

The Orient.

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THE WAR IN EUROPE.

Very likely we know but little of the actual carnage taking place in the various theatres of the war. For actions that in any previous campaign would have been regarded as battles of great magnitude, in the present conflict are represented as mere skirmishes, and are hardly noted. The continuous fighting that has gone on in France, in Belgium, in East Prussia and Galicia has carried off thousands of gallant men, yet the world is still waiting for the big battles that are supposed to be decisive.

In France, the backward movement of the Germans has been less marked, yet the Allies have made progress. The French left wing appears to be about fifty miles north of Paris, on a line from Resson-sur-Mats to Ribécourt, between Compiègne and Noyon. Thence the allied forces seem to hold a line due east to Craonne, northwest of Rheims, and thence to Rheims itself, which was reoccupied last week by the French. Here the Germans have been bombarding the town. The German telegram says: "As we were obliged to reply to the fire of the enemy, we regret that this city has had to suffer. Instructions have been given to spare the cathedral as far as possible." The French telegram in the paper of the same date says: "Without being able to plead even the appearance of military necessity, and for the mere pleasure of destroying, the German troops have submitted the Cathedral of Rheims to a systematic and furious bombardment. At this moment the famous Basilica is only a mass of ruins." We believe the truth may lie somewhere between these two despatches.

To the east of Rheims, the army of the Crown Prince has still further retired, to the region of Spincourt, northeast of Verdun, about half way to the Luxemburg boundary. The Germans are still bombarding Verdun, which is a very strong fortress. On the extreme east, the German army occupies positions on the German frontier and along the summits of the Vosges Mountains. British despatches say the Germans have retired beyond their own frontier at Avricourt.

In Belgium, African and Russian troops are reported as disembarking for the help of Antwerp. This city has again been attacked by the Germans, who later retired to Termonde. Bombs are being dropped by aeroplanes on the city also.

Over on the eastern seat of war, where the Germans have been pushing back the Russians, the German official despatch announced on September 16th that not a Russian now remained on German territory. Gen. von Hindenburg

has even been pursuing the Russians into the province of Suwalki, which has been placed under German government. A brigade of Finns is reported to have been completely defeated at Augustowo, in Russian territory opposite Lyck. Large numbers of Russians are reported as prisoners.

In the struggle between the Russians and the Austrians, the former have steadily advanced, and after taking Grodek on the 15th, captured Sambor and Seniawa on the 19th. The Austrians have retired on Yaroslaw and Przemysl, which are fortresses on the San River, about sixty miles west of Lemberg. The Austrian official telegram as to this reads: "Our troops, after five days desperate battles, in which we made 10,000 prisoners and captured about 300 cannon, retired before a very much more numerous enemy, to a more favorable position so as to prepare for new movements." The Russians are now bombarding Yaroslaw and have besieged Przemysl. The Germans tried to send part of the Saxon army to the help of the Austrians, but this force was met and defeated by the Russians with a loss, as stated by the Russians, of 5,000 prisoners and 36 cannon.

The Servians have been invading Bosnia with the Montenegrins, this past fortnight, and seem to have won considerable victories. They had previously taken Vishegrad, and have now advanced to Rogatitsa and Prohetka, in the direction of Seraievo. The Austrians are preparing a stubborn resistance at that point. There was a counter-attempt by the Austrians to cross the Drina river into Servia, which the Servians claim was repulsed with a loss to the Austrians of 10,000 men.

Among those reported wounded in the various fights this past week were the Bulgarian General Dimitrieff, who had volunteered in the Russian army; Prince Frederick Charles of Hesse, and Prince George of Servia.

Both Germany and England have successfully floated large internal loans, this week, and each one prides itself on the financial situation of the country in spite of war conditions.

The British Embassy announces that on September 14th the British auxiliary cruiser "Carmania" sunk the German armed merchant cruiser "Cap Trafalgar" off the east coast of South America; also that on the same day the British gunboat "Dwarf" captured a German merchant steamer which had tried to sink it, and on the 16th was itself rammed by the German steamer "Nachtigall," but only slightly damaged, while the German boat was wrecked.

The Australian navy has captured the German colony of New Guinea; there is also news of the sinking of a British submarine in those waters.

THE CITY OF ERZROUM.

Because of its proximity to the Russian frontier, Erzroum has ever since the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-78 been regarded as the key to the Ottoman positions of defence. It is the capital of the province of the same name, and is about 180 miles southeast of its port of Trebizond. As it is so important a military post, a very good carriage road has been built from the seacoast up to the city, which lies on a plateau 6,250 feet high. The population of the city is not far from 60,000, although at one time it was reckoned at 140,000. In spite of the altitude, which makes the winters long and severe, the climate is healthy, and it is an important trade centre.

The name Erz-roum means field or land of the Roum, or Roman, the first part of the word recalling the Hebrew word *eret*, earth, and the second syllable, connected with Roumelia, reminds one that the Eastern Roman Empire, with its centre at Constantinople, held sway over all this region as well. In the time of the Emperor Theodosius, the city was called Theodosiopolis, but the ancient Armenian name, which the Armenians still use, is Garin.

