

The Orient.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL MEETING

The ninth annual meeting and dinner of the American Chamber of Commerce for the Levant was held on Friday, Feb. 25th, at the Pera Palace Hotel, and was attended by about one hundred and thirty members and guests. In the regretted absence of the President, Mr. Oscar Gunkel, Vice President George H. Huntington sat at the head of the U-shaped table, with the Honorary President, Consul-General O. Bie Ravndal, on his right, and Mr. Allen W. Dulles of the American High Commission on his left.

The management of the Hotel certainly did themselves great credit by the luncheon they furnished, which was of excellent quality and well served.

After the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting by the secretary, Mr. W.E. Bristol, some notes sent in lieu of his address by Mr. Gunkel were read. In these the increase in membership was noted, in several cities, notably an increase of 50 at Constantinople; also the establishing of a bureau of information for all the Levant, and the membership of this Chamber in the Union of Chambers of Commerce here. Acknowledgement was also made of the indebtedness of the Chamber to Admiral Bristol and to the American Navy, and of the faithful services of Mr. Laurence S. Mearns, Executive Secretary, especially in making the *Levant Trade Review* a financial success.

The report of the nominating committee was presented and adopted. The officers thus elected are: Honorary President, Hon. O. Bie Ravndal; honorary Vice Presidents, E. G. Mears of Washington, W.L. Lowrie of Athens, and O.H. Huntington of Constantinople; President, Oscar Gunkel; 1st Vice President, J. W. Brown; 2nd Vice President, Lewis Heck; Secretary, W.E. Bristol; Treasurer, H.R. Mandil; Auditor, R. Schellens; Legal Adviser, J. E. Gillespie; and thirteen other directors besides seventeen directors-at-large.

The first speaker of the afternoon was Hon. O. Bie Ravndal, who from the first has been the honorary President of the Chamber. He paid a tribute of honor to the pioneers in its organization, and to the three successive presidents of the Chamber. He also mentioned some of the things the Chamber has seen actually accomplished, like the direct steamship service to America and the coming of an American Bank, and the location here of an Associated Press representative; and he said the most pressing problem now was to rouse a livelier interest in the United States in commercial prospects here. In this connection he spoke of the hope for a Levant House to be established in New York. He claimed that whatever

has been achieved so far has been through united, cooperative endeavor, and said this team work ought to be emphasized, and every separatist tendency deprecated. In closing Mr. Ravndal urged that American trade in the Levant will succeed only as long as it maintains the highest possible standard of morality as regards its commercial dealings and in the quality of the goods it offers.

It had been expected that Admiral Bristol would be present; but in his unavoidable absence from town on a cruise in the eastern Mediterranean, he sent a message which was read by the secretary. The Admiral acknowledged that the outlook was not bright, but asserted that it was always darkest just before the dawn and urged that now was the time for American firms to establish themselves in foreign markets, as if they waited for normal conditions, it would then be too late. He urged American manufacturers to find out what the people wanted, and then to produce those things, in sizes and brands and methods of packing as required by local conditions. He suggested that the American bank and steamer service secured here might well be duplicated in other cities of the Levant.

Mr. Allen Dulles, representing the High Commission, spoke of the relation between the American foreign service and American business; he referred to the splendid men first sent abroad by the United States, and how the ideas had suffered a setback from which the war had been waking us up. He stated that our country had risen in foreign opinion from being the United States and classed in the U-class, through the E-class of *Etats Unis*, till now it was America, and in the A-class; and he said the old distinction between the diplomatic and the consular service was being abolished and the Foreign Service was alive to present trade conditions, and their predominant possibilities.

General Marlborough Churchill, formerly Director of the American Military Intelligence service, was next called upon, and spoke of the military intelligence service abroad, and of the way in which its representatives and the American business men could be of reciprocal help. He called for the co-operation of every business man.

The last speaker of the afternoon was Col. R. E. Olds, European Representative of the American Red Cross, who is here on a brief visit. Col. Olds spoke of the American Red Cross as the mobilized altruism of the American people; and held that America had not by any means turned its back on the European situation. In proof of this he cited three ways in which the United States was contributing to the European situation financially:—1) by government loans, amounting to ten billions of dollars, which he said would some time be

repaid, but not till the situation cleared up; 2) by relief credits, amounting to four or five hundred millions of dollars, much of it distributed free of charge by the ships of the U.S. Shipping Board, and said there was little hope of the return of this fund; and 3) straight donations, through various organizations, probably amounting to another billion dollars, nearly all of it given since the armistice, and none of it returnable. In these ways, he said, America was perfectly sound and meant to do her share. She would not neglect Europe or the world.

THE LONDON CONFERENCE

The long-expected London Conference on Near Eastern affairs opened its session on Monday morning, Feb. 21st, with Premier Lloyd-George as chairman. France was represented by MM. Briand, Berthelot and St. Aulaire; Great Britain by Mr. Lloyd-George and Lord Curzon; Italy by Count Sforza and Signor De Martino; Japan by Baron Ayashi; Belgium by Baron Moncheur. At the morning session it was decided to summon the Greek delegation the same afternoon. The date for the plebiscite in Upper Silesia was also fixed for March 29th.

