

The Orient.

July 13, 1910

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE

No. 13

THE OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT.

113th Session (June 14). A bill to reduce letter postage on the railways from 40 paras to 20 paras (2 cents) was forwarded to the Committee, and a report with reference to the division of certain crown lands among farmers was referred to the Ministry of Finance. The budget of the Ministry of Public Works was taken up again. Sections 4, 8, 9, and 10 were returned to the Committee and sections 5, 6, and 7 (47,460 liras for roads, 2510 liras for equipment, and 12,379 liras for miscellaneous expenses) were passed. The amount asked for army buildings was also voted together with the first section of the budget of the Gendarmery.

114th Session (June 15). The order of the day was the budget of the Gendarmery. The proposition to add 60 liras to the travelling expenses allowance of officers was stoutly opposed but finally accepted. In the afternoon Zohrab Effendi as chairman of the Committee on naval budget emphasized the importance of a naval force and urged accepting the proposed budget without change. The Grand Vizier, as acting Minister of Marine, laid stress on the same point and that for the present by the expenditure of five million liras the defects of their small navy could be remedied.

115th Session (June 16). A proposition to send relief to the sufferers from flood in Erzroom was referred to the Ministry of the Interior. Then the minister of war, Shefket Pasha, spoke on the importance of the army and, after presenting its needs, he appealed to the patriotism of the Deputies and requested them to vote the ordinary military budget of 9 1/2 million liras and extraordinary of 4,780,000 liras, sums which he regarded as reasonable for the maintenance of an army of 274,000 men. He said that neighboring nations enrolled for service 10 out every 100 of the population. If Turkey followed the same rule the Ottoman army would number three million men. The speech of the Minister was loudly applauded and the Military budget was as a whole accepted. In the afternoon the whole of the naval budget was also passed. Pensions were granted to the sons of the former Commander-in-chief of the Army, Abdul Kerim Pasha. Sections 7, 8, 9 of the Ministry of Public Works were passed.

116th Session (June 18). The Monopolies bill as amended by the Senate and several reports were forwarded to Committees. Discussion of the budget of the Ministry of Public Works was resumed. The amount asked for the building of roads was 946,000 liras. The terms of the contracts seemed severe and unfavorable to Ottoman contractors, but the Minister's speech in defense was warmly applauded. In the afternoon the discussion was continued but was interrupted by

the Minister of Foreign Affairs who said, in substance, "During my recent journey to London, Paris, and Vienna I had some important interviews on various matters and among them on the Cretan question. I learned that all the Powers have resolved to maintain Turkey's sovereign rights in Crete and rigorously enforce the requirements in case the islanders should refuse to take Moslem Deputies without the oath of allegiance to the Greek King. The Powers are in no hurry to settle the question, but they give assurance that when they do the final settlement will be favorable to Ottoman interests. The rumor is absolutely false that England does not accept our point of view or that she is opposed to us. England is our friend and has been more friendly than ever since the Constitution was proclaimed, and to misrepresent her attitude is wrong." The Minister's declarations were heartily applauded. The discussion on the roads was again resumed but left unfinished.

117th Session (June 19). The order of the day was the final discussion of the Military budget. Mahmoud Shefket Pasha expressed his thanks for the favorable attitude of the Chamber toward the budget and gave some additional information. He said that by reason of the poverty in the country he asked the Committee to reduce the ordinary budget to 9 million liras. That is to say the budget for this year was 720,000 liras more than last year, but by reason of certain provisions made, the actual excess was only 114,000 liras. Servia, who increased her military budget from 27 to 30 million francs has a budget of 150 million francs: our budget is 600 million francs. That is to say Servia's budget which is one sixth of our budget has been increased by 2 1/2 million francs. With God's help, the Minister said, our financial condition will be improved next year and we will make an increase of 3 1/2 million liras, not francs. He expressed the hope that in three years absolute peace would be established throughout the Ottoman Empire, and that, if neighboring Powers do not increase their fighting strength, the ordinary military budget would be decreased six percent. As to the extraordinary budget of 4,800,000 liras, this is for arming soldiers in time of war, a precautionary budget, which he would not make use of to day but within three years. The needs of an army cannot be filled in a day. After the Minister had explained in detail the uses to which the money required would be put, the 43 sections of the military budget were voted one by one and then the budget as a whole was passed.