Erzroum has several times been occupied by the Russians and the Russian frontier is only about forty-five miles from the city. The town has suffered much from siege and famine, and many of its people have at various times emigrated either to Russia or to America or elsewhere.

Missionary work was begun in Erzroum by the American Board in 1839, and September 11th celebrated the 75th anniversary of the arrival of Rev. William C. Jackson and family. Two years earlier Rev. T. P. Johnson had gone there on a tour of investigation; and still earlier Messrs. Smith and Dwight, and Rev. Justin Perkins had visited the place. Mr. Smith writes in 1832 of the second visit of himself and Mr. Dwight to the city:—"Of all its former Christian population there remained only 120 Armenian and 48 Papal Armenian families, the latter having recently moved in from other places; of its former 6,000 shops 3,000 were now shut." This desolation was caused by the Russo-Turkish war of 1828-1829; and Mr. Smith added: "It will not always remain in its present state. We doubt not that an Armenian population will again assemble here; and then it may be made an important centre for missionary operations." There are now nearly or quite 20,000 Armenians there.

When Mr. Jackson went there in 1839, he reported a total population of about 30,000, of whom 3,000 to 3,500 were Armenian, with as many more in the villages within a day's journey of the city. From the very start of his residence there, the Armenian bishop violently opposed him, publicly cursing him and his work, and forbidding all intercourse with him. A priest who had shown some evangelical tendencies was bastinadoed without trial; and all books found with Armenians were burned. The Armenians petitioned the Government to remove the Americans. Persecution continued, and the Protestants grew in numbers till in 1846 there were 50 of them. The missionary's house was broken into,

and great damage done; but the Government interfered and compelled the Gregorian community to pay a heavy fine for this act. In 1848 the church was organized, with five members. The list of early Erzroum missionaries includes the names of Dr. Azariah Smith, Revs. I. G. Bliss, Peabody, Sanford Richardson, Dunmore, Trowbridge, Pettibone, Winchester, Pollard, and Dr. and Mrs. Parmelee. The Crimean War caused the temporary withdrawal of the missionaries, and again in 1861 after a terrible earthquake that killed 400 persons and destroyed 2,000 houses, the station was left without a missionary for a year or more.

A new and more prosperous era for Erzroum began in 1868 when Messrs. Cole and Pierce arrived with Miss Van Duzee. The latter opened a school for girls and a training class of a dozen young men was started. Miss Patrick, now President of the College for Girls at Constantinople, arrived in 1871. During the Russo-Turkish war of 1877 and 1878 the disinterested work of the missionaries made a great impression on the people. Miss Nicholson, indeed, laid down her life for them, for she contracted typhus fever while nursing the sick, and died there, in 1878. The brothers Chambers, Miss Powers and Miss Brooks arrived soon after the war; and the work was still further developed, with outstations both in Russian territory and in Turkish, till in 1890 there were 31 outstations, 257 church members, 2,818 adherents, and 515 pupils in the schools of the station. The Gregorian community had also been greatly leavened by the gospel influence, and the large Sanasarian school had been started.

Today the work at Erzroum is strong and encouraging. Sunday school work is especially encouraging. The mission has High Schools for both boys and girls; there are 180 in the girls' school and 85 in the boys', according to last year's figures. Unfortunately Miss Sherman, who was in charge of the former, had to go to Beirut this summer for surgical treatment, and has not been able to return to her field, thus necessitating the postponing of the reopening of the girls' school.

CONSTANTINOPLE COLLEGE.

The clash of armies and the crumbling of empires seem powerless to interrupt the work of our colleges. Constantinople College opened regularly on the morning of September 16th, with an almost normal number of students. The difficulties of travel caused by the war have prevented some of the Faculty from appearing on time from America or Europe; but their places have been filled by those here who could give temporary help. All the activities of College life are being carried on with calmness and cheer in spite of the daily news which seems to show the world breaking up about us. Professor van Millingen held the chapel service on Sunday, and by his inspiring words lifted our thoughts to the good that might be wrought by even the most terrible events of life.

I. F. D.

ROBERT COLLEGE NOTES.

The opening of the new college year has given us every reason for encouragement in these otherwise darksome days. Our doors were open to the student body at the time appointed, and no serious obstacle has yet presented itself to the complete realization of the plans for this academic year.

The present enrollment of students numbers 330 as against 550 at this time last year. This falling off in attendance was to be expected, and has proved rather less than most of us feared. The great difficulty of procuring gold and means of transportation together with the unparalleled business depression everywhere in the Levant, makes our numbers surprisingly large. Boys are still on their way to the college, and many more, no doubt, are awaiting a favorable opportunity to start.