At 4 p.m. the Hellenic delegation, under the lead of Premier Kalogeropoulos, made known its point of view, by demanding the complete application of the Treaty of Sèvres. The Premier declared that the present government was at one with that of Mr. Venizelos as regards its foreign policy; and that Greece was in good shape to do its part in enforcing the Treaty, having a sufficient army in Asia Minor and having no fear of successful opposition from the Kemalists.

The next day a request of the Emir Faisal to be heard before the Conference was refused, but it was agreed to listen to the Arab representation by Haddad Pasha.

On Wednesday morning, the two Turkish delegations were both admitted to the Conference Hall at St. James Palace, that from Constantinople being headed by the Grand Vizier, Tewfik Pasha, and that from Angora by Bekir Sami Bey. Each in turn gave a brief address in French, that of Sami Bey being much the longer of the two. Tewfik Pasha made three demands; the political and economic independence under Turkish sovereignty of the territories which have a Turkish majority in population; the definite regulation of the Straits question by a special agreement between Turkey and the European Powers; and the ethnic minorities in Turkey to be accorded the same rights that Moslem subjects in foreign countries are allowed.

Bekir Sami Bey followed, insisting that the Angora delegation was the only one that represented the Turkish people, though he saw no harm in the Conference hearing the point of view of the Constantinople government. Refusing to recognize the Sèvres Treaty, he declared that peace could be restored in the Orient only on the basis of equal treatment of the Turks; he claimed that only those parts of the Empire that were inhabited by Arab majorities should be separated from Turkey. He also demanded the freedom of the Straits.

The vague terms of the Turkish claims, and their failure

to refer to the sections of the Sèvres Treaty, made an unfavorable impression, which was strengthened by the assertion of the Turks that they had not had time to prepare their statement; and their request that they be given two days to do so was refused. It was allowed them, however, to present it in better form the next day.

On Thursday morning the Ottoman delegation was again heard, and in the absence of the Grand Vizier on account of illness, Bekir Sami Bey of Angora was the chief speaker, seconded by Osman Nizami Pasha. The demands made by the Turks were as follows:—The restoration of the boundary of European Turkey as in 1913 (to include Adrianople and Kirk Kilise); the boundary on the southeast between Turkey and the territory inhabited by a majority of Arabs, to be settled by the parties interested; the boundary between Turkey and Armenia to be that fixed by the treaty between the Angora government and that of Erivan; the region of Smyrna to be evacuated by the Greeks and to be under the full and complete sovereignty of Turkey; Turkish delegates to be designated on the Straits Commission; Turkish sovereignty to be respected in judicial questions, and a commission to be constituted composed of Ottoman and foreign jurists to draw up a program of judicial reforms on the basis of modern principles; sufficient military and naval forces to be allowed to Turkey to assure internal order and to defend her coasts and frontiers; the reorganization of the gendarmerie with the help of foreign officers; complete financial and economic independence, and the making of reparations for damages on both sides.

LEVANT TRADE REVIEW

The January number of the monthly organ of the American Chamber of Commerce for the Levant begins the ninth volume, and is fully up to the standard already set. Two articles supplement each other very well,—the one on the Year 1920 in Retrospect, and the other on the Possibilities of the Near Eastern Trade Field. Together with these we would link the optimistic and constructive article by Mr. Lewis Heck on A Fertile Field for the Proposed Foreign Trade Finance Corporation. This number also contains interesting accounts of trade conditions in Palestine, Greece, and Egypt, as well as descriptions of the Mineral Riches of the Caucasus, Anglo-Persian Oil, and the Coal Situation at Constantinople. Several articles on conditions in America are of special value to merchants residing here who have not other opportunities to get the facts about the United States. Tables are given showing the exports from Greece to the United States during 1918 and 1919, and the exports and imports of Greece in general with all countries; also of the shipping movements of the ports of Varna and Bourgas during 1919 as compared with 1912, where the number of vessels has dropped from 1,681 and 1,437 respectively to 202 and 41 respectively, the tonnage being reduced from a total of 1,252,710 tons to 240,497 tons. The study of the 1920 census in the United States, given in French from the *American Exporter*, is quite interesting. The number contains six or seven illustrations as well.

SCALE OF FOOD PRICES IN AMERICAN DOLLARS FOR BEIRUT AND CONSTANTINOPLE

April--December, 1920.

The accompanying table of prices of staples in Beirut and Constantinople is based on figures furnished by the American University in Beirut and Robert College, Constantinople. These institutions buy in approximately the same quantity to supply about the same grade of board to their students. Consequently we might assume that the wholesale prices quoted would be a fairly accurate comparison. Allowance might be made, however, for the possible difference in understanding of the meaning of the classifications used. For example, the word "beans" may represent a large variety of legumes and just which variety was purchased under that head, and so recorded in the books, makes a considerable difference in the resulting price in the table we have given. The chances of misunderstanding are about equal on both sides, so that in so long a list this element may be disregarded.

We cannot overlook the variation in exchange. Prices in Beirut were, and still are, quoted with the Egyptian piaster as the basis. This has remained nearly constant as related to the American dollar through the months with which we have to deal. Thus, as the Syrian currency fluctuates, the prices of commodities fluctuate correspondingly. In Constantinople, on the contrary, prices are based on the Turkish piaster which has varied very greatly as compared with the American dollar. In June the dollar was worth 108 piastres, while in December it rose as high as 170 piastres. The price paid by Robert

College for milk has been 40 piastres the oke for each of the months reviewed, but its value in American money has varied from 37 cents to 25 cents when this constant price is translated into American currency.