118th Session (June 20). Among the propositions referred to Committees was one that telegraphic despatches to newspapers be accepted at half the usual rates, and another that certain severe features of the Press Law be modified. The

desire was expressed to interpolate the Ministry of Marine as to why, in the undertaking of a public subscription for the navy, a certain document sent from the Chamber had not been made use of in time there by causing a loss of 50,000 liras. The Grand Vizier replied that as the new Minister of Marine had only been two days in office such an interpolation would not be justified, moreover the letter addressed to himself on this matter he had already placed in competent hands and that it was necessary to await the result of the investigation. The 9th and 10th sections of the budget of the Ministry of Public works. The Grand Vizier took up the matter of the leaders under the old regime. He said that these men had been expelled from office at the time that liberty was proclaimed. They requested pensions. The law was on their side and the council of Ministers had given a decision favorable to them. They should be treated justly and magnanimously. This declaration aroused considerable indignation. It was decided to appoint a special committee to investigate the facts with reference to these old time leaders so as to distinguish between the worthy the unworthy, and those in actual want. It is not fair to pay over public money to scoundrels who have enriched themselves while some worthy and innocent men who have been turned out of office receive nothing, among others Mourad Bey, the editor of *Mizan*. These observations increased the tumult and disorder, and, although, many wished to speak, the session was adjourned.

EDITORIAL.

THE EDINBURGH CONFERENCE.

On Friday, June 17, Bishop Gore submitted the report on education in relation to the Christianisation of the national life, and he did so in a manner that commended itself to all. The fruits of progress in Mission fields he claimed as due to "the incomparable value of Christian education." It was interesting to hear this noted controversialist denounce the folly of teaching the native evangelists and teachers of India the 39 Articles and the Westminster Confession of Faith—documents which breathe the spirit of controversy and not of Christian love. The closing words of the address of Sir Andrew Fraser were applauded to the echo—"No part of the work must be abandoned".

Rev. Stephen Thomas of Delhi laid emphasis on the frank avowal of the Christian faith. He cited a striking instance of cooperation between the Baptist and Anglican Missions. They cooperated in educating a man—the Anglicans taught him a secular education and the Baptists religion—and the result was that he was now the foremost Oriental scholar in India. Dr. R. C. King warned the Conference against taking a child out of his home and sending him to school. "Keep the home intact" was the burden of his speech. Prof. Sadler of Manchester was introduced as "the greatest living authority on the science of education." His address was very impressive. He demonstrated that Christianity to be ac-

cepted by the Chinese must appeal to the intellect, and added that the problem was for the Church to discover how to knit the intellectual training to the spiritual training and both to industrial training.

When the Hon. W. Jennings Bryan of Lincoln, Nebraska rose to speak there was a hush of expectation. He is regarded as the best orator in the United States and on this occasion fully justified his reputation. In seven minutes he made clear what Christian education meant. He found that on the mission field Christian Education (1) cost little, (2) was the foundation of all moral progress, and (3) the proof was that Christians did not fear the light of reason or the force of knowledge. "They speak of the 'yellow peril' (the predominance of the Mongols), cried Mr. Bryan with gleaming eyes; "the only yellow peril I know is the lust of gold." In the evening of that day the three large meetings were held as usual but the of interest was the Hall where Mr. Bryan was to speak. No speaker ever faced a similar audience in that place. The vast assembly hall was packed from floor to ceiling and as Mr. Bryan stood up to speak men of every race, Bishops and clergymen of all creeds, men and women of every class hung on his lips. He began by saying that personally he owed every thing to Christianity—a debt which he could never pay. Quoting Lincoln he asked his hearers to dedicate themselves to an unfinished work—that of winning the world for Jesus Christ. He outlined the twelve fruits of Christianity. These he expounded with masterly power and dwelt on the belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Not because of any writing or miracle, but because of the fruits that grew from it did that conception capture the heart. Hitherto man had sacrificed the world to his pleasure or ambition: now arose the conception that enabled a man to sacrifice himself to the advancement of the world. All that demanded the conception of the Incarnation. Love was the choicest fruit and forgiveness the best of love, and service the measure of greatness." As the orator piled argument on argument the conviction grew that the claim of Christianity to be a world religion was unchallengeable. Buddhism said of the world "Let it be annihilated;" Christianity said "Let it be transfigured with the glory of God."