The teaching force is greatly weakened at present, but within a fortnight probably all of our teachers will be with us. At present Prof. and Mrs. Lewis and Prof. Estes are in Egypt where they were obliged to go from Naples in order to get passage for Constantinople. Prof. Fisher and Mr. French have wired from Marseilles indicating that they have succeeded in crossing France. Mrs. French and the children have sailed for America, but Mrs. Fisher is expected to return with her husband. Mr. Bredberg, a new American tutor, has also wired from Marseilles, and Herr Kunick from Italy. Prof. Emmanuel has been heard from at Patras and is expected in a day or two. The five new men who were advised by the trustees not to leave America, have now been permitted to do so and are probably on their way across the Atlantic. Unless some unforeseen hindrance is in their way, all will arrive in a short time, and, considering the comparatively small attendance of students, will prove more than enough to swing the class work of the year.

The serious illness of Fikret Bey, chairman of the Turkish department, has given us great concern during the summer. A bad case of diabetes dangerously complicated with pneumonia for a while led us to despair of his recovery. It is a relief to know that his robust constitution has been able to throw off the pneumonia, thus making his recovery a possibility. Nevertheless his condition is still very critical. His rare powers of mind and the vast influence of his thought and writing among the younger generation of Ottomans has made his service to the College invaluable. The host of his friends and associates who have enjoyed his stimulating fellowship at the College are with him at this time in thought and hope.

Of one irreparable loss, however, we are sure, and that is of such a nature as to make all our other difficulties seem small indeed. Prof. Panaretoff has resigned. There can be but one opinion among all who have known him as to the honor conferred upon him by his government in naming him the first minister to represent the Bulgarian state at Washington. No more fitting tribute could have been paid him by the nation he has so simply but effectively served as a sane, fearless, honest intellectual guide; and no citizen of

the Bulgarian state is more eminently fitted to discharge the duties of this significant mission. With all our hearts we congratulate both him and the country that honors him and is honored by him.

In spite, however, of our pride and happiness in this rare good fortune of two of our members whom we have long loved among the first, there comes over us a lingering sadness in the thought that in the next few weeks we must take leave of Prof. and Mrs. Panaretoff, at least for many years — perhaps, forever. But let us not anticipate. Let us rejoice in the little time they may still be spared us, and put off our leave-taking till it must come.

E. B. W.

MR. BUXTON AND THE TURKISH PRESS.

The *Tanin* of Thursday last says: —

The latest news has all of a sudden attracted attention to the journey of Mr. Buxton. In reality we do not think this English tourist is of sufficient importance to attract general attention. But since the affairs that occupy him are evidently very important from the Balkan point of view, we think it may be useful, at a time when his journey becomes more difficult, if we follow the adventurous trip of this man, who is tracing a zigzag line from London to Bucharest! This time also, Mr. Buxton has begun at Athens to meddle in Balkan affairs, as he does from time to time, so as to give himself some importance. Coming from London to the Hellenic capital, he had a long interview with Mr. Venizelos. Then he boarded a torpedo-boat, placed at his disposition by the Hellenic Government, and went direct to Salonica and thence to Nish.

As for the results of his conversations in Athens and Nish, we judge of them from the offers which he made during his third stop. Advices from Sofia indicate that the President of the Balkan Committee promised, in the name of the British Government, the giving back of Adrianople and Thrace to Bulgaria, on condition of the formation of a new Balkan Alliance.

On our part we are convinced that the fanatic Buxton can make no proposition favorable to the Turks. We are therefore not surprised at his offers, made in the name of a whimsical committee. One must receive with caution the statement that the proposition was made in the name of the British Government. It is true that the presence of the British Minister, who introduced Mr. Buxton to Premier Radoslavoff, seems remarkable; still we accept the view that the Minister was merely showing courtesy to the traveler, and that England cherishes no hostile intention toward Turkey.

Has Mr. Buxton succeeded in his efforts? To this question we can unhesitatingly give a negative reply. It is clear that the resuscitation of the Alliance depends on the agreement of Bulgaria. Yet all efforts to turn the eyes of Bulgaria away from Macedonia so as to fix them on Adrianople are doomed to failure. We learn that Mr. Buxton has

also offered some rectification of the Macedonian frontier line; but such rectification can evidently not satisfy Bulgaria.

And now Mr. Buxton is hobnobbing with the Bucharest circles. Who knows what promises he makes there? We doubt whether he will find Bucharest any more propitious to that sort of thing. So that the idea of reconstructing the Balkan Alliance will not have long to live.

Whatever happens, this journey is worth following, for it proves what we have held from the very start: namely, that any efforts to rejuvenate the Balkan Alliance will not succeed if they are linked with foreign influences that wish to make the Balkans the instrument for their own political designs.

On the same topic the *Tasfiri Efkiar* writes —

The mere names of Noel Buxton and of the Balkan Committee are enough to spell hostility to Turkey. Besides, telegrams come indicating that the President of this Committee is trying to reconstitute the Balkan League and to persuade the Bulgarians to this. Thrace is said to be among the gifts of tomorrow promised to Bulgaria. If all the gifts are of the same sort, Buxton will be taken for a lunatic in Sofia. The Bulgarians know well enough that Thrace cannot be ceded. It may only be reconquered. The canny Bulgarians know very well what importance to attach to promises made on the basis of the possible success of the Triple Entente. Besides, the fate of the first Balkan Alliance makes it certain that no logical diplomat will look favorably on an effort to renew it. In fine, Noel Buxton, who is a black fanatic and also wants to concoct intrigues for the Triple Entente, and is now taking a trip through the Balkans with this object, is going to useless trouble.