Since the funds for the Near East Relief work are collected and forwarded to Constantinople and Beirut in dollars, the comparison is accurate from the point of view of the American organization. It is a correct comparison also from the point of view of each American institution carrying on work in the Near East. But to get the difference in cost of living from the point of view of the native wage earner, we should have to make a further comparison between the prevailing scale of wages and these prices.

In both places the prices are far from normal. War conditions still maintain to such an extent that Asia Minor is cut off from both centers and food supplies cannot come from the rich interior sources. Moreover the Russian ports are still closed and normal shipping has not been entering Constantinople from the Black Sea. Few steamers are as yet making regular stops at Beirut.

On the whole, Beirut prices are somewhat higher than those of Constantinople when reckoned in American money. In both cities prices are coming down more or less constantly and the differences between the two cities will tend to diminish as shipping facilities become better.

For American readers the following prices in cents per pound as reported in the Constantinople market today (February 24th, 1921) will be interesting. Flour .08, Beef .28, Mutton .40, Rice .10, Potatoes .02.

THE EDITOR

The following Table gives the price of each Article per oke in American dollars. One oke is equal to 2.8 pounds

	April		May		June		October		November		December	
	B.	C.	B.	C.	B.	C.	B.	C.	B.	C.	B.	C.
Mutton	\$2.39	\$1.25	\$1.33	\$1.23	\$1.40	\$1.15	\$1.36	\$1.00	\$1.31	\$0.80	\$1.26	\$0.72
Beef	1.78	1.00	1.23	1.05	1.43	1.05	1.06	.90	.93	.73	.87	.65
Flour . . . . .	.29	.27	.28	—	.39	.27	.27	.27	.25	.26	.24	.24
Rice . . . . .	.63	—	.59	.35	.71	.38	.52	.28	.45	.32	.40	.28
Beans . . . . .	.33	—	.18	.15	.10	—	.19	.13	.22	.12	.21	—
Lentils . . . . .	.35	.30	.33	—	.37	—	.24	.32	.19	.30	.22	.25
Chick peas . . . . .	.39	.23	.39	.22	.44	—	.34	—	.31	—	.30	—
Coffee	1.08	—	1.01	—	1.23	—	1.01	.45	.93	.41	.90	.38
Macaroni . . . . .	.57	—	.53	—	.64	—	.46	.33	.42	.30	.41	.26
Cheese . . . . .	.96	—	.97	.71	1.23	.74	2.09	1.18	1.87	—	1.74	—
Milk . . . . .	.28	.34	.24	.35	.30	.37	.26	.33	.24	.30	.23	.25
Potatoes . . . . .	.17	.11	.14	.14	.15	.15	.15	.08	.14	.07 1/2	.13	.06 1/2
Olive Oil . . . . .	.87	—	.81	—	1.08	1.08	.95	.96	.66	.80	.63	.57
Dried Apricots	—	—	—	1.15	.30	—	—	—	.60	—	—	—
Oranges (100)	2.82	—	2.73	—	—	—	1.96	4.15	1.74	—	1.56	1.00
Eggs per 100	4.35	2.84	2.83	2.66	2.76	2.77	4.46	4.00	4.11	5.73	3.96	3.48
Sugar . . . . .	.61	.67	.59	.70	.71	.74	.48	.54	.44	.53	.40	.34
Helva . . . . .	.87	.75	.79	.80	1.04	.70	.68	.65	.62	.51	.60	.55

B. denotes Beirut. C. Constantinople.

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE NOTES

The Missionary Circle at Paradise and at Smyrna rejoice in the certainty of rich blessing upon the Constantinople Conference. Mr. Harlow, with Messrs. Mylonas, Iatrides and Etymezian, expects to leave on Tuesday for the Conference; while Miss Pinneo is heading a delegation of young ladies from the Institute in Smyrna. Our earnest prayers go with them, and we intercede for even richer stores of inspiration than have been our boon in the Paradise Conferences.

The mid-year examinations have been held during the past week, so that chapel exercises have been suspended. During the February Sunday services, for several years, the chaplain has arranged for inspiring addresses on the lives of great men and women. Mr. Harlow gave the first address on Miss Eleanor Chestnut of China; Mr. E. O. Jacob thrilled and inspired his audience on Feb. 13 by an address on Sadhu Sunder Singh of India; Mr. Lawrence, on Feb. 20, gave a résumé of the life of James A. Garfield, which proved an inspiration and a challenge to all young men to consecrate their lives to high aims. Mr. Birge will give the fourth address Feb. 27, on George Müller of Bristol. We would commend this plan to our sister institutions; and we would bespeak for them the interest and inspiration which comes from the study of the concrete, living examples of the Spirit of God working mightily in the world today.

The population of Paradise is increasing, for another stranger joined the circle on Feb. 6, when John Purdon Lawrence was born in the home of Prof. and Mrs. Lawrence. The youth should have an exact and prompt disposition, as he is the sixth son, born at 6 a.m. on the sixth day of the month.

