?

The General Council of the Red Cross met yesterday at Geneva, the representatives of 27 national organizations were expected to participate in the deliberations.

The administrative committee of the Federal Council of Churches in America has taken action requesting all the churches they represent to set aside Sunday November 28th, 1920, as Universal Bible Sunday. This resolution is connected with the special tercentenary celebration of the landing of the Pilgrims, and is arranged for the Sunday following

Thanksgiving Day, as being a time especially appropriate in view of the fact that the men and women who came to the New World seeking religious freedom brought with them the open Bible, and that this national festival is in part a commemoration of those early days. The American Bible Society is preparing appropriate literature on the subject, and will furnish it to applicants well in advance of the date named.

### PERSONAL

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Flint, of Syracuse, N. Y., who for the past two years have been engaged in welfare work among the American troops in France and England, have come to Constantinople, to remain for some weeks. Mr. Flint is helping in the office of Treasurer Peet, while Mrs. Flint is working at the American Sailor's Rest House.

BORN: to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Anderson of Robert College, on Tuesday, Feb. 24th, a daughter, Lelia Isabelle.

The American steamer "Black Arrow" sailed for New York from Constantinople on Sunday last. Among the passengers were Mr. Charles F. Ranney, who since March last has been cashier in the treasurer's office of Dr. Peet at the Bible House; also Mr. and Mrs. J. Clyde Ryan, of the Near East Relief unit at Trebizond, Messrs. T. W. Farnsworth, J. M. Phillips, Dr. W. W. Fuller and Capt. M. Husik of the Relief Committee and Miss Marcia Dunham, who is connected with the Russian work of the Y. W. C. A.

Mr. E. E. Hadley and Miss Marguerite Feys, of the Relief Committee, who have been stationed in Tiflis, were married on Feb. 10th, and are on their way back to America.

Drs. Fremont Smith and Howard Marvin of the Near East Relief, are returning to America by way of India.

Dr. Lorrin Shepard of Aintab was at last accounts starting back there with a lot of supplies from Aleppo.

Major Davis G. Arnold, who has been Managing Director of the Near East Relief since last July, expects to leave Constantinople on Friday next by Paquet steamer, returning to America via Paris and London. His place in the direction of the Relief Committee is being taken by Colonel Coombs.

Miss Mary D. Uline, of the American Mission at Bitlis, is in Strasbourg, France, in charge of the organization and maintenance of a foyer of the Y.W.C.A.



Rev. W. Nesbitt Chambers, D.D., of Adana, arrived last Friday in Constantinople for a brief stay.

Rev. Lewis T. Reed, D. D., who from 1893 to 1896 was an instructor in Robert College, has been elected as secretary of the Pilgrim Memorial Fund and also of the Annuity Fund, of the Congregational churches of America, and has been given a six months' leave of absence from his pastorate to act in this capacity. Since 1907 he has been pastor of the Flatbush Congregational Church of Brooklyn, having served as pastor previously at Cummington, Mass., and Canandaigua, N. Y.

The following names should have been in the honor roll given in our first number in December, of those who have died who were formerly connected with missionary work in this land: — Mrs. L. T. Burbank, died Oct. 29, 1918, at Bitlis from 1860 to 1871; Mrs F. E. Garner (Miss Flavia Bliss), March 2, 1919, at Sivas from 1868 to 1879; Rev. Lewis Bond, Jr., Sept. 7, 1919, at Eski Zagra and Monastr from 1868 to 1904. And now comes the intelligence of the death of Miss Adelaide L. Mason, on Dec. 21st, in Newton, Mass., she was from 1860 to 1865 connected with the A. B. C. F. M. mission in Sidon, Syria.

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