NAVY DAY AT HALKI.

Last Thursday was a gala day at Halki, for two great events were combined to bring thither the Sovereign and a great host of the populace. It was the first appearance of the newly-acquired naval units "Yavouz Sultan Selim" and "Midilli," formerly the "Goeben" and "Breslau," in a naval review; and His Majesty the Sultan was there to see these ships. And later there were the closing exercises of the Naval Academy at Halki, His Majesty presiding in person. In ideal weather, all went off as smoothly as possible, to the great satisfaction of those in charge of the arrangements.

The imperial yacht "Ertoghroul" with His Majesty on board, left its moorings in the Bosphorus about 1:30 p. m. and swept out of the harbor alone in the direction of the islands. Proceeding slowly it reached the flotilla of passenger steamers and the imperial yacht "Stamboul" at Cham Liman, the western harbor of the island of Halki, about three o'clock. The squadron immediately appeared, coming from Pendik around Prinkipo Island by the south in single line, and steaming south and west of the islands before the Imperial yacht. The "Sultan Selim" was in the lead, followed by the "Barbarousse Hairedin" and the "Torghoud Reis," then came

the "Midilli" and a despatch-boat; and the third division was composed of four destroyers and four torpedo-boats. The fleet then passed on to the north and ranged themselves along parallel to the Kadikouy shore, to salute the Sultan on his return.

During the naval review three aeroplanes from the aviation station at San Stefano circled over the fleet and flew back to their aerodrome.

Between four and five o'clock in the afternoon His Majesty repaired to the Naval Academy on the island of Halki, and in the large hall of the Academy distributed to the highest class their diplomas, while the orchestra rendered a musical programme. Late in the afternoon, the Sultan returned to Dolma Baghtché on his yacht and thence by carriage to Yildiz, where he still resides.

Among those present at the afternoon's exercises were General Liman von Sanders Pasha and many German officers in the Ottoman service, Marshal Osman Pasha, the Bulgarian Minister Mr. Tosheff, and the former Bulgarian Minister Mr. Ghenadieff with his wife.

The Turkish papers comment very proudly on the naval review and on the present efficiency of the fleet. But the ships in line were by no means the whole navy; for neither the battleship "Messoudié" nor the cruisers "Hamidié" and "Medjidié" were there, nor quite a number of gunboats and torpedo-craft. The four large units in the review were simply those acquired during the last four years from Germany.

RHEIMS.

The world will mourn the necessity for the bombardment of the historic city of Rheims, and especially if it prove true that the famous cathedral has been destroyed. Rheims, the ancient capital of the Remi, was captured and burned by the Vandals in 406, besieged in vain by the English in 1360, ceded to the English in 1420, taken from Napoleon by the Allies in 1814 and retaken, and again captured by the Prussians in 1870. The Cathedral of Notre Dame is the gem of the city. It was completed by the end of the 13th century on the site of the old basilica where Clovis had been baptized, and where a later church had been burned down in 1211. The façade is one of the most perfect masterpieces of the middle ages. In one of the towers, 267 feet high, is a huge bell weighing more than 11 tons. The wonderful rose windows and rich tapestries of the cathedral, its chapels and stately and paintings, some of these by Tintoretto, combine to make this one of the world's choicest sanctuaries. Here the kings of France used to be crowned. Here Joan of Arc caused Charles VII. to be consecrated in 1429.

Aside from the Cathedral the main sites of Rheims are the Church of St. Remi, the archiepiscopal palace, the town hall, and the ancient triumphal arch known as Mars Gate, supposed to have been erected by the Remi in honor of Augustus, but probably belonging to the 3rd or 4th century.

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Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Constantinople.

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EDITORIAL.

It is just two months today since Austria sent her ultimatum to Servia. And what a two months it has been! At least six or seven million soldiers on the battlefield, with more than as many more behind them; homes devastated, trade ruined, confidence shattered, hospitals filled with wounded and sick, while countless thousands lie in hastily-constructed graves on the "field of honor." What a misuse of that term! It is indeed the field of dishonor, where the vaunted civilization of Europe, the boasted Christianity of the West, has been proven insolvent. Whichever side wins, Belgium and the northeastern corner of France, East Prussia and Galicia have been devastated, and no man can foretell how much more of carnage must go on till the demon of war, this modern Moloch, is satiated. Sixty days of hell. God grant that we may not see another sixty.