Smyrna, Feb. 21, 1921

C. W. L.

PHI BETA KAPPA AT BEIRUT

The Beirut Alumni Association of the Phi Beta Kappa has revived after its long sleep during the war. It was realized that it would have been a very difficult thing to explain the purposes of the society to our old governor, Azmi Bey, and so meetings were abandoned until last month, on the anniversary of the founding of the society, these wearers of the Key met at the house of Dr. Adams and reincorporated themselves, electing Prof. Porter president and Dr. Adams secretary. Professor Porter delivered an address on Vocational and Cultural Education in the South. Dr. Porter traveled and visited in the south during the war while he was in America and studied educational questions in that part of our country. Mr. Mac Neal and Mr. and Mrs. Bixler made the evening doubly enjoyable with music, — piano, 'cello and violin. Oh, yes, there were refreshments and a general good time. The wives of the members came with their husbands. There are two ladies members of the society in their own right, Miss Margaret Mc Gilvary and Mrs. Seelye Bixler. The following are the members with their colleges: — Rev F. W. March, Amherst; Rev Professor H. Porter, Ph. D., D. D.,

Amherst; Rev. William Nelson, D.D.; Amherst, Prof. W. B. Adams, M.A., M.D., New York University; Acting President Professor E.F. Nickoley, M.A., Illinois University; Rev James H. Nicol, M.A. Minnesota University; Professor J.A. Brown, M.A., B.S., Dartmouth; Professor A.A. Bacon, M. A. Dartmouth; Mr. Charles Perrine, B.A., Cornell; Rev. Laurens Seelye, M.A., Amherst; Mr. Seelye Bixler, B.A., Amherst; Mrs. Seelye Bixler, B.A., Smith; Miss Margaret Mc Gilvary, B.A., Wisconsin University; Mr. Ralph Rogers, B.A., Yale; Mr. Charles Mac Neal, B.A., Lafayette; Mr. Kenneth Piper, B.A., Columbia University.

Since its former meeting the association has lost by death three members, Dr. Daniel Bliss, President H.S. Bliss, and Rev. F.E. Hoskins, D.D. After the Oxford association this society at Beirut was the first Phi Beta Kappa alumni association to be organized outside of America.

W. B. A.

ROBERT COLLEGE NOTES

At College Assembly on February 18th, the Right Reverend Monsignor R. Barry Doyle gave a very instructive lecture on "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes, with an appreciation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." The stories of the great detective are amongst those most widely read the world over. Monsignor Barry Doyle, as brother of the creator of the famous Sherlock Holmes, could describe him with many interesting and familiar touches. The audience was especially glad to hear details of the life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, not only because of their familiarity with his works but because some of them had witnessed recently the staging of "The Speckled Band," a Sherlock Holmes dramatization, by the Junior Class.

The Y.M.C.A. meeting on Feb. 20th in the Social Hall was particularly good, as the speaker was Mr. Clarence R. Johnson, a former tutor and now a worker in Constantinople in the interests of the City Survey. Mr. Johnson took the story of Joseph from which to draw his lessons and emphasized the fact that Joseph escaped from the Pit to become a great and good man. He pointed out that all of us sooner or later, fall into our Pit, which often is some physical handicap or unfortunate circumstance, which hampers our progress and seems to mar our lives. He tried to show how all of us may escape from our Pit by determination and a will to conquer.

Mr. Ralph Harlow spoke at College Assembly on Feb. 24th on "The Three Greatest Maxims." The College was fortunately able to have Mr. Harlow for a lecturer as he came up from Smyrna together with certain student delegates to attend the large joint Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. Student Conference. The Three Greatest Maxims which he spoke on were the words of three Great Teachers: Socrates, Marcus Aurelius and Christ. They were respectively, "Know Thyself," "Control Thyself" and "Deny Thyself." He explained these at length and made a forcible appeal for young men of righteous ideals and high principles to lead the people of these lands to better things.

E. T. S.

THE ORIENT

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Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Constantinople

BIBLE HOUSE, CONSTANTINOPLE

MARCH 2, 1921

EDITORIAL SECTION

The First Constantinople Students' Conference closed its sessions too late on Monday for the full account to be published in this issue. Our readers have therefore a treat before them for next week. For the Conference was not only a success but a blessing; and even the printed account of it will be inspiring reading. It will be no exaggeration to say that the young people who attended and took part in this gathering will always reckon it as among the mountain-top experiences of their lives. There was nothing morbid or artificially exciting about it; but the quiet, earnest testimony of those who spoke from deep experience will certainly be fruitful to the deepening of character and the raising of life above its former level. Many a young person had the privilege of service and the joy of conscious cooperation with God in the bringing in of His Kingdom, placed before him or her in a new and vital way; and both as individuals and as Associations, the students of these Colleges and schools will be permanently uplifted in consequence.