On Saturday the subject was the relation of Christianity to non-Christian peoples. All who spoke on Animistic religions made clear what Christianity means to animistic tribes—it breaks for them the spell of terros, and introduces them to a life which is a jubilee of liberty and joy. The problem of Chinese religions was shown to be extremely difficult. For 5000 years ancestor worship has outlived all other changes, and Christianity when it demands that a man surrender that form of worship, it demands that he become an outlaw from his nation. A Chinese, in flowing garments, urged the necessity of Christianity becoming more and more indigenous by making its converts study their own language and literature. The speakers made it clear how "the whole confused world of Chinese religion is being shot through and through with broken lights of a hidden sun which is coming forth in splendor to run a new race in the heavens." When the subject of

Hinduism was taken up a venerable Hindu, the Rev. Dr. K. Chatterji, made the Conference realize the great harm done to the cause of Christ by cruel representations of the doctrine of the atonement, and how grievous a hindrance it is when missionaries do not possess the brain power or the vision which will enable them to appreciate the inner meaning of the religion they labor to supplant. Another speaker advised the missionaries to build on the beliefs which they actually found in the lives of the people and not on the beliefs which they supposed them to possess. At the principal meeting of the evening Lord Balfour presided and the chief speaker was the Bishop of York, Dr. Lang. He spoke on the duty of Christian people to non-christian nations. Three principles were laid down by him; (1) the duty of a Christian nation is to make the basis of its policy not its own advantage, but the good of the non-christian nation, (2) it is perilous to bestow the benefits of material civilization on a nation without also strengthening its moral and spiritual forces, and (3) it is the duty of a christian nation, in view of its responsibilities, to maintain its own allegiance to Christian principles at home.

COMMENCEMENT WEEK AT SAMOKOV.

The closing exercises of the Mission Schools at Samokov took place during the week beginning June 26th. In view of the fact that this is the jubilee year of the Collegiate and Theological Institute, a special program had been arranged and a special invitation to be present was sent to all former students and teachers now residing in Bulgaria and European Turkey.

Sunday, June 27th, the baccalaureate sermon was preached by the principal of the Institute, Rev. L. F. Ostrander, who took as his theme "Our Duty to God," from the text Micah 6 8, "What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Monday evening the music class of the Girls' Boarding School, under the direction of their teacher, Mrs. Spaska Dimchevski, gave a successful Beethoven concert which was much enjoyed by an audience that taxed the capacity of the large assembly room of the boys' school to the utmost.

Tuesday afternoon there were displayed drawings, paintings, maps, etc., and products of the carpentry shop and printing office, prepared by the students during the year; and the industrial department was opened for inspection. This was followed by an exhibition of gymnastic drills and feats of strength and skill given by the athletic society of the Institute which caused no little astonishment among the spectators by its excellence and called forth their hearty applause.

This year's commencement exercises were also of special interest because of the fact that, for the first time, there were graduates who had completed the full seven years' course of the national gymnasiums. The class consisted of seven members, to five of whom a certificate of maturity, or of preparation for university study, was given. The exercises were held in the evangelical church, which proved too small for all who wished to attend; and the crowded audience followed with the

greatest interest and approval the long program, which lasted about three hours. The essays and orations of the graduates were well prepared and well delivered, and made a strong impression because of the spirit of optimism and faith which they displayed in contradistinction to that of pessimism, skepticism and materialism which is at present so rife among the youth of the country. Rev. Robert Thomson, president of the Board of Trustees, gave a brief historical sketch of the Institute, showing an enrollment of 87 in the scientific course, a teaching body of 13, four school buildings, and, in general, a healthy and vigorous life in all departments. After the presentation of the diplomas, interesting and inspiring remarks were made by the trustees representing the Bulgarian Evangelical Society, Rev. John M. Tsakoff and Mr. Vulco J. Shopoff, both of them graduates of the school. In closing the general feeling of satisfaction and thanksgiving was well expressed in the hearty singing of the doxology.

Wednesday, at noon, a company of 65, teachers, graduates and wives, sat down to a reunion dinner, the good cheer and comradeship of which was followed by informal remarks from a number of speakers. Letters and telegrams from absent friends were read, and telegrams were sent to King Ferdinand, Queen Eleanora the Minister of Public Instruction and the Board in Boston. Suggestions and appeals were also made for improving the material condition of the Institute during its new half century.

The closing feature of the series of exercises was the musical and literary entertainment given Wednesday evening by the Girls' School, and followed by an earnest address by Trustee Shopoff. These were again listened to by a select audience that filled the church to overflowing.