A subscriber asks about the present condition of Chera-ghan Palace, which was used till January 19, 1910, as the home of the Ottoman Parliament. On that date it was burned, but though all the woodwork was consumed, the walls of marble and masonry all stood, and still stand. Experts have however decided that it would not be safe to use them again for the reconstruction of that lovely palace, which was in many respects the gem of the Bosphorus. The marble was considerably calcined by the fire; and its sustaining qualities so damaged that rebuilding is considered out of the question. On the other hand, the demolition and removal of the ruins would cost so much that as yet the Government has hesitated to appropriate the needed sum for such a purpose, as there are other uses for it still more imperative. The walls were scarcely blackened by the fire, and aside from the injury to the gingerbread work around the windows, remain practically as they were before the fire. As is well known, Parliament, which was holding its sessions there till

the time the palace was burned, has since met in a large white *yali* at Funduklu, between Sali Bazar and Kabataş, near where the foreign Embassy despatch-boats have their moorings.

A recent letter from Secretary E. F. Bell of the American Board says:—"We are facing a deficit, one that will be small compared with that of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Episcopalian Boards, who are likely to be between \$250,000 and \$300,000 behind, but it will be a large one for us, that is, not far from \$30,000 or \$40,000, — unless the churches can do what almost seems like the impossible, increase their own gifts by this amount over what they gave last year. They have done well, already surpassing last year's figures by about \$8,000. We have fallen off especially in legacies and matured conditional gifts." This was written some weeks before the close of year of the Board; and we have as yet no news as to the final outcome. But there is every reason to suppose that the income of all the missionary Boards will be seriously affected by the present crisis. Business is upset the world around. Even America has been feeling the pinch. We must therefore be prepared to meet difficulties in the carrying on of missionary work in this country, such as there will doubtless be in every mission field. To quote again from the Call to Prayer issued last month by the Secretaries of the Continuation Committee:—"Missionary workers will be called to pass through a time of severe trial. Heartbreaking retrenchments may be necessary. The faith of the church in the mission field will receive a cruel shock from so glaring a contradiction of the faith which the West professes to hold. Missionary administrators at home will have to face many anxious problems. All these need the continual support of our prayers." Much earnest supplication, we doubt not, is going up that the efforts of Christian workers in this land may not be nullified by the sad conditions resulting from the war. At a time when the crisis here calls for a larger output of energy and endeavor that we may be able to counteract in the minds of the non-Christian population the unfavorable impression of such a struggle, can we count on at least an undiminished support from the home base? We earnestly hope so. We call most urgently on the Church at home not to compel us to retrench, or to fail to enter doors of opportunity at such a time as this. To a surprising degree the youth are again flocking to our schools. But with the business of the country at a standstill, the problem of self-support for both schools and churches is acute. Oh that we might stretch out the hand of brotherly help to such as desperately need it just now!

CALENDAR OF ENGLISH PREACHING SERVICES.

Sunday, Sept. 27th, 1914.

BEBEK CHURCH, 11 a. m. Rev. Charles T. Riggs.

UNION CHURCH, Pera, 11 a. m. Rev. Robert Frew.

ROBERT COLLEGE, 11 a. m., Rev. A. van Millingen, D.D.

CONS/PLE COLLEGE, 11 a. m., Rev. Robert Chambers, D.D.

THE BEGINNINGS OF OTTOMAN REFORMS.

In the communication of the Sublime Porte to the foreign Powers, given in our last issue, concerning the abolition of the Capitulations, it is stated that the Ottoman Empire has continued to institute reforms and improvements begun by the imperial rescript known as the Hatti Humayoun of Gülhané in 1255. There appears to be a little danger of confusion here. Two documents of great value were issued by Sultan Abd-ul-Medjid; one in 1839 (1255) known as the Hatti Sherif of Gülhané,* and the other in 1856, (1272) known as the Hatti Humayoun. The former did not touch the question of religious liberty, which was definitely taken up in the latter.

Abd-ul-Medjid was only sixteen years old when he came to the throne; and within four months after that he gave to his people what Dr. William Goodell calls the Magna Charta of Turkey. The Hatti Sherif, or sacred edict, treats in the main of three topics: the guarantees which will ensure the subjects perfect security for their lives, their honor and their property; a regular method of establishing and collecting the taxes; and an equally regular method of recruiting and levying the army, and fixing the duration of the service. The main points in this rescript are these:—

"The cause of every accused party will be tried publicly, in conformity with our divine law; and until a regular sentence has been pronounced, no one can be put to death, secretly or publicly, by poison or any other form of punishment.

"No one will be permitted to assail the honor of anyone, whosoever he may be.

"Every person will enjoy the possession of his property, of every nature, and dispose of it with the most perfect liberty, without any one being able to impede him. Thus, for example, the innocent heirs of a criminal will not be deprived of their legal rights, and the property of the criminal will not be confiscated.

"These Imperial concessions extend to all our subjects, whatever religion or sect they may belong to, and they will enjoy them without any exception.

"Perfect security is therefore granted by us to the inhabitants of the Empire, with regard to their life, their honor and their fortune, as the sacred text of our law demands.