Not everyone in America realizes, as those in Turkey cannot but realize, that war conditions still prevail in the Near East. We are often told that it is no time for this, that, or the other, till peace shall come. Not that there is fighting all the time, though there has been all too much of that, as well; but the restrictions and limitations due to failure to make a real peace, prevent the resumption of normal life. It is therefore an unexpected pleasure to see the growth of American trade and the entry of new companies into the markets of the Near East, in spite of all obstacles. The dinner of the American Chamber of Commerce for the Levant was a revelation to many. One cannot but be impressed by the fact that so many firms have established themselves

already, and are waiting for the doors to open. Not to attempt anything like a complete list, we may mention the American Company for International Commerce, American Black Sea Steamship Corporation, United States Shipping Board, American Levant Agency, American Foreign Trade Corporation, American General Trading Company, Meridional Trading Company of New York, Oriental Trading Company of America, Standard Commercial Export and Finance Corporation of New York, North American Wood Products Corporation, Corn Products Refining Company, Suffern Trading Co. of New York, General Motors Corporation, Brown, Welles & Co., Singer Sewing Machine Company, Standard Oil Company of New York, Guaranty Trust Company of New York. In all this expansion, - which would make any twenty-year-old Rip Van Winkle rub his eyes, - the American Chamber of Commerce for the Levant is doing its full share. This youngest of the Chambers of Commerce in this city is certainly not the least active and enterprising; and we look for an even more beneficial extension of American trade with the coming of the abnormal state (for us) of peace.

The table we give this week regarding food prices in Beirut and Constantinople will be a surprise to many, showing as it does that Beirut pays more for food than even Constantinople. The table has been most carefully worked out, on the basis of the wholesale prices paid by the two American Colleges, with additional statistics from other and supposedly equally reliable sources. However, another statement in this same issue, quoted from Professor Kelsey's investigations while in this country, compares Constantinople with Jerusalem and Cairo if not with Beirut, and claims that this capital is the most expensive place to live in. It is not easy to reconcile these two viewpoints, nor are we going to attempt such a reconciliation. There is one very strong possibility, namely that the prices given by the experts in Beirut and Constantinople for the same articles may not refer to the same grade of stuff; for there is a wide range of prices on almost any commodity, depending on the quality. Another point to remember is that the excessive cost of living in Constantinople is due to a number of causes besides food, including exorbitant rents, transportation charges, high wages etc. Possibly it may be found that in these respects, Beirut is less expensive. A comparison of workmen's wages and the salaries of clerks and others would also be interesting. The one thing that will bring down the prices of food-stuffs most of all, will be the opening up of Anatolia, so that the resources of that natural store-house of Constantinople may again be used. And the one thing that will restore commercial prosperity to this city sooner than anything else will be the opening up of Russia, especially Odessa, the Crimea and the Caucasus, so that trade may be resumed. If the war conditions that still hinder this development northeastward and southeastward could give place to the open door, an era of prosperity might be expected that would save many a merchant from the crash that threatens him now.

KING SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, MARSOVAN

Miss Charlotte R. Willard, Principal of Anatolia Girls' School, Marsovan, has been attempting while in America to raise funds for the reopening of the King School for deaf children, which had in 1914 seventeen pupils, but whose activities were much curtailed by the war which well-nigh destroyed the staff of teachers. An American teacher who is well fitted for this work has become deeply interested in it, and will probably come out to take charge of it. Under the lead of Miss Caroline A. Yale, of the Clarke School for the Deaf, Northampton, Mass., and Mr. A. L. E. Crouter, President of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Mt. Airy, Pa., an effort is being made to interest in the King School all the schools for the deaf in America and their teachers, and secure contributions from them. Repairs on the school building and a new equipment are needed before the school can begin to function; and the costs of maintenance must also be provided, besides the salary of the American teacher. The King School is the only one for the deaf in the whole country.

AMERICAN SAILORS' CLUB

It has been a busy week with an unusual attendance, in spite of the fact that there have been fewer ships in harbor than usual. The weather has made hikes and sight seeing any thing but attractive, the Pathé Man gave up in disgust and has gone south planning to return with the sunshine.

The dinner dance in honor of Washington's Birthday was most successful,—record attendance and a jolly time. Capt. Treadwell and officers presented the Club a pennant in the name of the crew of the U.S.S. "Tracy." Naturally there was much enthusiasm; the pennant is a unique addition to our interesting collection. The minuet was danced and was very prettily and gracefully done.

The cinemas are exceptionally good, films direct from America loaned by the U.S.S. "St. Louis."

The fudge and pop-corn parties are popular and "home-ly" affairs.

We have had many parties with appreciative guests, but not any of them could quite touch the one held last Sunday when the Club fed 60 children from the Armenian refugee camp at Ortakuy. They were given a meal consisting of vegetable soup, pilaf and beef, white bread and cakes, and an orange as they left the building. They ate until they could eat no more. They were warm and full for at least once. They asked if the white bread was "cake" and took away with them the "leavings." They were a subdued, pitiful group of children from whom all the joy of childhood had departed. The sailors vied with each other in assisting.

The Near East Committee under Miss Hastings will gather and deliver the children, the Club will serve the meal; twenty liras will feed 50 children. We already have ten liras toward the next dinner. Who will add the other ten? The meal can be served any week day.

Since President-elect Harding and Mrs. Harding feel that they can not afford an inaugural ball, the sailors of the American Club have decided to give them one, on Saturday March 5.

Program for the week :

THURSDAY, MARCH 3rd.

- 2-5 French classes on U.S.S. "Scorpion."
- 8:00 American movies: "Over Niagara Falls."

FRIDAY

- 10:30 Sight seeing, Selamlık and Dervishes (from Top-hané.)
- 8:00 Special Party.