Beautiful summer weather greatly added to the enjoyment of the week, and at the close of the exercises guests and students scattered feeling that it had been an enjoyable and satisfactory celebration of the Jubilee, to which they would long look back with pleasure.

Samokov, July 4, 1910.

The Closing Exercises of The Armenian School for Girls, June 28/10.

Translation from the Turkish paper

ارتغرل (ERTOGRUL) BROUSA.

This school, which has for many years sent out enlightened mothers into our land, held its closing exercises yesterday. The school has now given through Brousa to our country nine more enlightened and educated girls to fill its great need.

The program was one of real interest. The Constitution March, played by Miss Altounian one of this year's graduates, was listened to most attentively by the whole audience. It aroused in all hearts a feeling of sincere veneration for His Sacred Majesty the kind father of all Osmanly subjects. The march was greeted with enthusiastic applause. There followed a Song of Liberty, sung in English by the school. This song

which two years ago it would have been impossible for the young girls to sing, was heard with deep feeling. After it had received its merited applause Mr. Martin, with his usual eloquence, made a fine address on Womanliness. To deepen the impression left by the address, Miss Sarafian played a selection on the piano. This was also loudly applauded.

Mr. Riggs, an American preacher, in a religious address then held the attention of the audience. He delivered a long useful, very learned and masterly speech on "Union and Progress." This was followed by a song by the whole school.

Then Mouhayeddin Beha Bey's speech on "Knowledge and Virtue," addressed first to that honored lady, Miss Powers, and then to the School, expressed the gratitude of the whole audience. This was followed by a trio on the piano, violin and mandolin, by Miss Altounian, Miss Sarafian and Miss Shahangirian.

Now we come to the most important, edifying and touching part of the program. Although we could not understand English we were deeply impressed by the dignified, helpful and commanding address of Miss Powers, the principal of the school, giving her final words of counsel to the young ladies about to receive their diplomas. This honored lady who has spent forty two years of her life in the cause of education has been most earnest in the training of girls for the advancement of our country. Our warmest thanks are not enough to express to her our appreciation of the service she, an American, has rendered our land. We count it our privilege to express, in the name of our country, our gratitude to this noble lady, who is soon to return to America.

Miss Powers' address was followed by the Parting Song of the graduates. The program was concluded by an earnest prayer in Turkish by Mr. Riggs.

HAKKI BEY.

EMPIRE NEWS.

The Capital.

The bill passed by Parliament on the Orthodox Churches in Macedonia was ratified by His Majesty the Sultan. Several meetings were held in the Greek Patriarchate and a memorandum presented to His Majesty and the Grand Vezir petitioning the Government not to put the law into force. A Greek contemporary points out as precedent the Alcohol law passed by the Parliament last year and ratified by His Majesty but not applied by the Government as impractical.

The Concil of Ministers will meet only on Thursdays during the months of July and August. It has also been decided to close all Government offices on Sundays during those months.

The body of Capt. Ali Kabuli the naval officer killed on March 31 last year by Reactionaries, was transferred to the Hill of Liberty last week and interred there. One of his murderers has just been arrested in Rizé and brought to Constantinople for trial before the Court Martial.

Sahib Molla Effendi, a former Sheikh-ul-Islam, died last week at the age of 73.

The boycott against Hellenic goods continues with vigor in spite of two official proclamations issued by the Minister of the Interior to the effect that the Government considers the movement useless and injurious.

The Police have discovered a Secret Society organized by former creatures of the Yildiz, with headquarters in Paris. The purpose of the Society it is believed was to upset the present regime. More than 30 arrests have been made.

THE PROVINCES.

Taliat Bey the Minister of the Interior will soon start on his tour of the Anatolian provinces. He intends to study the condition of affairs especially in the vilayets of Eezroom, Van and Bitlis.

Official telegrams state that the Albanian situation continues to be satisfactory. An attack on the Commander in Chief of the forces, Gen. Torgood Pasha, was repulsed.

Rain storms in the districts of Kemakh, Keghi and Malatia are reported to have damaged the crops seriously.

PERSONALS.

There comes from Samokov the sad news of the death John Holley Ostrander, infant son of Rev. and Mrs. L. F. Ostrander, on Wednesday, July 6th, after an illness of two days with Pnevmonia.

Rev. and Mrs. Ostrander leave for America on July 11th.

THE ORIENT

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مدیر مسئول صموئیل ق. ہاروتیونیان