"With reference to the other points, as they must be regulated by the concurrence of enlightened opinions, our Council of Justice, augmented by as many new members as may be deemed necessary, to whom will be adjoined, on certain days which we shall appoint, our minister and the

* Gülhané is the name of the gardens of the Seraglio Point, which have recently been opened as a park, and where, in olden days, stood the building in which the rose sweetmeats for the use of the court were prepared (*gül* meaning rose). Here the celebrated imperial edict was read in public.

notables of the Empire, will meet for the purpose of establishing the fundamental laws on these points relating to the security of life and property and the imposition of the taxes. Every one in these assemblies will state his ideas freely and give his opinion.

"The laws relating to the regulations of the military service will be discussed by the Military Council, holding its meeting at the palace of the Serasker. As soon as the law is decided upon, it will be presented to us, and in order that it may be eternally valid and applicable, we will confirm it by our sanction, written above it with our Imperial hand."

The Hatti Humayoun, or Imperial Edict, of 1856 expressly confirmed the above, and added clauses confirming the privileges and spiritual immunities granted by former Sultans to all Christian or other non-Moslem communities; it also contains this celebrated clause:— "As all forms of religion are and shall be freely professed in my dominions, no subject of my Empire shall be hindered in the exercise of the religion that he professes, nor shall he be in any way annoyed on this account. No one shall be compelled to change his religion." It also provides for the military service of non-Moslems, and for equality of taxation, and for the abolishing of everything that resembles torture, and of corporal punishment except in conformity with disciplinary regulations. This document was up to that time the most liberal that had ever been issued by any Sultan.

INCREASE IN CUSTOMS DUES.

The provisional law sanctioning the increase of customs taxes commencing with October first, or next week Thursday, has been published by imperial order. It provides for the levying of a uniform customs tax of 15% ad valorem on merchandise and other imports which now pay 11%; there are a few articles which have heretofore paid only 8%, and these will henceforth pay 12%; while gold and silver objects, such as watches, jewelry, etc., which have a special tariff, will be subject to no change. Such merchandise as may arrive at the Custom-house after midnight of September 30th, but which has started on its way hither before that date, will be subject to the schedule in force at the time it started; provided a declaration to this effect is duly made to the customs officers. Such merchandise as may have been allowed to remain in the custom-house by the owners after October first must pay the new tariff.

In his speech before the Chamber about the proposed budget, this year, the Minister of Finance, Djavid Bey, said that it was expected that this increase in customs tax of 4% would result in an increase of 1,500,000 liras in the Government's income from this source, each year. It was expected also that the extra tax on spirituous liquors would produce an additional 600,000 liras, and the application of the *temettu* or income-tax to foreigners another 600,000.

EXPORTS TO AMERICA FROM THE LEVANT.

The last number of the *Levant Trade Review* gives the following figures for the value of exports from Turkey as declared in 1912 and 1913. We quote only the chief items; there are in addition considerable exports of attar of roses, brass and copper work, cheese, figs and raisins, furs, glue-stock, mastic gum, mother-of-pearl, almonds, olive oil, rags, old rubber, seeds (alfalfa, canary, millet and poppy), silk, slippers, soap, sesame (crushed), and wines and spirits. The total value of declared exports for the two years cited was \$22,876,475 for 1912, and \$21,445,576 for 1913. The falling off indicated was doubtless due to the anomalous conditions following the Balkan war; and under more peaceful conditions we look for a considerable rise.

Articles	1912	1913
Bazaar goods	41,409	140,400
Carpets and rugs	1,953,012	1,499,043
Cotton lace	598,055	273,222
Chrome ore	83,083	172,053
Emerald stone	309,780	261,201
Dates	586,005	721,361
Figs	887,276	824,367
Gum tragacanth	96,872	158,579
Guts	164,420	145,668
Licorice root	1,258,299	655,159
Mohair	337,827	543,321
Nuts:		
Filberts	227,140	167,069
Pistachios	144,938	209,400
Walnuts	54,069	147,707
Opium	2,046,260	1,413,137
Provisions	224,621	192,286
Skins	993,109	1,089,165
Tobacco	10,010,952	10,707,887
Valonea	59,921	124,385
Wool	2,044,442	1,338,696

For the corresponding period the *Review* gives the declared exports from Egypt to the United States as \$23,624,800 for 1912, and \$14,360,678 for 1913.

GERMANY ON THE SEA.

The *Moniteur Oriental* gives a list of those ships of the German and Austrian navies that have either been sunk or otherwise lost to those powers since the war began. It includes the Goeben, Breslau, Magdeburg, Mainz, Köln, three torpedo-destroyers, the submarine U15, the mine-layer Königin Luise, all of the German navy, and the cruiser Zenta and one torpedo-boat of the Austrian. It omits for some reason the German cruisers Ariadne and Hela, sunk in the North Sea. It then goes on to say, after showing that the combined tonnage of these vessels amounts to 47,041 (to which add about 6,000 for the other two):—

"This is a considerable tonnage; but it is not all; we have entered in the list only the losses authenticated by official accounts. There are also other ships that figure on the list of German warships, — merchantmen armed as auxiliary cruisers, rapid units whose duty it is to scour the commercial highways of the sea. Their armament is important, for it includes 15-centimetre guns and rapid fire guns of less calibre. Yesterday it was the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, of 14,500 tons, that was sunk by the fire of the Highflyer; before that, the Blücher, 12,334 tons, had disarmed in Brazil; and the Kronprinz Wilhelm, 15,000 tons, that was captured by the armed British cruiser Essex. Nearly all the German passenger steamers that could be converted into ships of war are either captured or immobilized: the Kronprinzessin Cecilie and the Prinz Adalbert have been taken into Falmouth; and the Vaterland, Kaiser Wilhelm II., and George Washington are at New York and will not again leave there under the German flag as long as the war lasts."