SATURDAY

- 1:30 Shopping and Sight seeing, Stamboul
- 8:00 "Inaugural Ball" and Supper.

SUNDAY

- 10:45 Church parties.
- 1:30 Special Hike (weather permitting.)
- 5-7 Concert and Supper.
- 8:00 Sunday Sing and Service

MONDAY

- 4-5 French classes on U.S.S. "Scorpion."
- 8:30 American Movies.

TUESDAY

- 8:00 Usual dance.

WEDNESDAY

- 1:30 Sight seeing to Stamboul.
- 2:00 Dinner for Refugee Children of N.E.R.
- 7:00 Dancing class for beginners only.
- 8:00 Special party.

THE BURNT AREAS OF CONSTANTINOPLE

(By Prof. F. W. KELSEY of Univ. of Mich.
in *Art and Archaeology*.)

Of the total area of Stamboul, the most ancient part of Constantinople, and still the heart of the city, approximately one-fourth has been burnt over within the past twelve years, and lies unrestored and desolate. This estimate is based upon official data. The total area of Stamboul which has been built upon is reckoned at 8,500,000 square metres; the burnt areas—making no account of isolated small fires—aggregate 2,089,000 square metres.

East of Stamboul lies the quarter of Galata, separated from it by the Golden Horn. Above Galata, on the crest of the height, is Pera, the European quarter. Though these and the other sections of Constantinople east of the golden Horn contain a larger proportion of modern buildings, their desolated burnt areas are nevertheless conspicuous.

The destruction has been caused by a series of seven great conflagrations. The first of these desolated the area in Stamboul between the Shiehzade and Fatih mosques. It started on August 26th, 1908, and destroyed 1500 buildings. The second great fire commenced July 24th, 1911, between the Bible House and the War Department, leaped across the War Department square, and burned 2463 buildings. The following day a large part of Balat, a Jewish quarter on the Golden Horn, was burned over. Another area between St. Sophia, the Hippodrome and the Marmora, was burned June 3rd, 1912.

The largest burnt area in Pera is that near the former Prussian Hospital. The fire started July 26th, 1915, a short distance south of the German Embassy, and spread southward roughly paralleling the shore of the Bosphorus. It consumed 1400 buildings. The most recent fire on the east side of the Golden Horn broke out on June 21st, 1919, in Kassim Pashia, above the Admiralty.

The most fearful conflagration of all commenced on June 13th, 1918, on the Stamboul side above the inner bridge and cleared a broad strip from near the edge of the Golden Horn southward over the peninsula through the heart of Stamboul. It destroyed 8,000 buildings and left desolate 1, 100, 000 square metres, slightly more than one eighth of the entire area of Stamboul devoted to buildings. These areas of destruction by fire give to Constantinople an appearance in some respects resembling that of European cities which were partially destroyed in the war. There is, however, this difference. In the war-wrecked cities of Europe—with some exceptions—walls of buildings are still standing; in Constantinople there are whole blocks in which so little stone or brick was used that one looks across an almost open space.

The fires have had their origin in a variety of causes. The first is the failure to enforce suitable building regulations. Leaving out of consideration the mosques, Government buildings and homes of the wealthy, the great majority of the shops and houses in Stamboul, and a smaller proportion in the quarters east of the Golden Horn, are wretchedly built. Though the roofs may be covered with tiles, wood has been so extensively used that the fire hazard in many places is greater than in the average American frontier town, because the streets are so much narrower. Fire-nests, consisting of groups of unpainted and run-down wooden buildings, may be found within a block of the two principal streets of Pera, the Grand'Rue and the Rue des Petits-Champs. The fire protection is, moreover, entirely inadequate. One hears strange stories, too, about the methods of the firemen under the old regime. These I have not been at pains to verify, and verification would be difficult; but I am told that the point of view of the firemen is about as follows:—It is the will of Allah that this place be burned, else the fire would not have started. The owner would lose all his effects if we did not rescue them. If we take them for ourselves, therefore, it will be no loss to him, and we need the proceeds because we cannot get enough to live on in any other way. Since the fireman's first duty, as he conceived it, was to himself, his

main efforts were directed to salvaging, with the right to dispose of everything which the owner and his friends could not carry away in their own hands. The fire meanwhile was apt to run its course, unless sufficient baksheesh was forthcoming or some public building was in danger. A long-time resident of Constantinople informs me that he has seen firemen in front of a burning building stand idle while bargaining with the owner in regard to the amount to be paid them in case they should put out the fire.

Near the beginning of the war, when the Germans took charge of affairs in Constantinople, a more efficient fire department was installed, with modern appliances. Nevertheless, by comparison of dates it will be seen that two of the worst conflagrations have accomplished their work of destruction since 1914.

In regard to the origin of the recent fires there is no lack of sinister rumors. But it is not necessary to attribute them to an incendiary origin. They have all taken place in the summer, when the heat of the sun makes the houses as dry as tinder. Popular report has it that fire-alarms thicken when the fruit of the egg-plant comes into market; this is fried in oil, which, carelessly used, may easily start a blaze in a small wooden kitchen; though of course the use of oil in cooking is not confined to any season. However, the burnt areas run in a general direction north and south. An insurance expert informs me that all the great fires started at the north end of the devastated zones, and were driven southwards by the north wind, which here blows strongly in the afternoon of a large proportion of summer days. "The recent fires," he said, "are all due to accident and to a lack of water for putting them out as they were starting."

The same expert is authority for the statement that before the war the burning of single buildings or small groups of buildings was for a time systematically practiced by an organized gang of criminals who, forming an alliance with the police, placed heavy insurance and started fires in order to collect it. One is not surprised to learn that at the present time the rate of insurance in Constantinople is twice as high as in Paris for the same classes of buildings.

Almost nothing has been done in the way of re-building. Several causes have contributed to this result. In the years preceding the great war, conditions in Turkey were much disturbed, first by revolution and then by the Italian and Balkan wars. In the meantime the costs of materials and construction have so increased that according to the estimate of an expert about half the owners of the real estate in the fire swept districts are quite unable to raise the money needed for rebuilding. But if the requisite capital were at hand, it is by no means certain that rebuilding would now be resumed, because of extreme uncertainty in regard to the future administration and development of the city, and the lack of a definite plan.

The destruction of habitations in Constantinople has been accompanied by a notable increase in population. No exact statistics are available, but the city is crowded with refugees and foreigners, and while the population has increased some 30%, or more, its housing accommodations have been

reduced, on a conservative estimate, at least 15% below the total of 1908. The congestion of living and of street traffic is almost unbelievable to one who has not come into direct contact with it.

In consequence Constantinople, instead of being, as in times past, one of the cheapest cities in the world to live in, is now more expensive than any other capital that I have visited in recent months; to be specific, living is here more costly than in London, Paris, Athens, Rome, Bucharest, Sofia, Damascus, or even Jerusalem or Cairo. In what degree the high cost of living is due to profiteering I do not know; but it is not necessary to attribute it wholly to this in view of the demand for quarters to live in and the cutting off of the supplies ordinarily brought in from Asia Minor. The Turkish Nationalists have had control of the country east of the Bosphorus to within a comparatively short distance of the city.

From the point of view of the future, the burned areas of Constantinople are an asset of incomparable value and interest. The great fires of the last century in American cities furnish no proper parallel. These cities were of modern growth with broad and regular streets, and in most cases had an adequate system of sewers and water mains. With the exception of a comparatively small area, therefore, it was possible in rebuilding to follow the lines of the old streets. Here in Constantinople, on the contrary, one finds almost virgin soil for city planning. In the unburnt portions of the city a large part of the construction still remains of the flimsiest character, and the development of public utilities is far behind the requirements of the population.

If only a far-sighted and liberal public policy can be worked out and given legal sanction, it presents the most extraordinary opportunity of the ages to build a metropolitan city in the light of the experience and knowledge which the centuries of civic development, and the recent decades of intensive study of city planning, place at the service of the expert.

This is an age when the results of past experience are increasingly utilized by enlightened peoples in dealing with large problems of this character. But it is also an age which more than any other has reduced the study of human origins to a science; by means of investigation and interpretation of the remains of man's handiwork, it is laying the foundation for a more intelligent analysis of modern issues through the knowledge of what man has aimed at and has accomplished in the past. Human hands have wrought on the site of Stamboul since the seventh century before Christ, and on the site of Galata since the third century before Christ.

It would be a crime against science if the rebuilding of Constantinople should be commenced without strict regulations in regard to the recording and conservation of all data of historical and archaeological interest revealed by excavations for streets and buildings. In all building operations arrangements should be made to unearth, under scientific direction, the sites where digging for any purpose should indicate the presence of material of historical or archaeological value. Under suitable regulations the scientific exploration of the site could be carried on along with the building operations in a way not to delay or impede construction.

(In closing his article, Professor Kelsey suggests that, as the local government and the European Powers will have so many other problems to handle, and will hardly essay this task, the American Institute of Architects, or the American Federation of Arts, should take steps to secure a conference to attack the problem in an effective way, perhaps later enlisting European cooperation as well. The suggestion, as he states, has the sympathy of Rear-Admiral Bristol.)

THE LOCAL PRESS

The Turkish daily *Vakil* says:—"The first article of the program of demands presented to the Conference by our delegates claims for the Turks equality with the other peoples in the realm of international law, in other words, the recognition of the Turks as a nation. In truth, the Sèvres Treaty has taken away from us the rights and prerogatives of an independent nation, after having detached from Turkey her richest regions, like Arabia, Syria and Mesopotamia. Not only so, but it has even taken away from the Turks the rights enjoyed by the subjects of foreign governments residing in Turkey. Thus the Treaty takes on the form of a court sentence condemning both the State and the Ottoman subjects to the loss of their civic rights. We may mention a few of the rights lost in the Sèvres Treaty:—(1) The zone of influence given to the Commission on the Straits is so vast, and the executive powers conferred on it are so great, that the rights of the Central Government, obliged to act side by side with the Commission, are limited to simply the right of residence. (2) The same powers are given to the Commission of Financial Control, composed of British, French and Italian delegates. One clause in this part stipulates that no modification can be made in the Budget by Parliament without the consent of this commission of control. (3) The military clauses reduce Turkey to the condition of a man who is forbidden to carry arms, and they deprive the State of the means necessary to maintain security in the interior and to defend its frontiers."