HOW SHOULD ALBANIA BE GOVERNED?

Rev. C. Telford Erickson, of the American Mission in Albania, writes in *The Asiatic Review* of the mistakes in starting the Government of that unhappy country, and of possibilities for the future. He says:—

"With the setting of Albania's Government house in order I have nothing to do. I am simply an American missionary to this people, who believes in them and who loves them, who has sacrificed for them, and is ready, if need be, to do so again. Before any Prince was appointed I strongly advised the Albanian leaders against the plan, urging instead that they ask for a commission form of government, at least for some years — a Commission chosen from some one neutral Power, having no personal interest in the country; a British or even an American Commission would have served admirably. The head would be a man with experience in dealing with primitive peoples; each member of the Commission would be an expert chosen for some department because of his knowledge and ability in that department; for agriculture an expert, for finance an expert, all going in without show or ceremony, and setting to work at once to better the condition of the people. I believe with all my heart that such a plan would have succeeded. I believe that were Albania neutralized by the Powers now, every nation taking its hand off from trying to order affairs there, guaranteeing only the integrity of the State with its present boundaries, giving notice to those Powers who are secretly making trouble to cease — which could very easily be done — that with this, half of her troubles would be at an end. For the other half it must be recognized that wrongs centuries old have taken root there, that thousands are homeless and starving, that the people have been bled and betrayed and deceived with false promises and fed on false hopes so long that only much patience and kindness and sympathy will heal the wound."

THE POLICY OF ROUMANIA.

The *Tanin* thus comments on the present attitude of Roumania:—

Roumania has just passed through a troubled and noisy week. It has thus been seen that a strong and well organised propaganda exists in Bucharest. That city has seen demonstrations, meetings, heard speeches and had disturbances, in fact every thing that could result from political ferment. The object of all this agitation has been to demand that Roumania act immediately against Austria, and occupy with her army both Transylvania and Bukovina. To form a greater Roumania by annexing the Roumanians of these regions could indeed constitute an inspiring program for the Roumanian nationalists. And numerous patriotic Roumanians inspired with this ideal have spent the week at Bucharest and Constanza and Jassy in uninterrupted demonstrations. Indeed one such meeting, at Bucharest on Sept. 18th, had to be stopped by military force. Mr. Diamandis, Minister of Roumania to St. Petersburg, has left Galatz on a Russian warship on his return to his post. On the same day the new Minister of Germany to Bucharest, Mr. Boscle, arrived. All these events go to show that the Roumanian capital has taken on this week a great importance. Nor should we fail to mention the sending of two Roumanian deputies to Italy.

It is very dangerous when irresponsible people can influence the policy of the Government. The time is not propitious for such manifestations. Besides everybody must know that such action on the part of Roumania is capable of endangering the peace of the Balkans, in the maintenance of which we are all so vitally interested.

WILL PERSIA REMAIN QUIET?

The Turkish daily *Terjeman* writes:—

One cannot regard as ill-timed Persia's idea of profiting by a favorable opportunity. At a time when international law has been reduced to the point where it stands for getting the most out of circumstances and your own force, it is but natural that the whole world should act in this way. There are certain indications that point to the theory that if the Teheran Government now shows feebleness and does not wish to act officially, a large number of petty chiefs will be unwilling to lose the opportunity thus offered. News from Persia seems to show that considerable unrest is manifest among several semi-independent tribes; and these tribes have quite considerable forces at their command. Even if the central government wished to, it could not stop them. It is highly probable that these tribal chiefs will act. The forces of Russia in Persia are very weak. They will certainly be unable to resist these tribes unaided. So that it will be necessary for the Russian governmental forces in the Caucasus to interfere. This then is one of the principal causes of the activity noticed in the Caucasus.

CALENDAR OF NOTEWORTHY DATES.

- Sept. 24, 1912, Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, former German Ambassador to Turkey, died.
- 26, 1831, First religious newspaper in Turkey published.
 - 27, 1827, Elnathan Gridley, Smyrna, died near Talas.
 - 1844, Mrs. H. J. Van Lennep, Smyrna, died.
 - 29, 1792, Jonas King, Athens, born.
 - 1909, Rev. George E. Post, M.D., Beirut, died.
 - 1911, Italo-Turkish war began.
 - 1913, Treaty of Peace between Bulgaria and Turkey signed.
 - 30, 1902, Rev. Newton H. Bell, Mardin, died.
 - 1914, Jewish Yom Kippur, or Day of Atonement.