The *Peyam-Sabah* says:—"Telegrams giving the first impressions and afflictions resulting from the meeting of the delegations from Angora and from Constantinople with the London Conference, have come to us from various sources. We observe first, that it is regrettable that Bekir Sami Bey, both by the way he presents himself before the Conference and by the way he talks about the Turkish demands, saying that only the delegation over which he presides is authorized to represent Turkey, has prevented an understanding between the two delegations. So that even at this momentous hour, it has not been possible, even in the very presence of the enemy, to show a united front; and this is nothing short of criminal. We observe secondly that one of our contemporaries published the statement that Tewfik Pasha, out of patriotism, had left the defence of the Turkish cause to Bekir Sami Bey. We are sure the Grand Vizier is incapable of such disgraceful conduct. Through the exchange of telegrams with Moustafa Kemal, Tewfik Pasha knows what sort of people the Angora nationalists are, and he would never debase him-

self by committing to a delegate of that government the defence of our national rights. In the third place, some of our people are rejoicing that Bekir Sami Bey has got ahead of Tewfik Pasha. Even if we admit that this is true, we fail to see what we gain by this. The Grand Vizier is abundantly capable of fulfilling the mission on which he has been sent, which cannot be said of the Angora delegates. Fourthly, we observe that, as always, these fellows are indulging in glittering generalities. The demands the Angora delegates have formulated deal in indefinite phrases from beginning to end. For instance, the demands of Moustafa Kemal as to the abolition of the capitulations need something more than a stroke of the pen; we cannot make such a demand without offering the Entente Powers the necessary guarantees. Then too, the question of the freedom of the Straits is so complicated a question that for nearly a century no solution has been found for it. In short, our first impressions may be summed up thus:—In regard to the preparation of a defence, the two delegations are weak, and we fear this weakness will be fatal for us. Our defence is along two lines, political and technical; and our deficiencies in each are great."

NOTES

The U.S.S. "St. Louis" with Admiral and Mrs. Bristol on board, left Constantinople Feb. 21st on a cruise to the coasts of Syria and Egypt.

The Kemalist government has decided to build a railroad between Samsoun and Sivas, the necessary funds to be raised by an internal loan of Ltq. 19,000,000. This loan, it is stated by the Greek and Armenian papers, is being raised by compulsion.

The Greek transatlantic steamer "Megali Hellas," of 18,000 tons displacement, leaves Constantinople today for New York.

Mehmed Ali Bey has been appointed Prefect of the City in place of Yousouf Razi Bey.

Mr. Bedros Halladjian, formerly Minister in the Ottoman Cabinet, who has been in Switzerland for some time, returned to Constantinople last week. He has been asked by the Ottoman Public Debt to resume his position of legal counsellor.

LECTURES AT THE LANGUAGE SCHOOL, SCUTARI

March 3, 3-4 P.M. at Y. W. C. A. Personnel House, Taxim.
Dr. C. F. Gates, of Robert College:

"The Vital Forces of Islam: The Koran."

March 4, 10 A.M.

Mr. Arthur Baker:

"Abdul Hamid and Yildiz."

March 7, 10-11 A.M.

Dr. George G. Deaver, of the Y.M.C.A.:
"Recreation in Institutional Life."

March 7, 3-4 P.M. at Y.W.C.A. Personnel House Taxim.

Dr. C. F. Gates, of Robert College:

"The Vital Forces of Islam: The Moslem Idea of God."

March 9, 10-11 A.M.

Jenab Shehabbeddin Bey:

"Turkish Literature, II."

March 9, 3-4 P.M., at Y.M.C.A. Personnel House, Taxim.

Dr. C. F. Gates, of Robert College:

"The Vital Forces of Islam: Al Ghazzali."

March 11, 10-11 A.M.

Mr. C. T. Riggs: "The Balkan Situation."

March 11, 3-4 P.M., at Y.W.C.A. Personnel House. Taxim,

Dr. C. F. Gates, of Robert College:

"Turkish Influence in Islam."

CONSULAR COURT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CONSTANTINOPLE

Citation For Probate.

I do hereby monish and cite all and all manner of persons to appear in the Consular Court of the United States of America at Constantinople on the nineteenth day of March A.D. 1921 at three o'clock in the afternoon and show cause, if any they have, why the last will and testament of Meredith Hart, deceased, should not be proved, approved and registered, and letters executorial thereof granted unto Arthur S. Bedell, named therein, as in default thereof, the Court will proceed to grant the same accordingly.

G. BIE RAVNDAL,
Consul General of the United States
of America
Judge of the United States
Consular Court.

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SUNDAY SERVICES March 6, 1921

DUTCH CHAPEL,	11 a.m. Cap. Houston.
ROBERT COLLEGE,	11 a.m. Rev. F. H. Black
CONS/PLE COLLEGE	11 a.m. Mr. Clarence R. Johnson
MEMORIALCHURCH	10.15 a.m. Rev. R. F. Borough

FOREIGN EXCHANGE, March 1st

(Values in paper liras)

Dollar	1.49	20 leva	0.35 1/2
Pound sterling . .	5.85	20 marks	0.48
20 francs	2.18	20 kronen	0.04 1/4
20 lire	1.11	Gold lira	6.01
20 drachmas . . .	2.25		

LATEST NEWS

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