EMPIRE NEWS.

THE CAPITAL.

The War Department has not accepted the request of the Patriarchate that deacons and singers in the churches be excused from military service as being necessary to the carrying on of church services.

A second series of one-lira banknotes has appeared in circulation during the past week, differing slightly from the first. These were printed in England and are of somewhat better quality than the former ones. They are larger and the paper is more like that of the five-lira notes.

Professor S. S. Emmanuel, who has been in Germany for the past few years in special study, returned this week to Robert College, where he is connected with the Greek department.

Public prayers for peace are being held every Thursday in the Roman Catholic church of St. Maria Draperis in Pera, where persons of all nationalities are welcomed.

Quite a number of British volunteers from this city left by Messageries steamer last Saturday for Marseilles, to go thence to England to join the Territorials.

Sir Richard Crawford, for some time Director of the Turkish Customs service, has resigned his post and returned last week to England.

A public telephone station has been opened at Bebek, and the subscribers in private houses there will soon be connected also with the Pera Central Office.

Admiral Lympus and his family, with seventeen officers of the British Naval Mission, left by the Italian steamer last Thursday for Brindisi on their return to England.

THE PROVINCES

The Anatolian Railroad announces the resumption of regular passenger traffic on all its lines, from Haidar Pasha to Angora and to Konia and Kara Pounar, as well as on the lesser branches. Till further notice the daily train will leave Haidar Pasha at 9 a. m. starting the next morning from Eski Shehir at 5:40 for Konia and at 6:41 for Angora.

During the high winds of the early part of last week the life-saving stations at Kilios and Riva on the Black Sea near the Bosphorus were instrumental in saving the crews of sixteen sailing-vessels, comprising eighty-one men, whose lives were endangered from shipwreck.

Wheeler Hall at Harpout has been vacated by the troops and turned over again to the College.

NOTES.

Miss Vina M. Sherman, of Erzroum, who went to Beirut this summer for surgical treatment, arrived in Constantinople last week, hoping to return this way to Erzroum; but the way appears to be blocked for her, and she will probably wait till spring before going there.

Miss Ellis and Miss Kennedy of Constantinople College arrived on Monday last, having been obliged to come deck passage from Greece here on a crowded steamer.

Miss Frances C. Gage, Traveling Secretary of the Y. W. C. A. for Turkey, left Marsovan September 16th for an extended tour eastward, which will include, if she is permitted to carry it out, the towns of Sivas, Harpout, Diarbekir, Mardin, Ourfa and Aleppo.

OTHER LANDS.

We learn from the local dailies that the National Bank of Greece has ordered from the United States 40,000 tons of wheat, 3,000,000 okes of sugar, 2,000,000 okes of rice, besides other necessities of food for the provisioning of Greece during the war.

The British Parliament in both houses has decided to postpone all further action on the Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment questions for a year, or till the close of the present war at all events.

Mr. Streit, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs has resigned and General Danglis Chief of the General Staff, is named as his successor.

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The German cruiser "Koenigsberg," 3,000 tons, has sunk the British cruiser "Pegasus," 2,000 tons, off the Zanzibar coast.

Word has come from Urumia that members of the Turco-Persian Boundary Commission of Englishmen have been attacked by Kourds and Mr. Hubert, Secretary of the Commission, slightly injured.

The good news has come that the American troops have evacuated Vera Cruz, Mexico, which they occupied on April 21st. This indicates that the new provisional government of Mexico has succeeded in satisfying the United States authorities.

The New York *Evening Sun* contains the following:—

"Brussels, Aug. 8th, 57 B.C. (Delayed in transmission)...
Horum omnium fortissimi sunt Belgae... proxiniquie sunt Germanis, qui trans Rhenum incolunt, quibuscum continenter bellum gerunt.— C. J. Cæsar."

The Japanese Red Cross is stated to have sent to Russia a field hospital with 200 beds.

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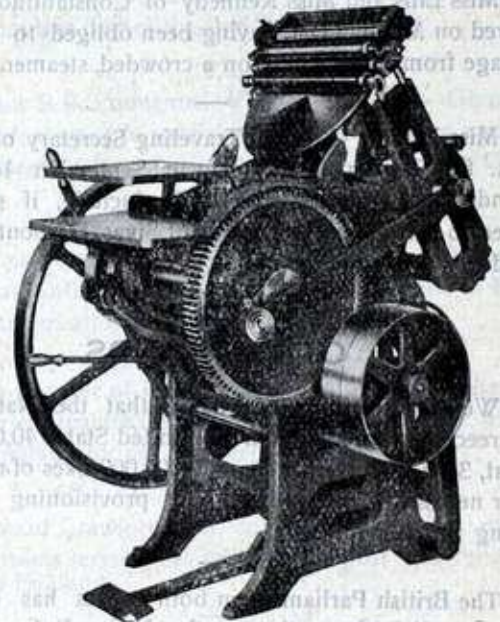
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CARPATIA	(23,243 " " " ")	August 8th. 1914
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