

SAMOKOV NEWS

AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR BOYS

AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

SAMOKOV, BULGARIA

VOL. II

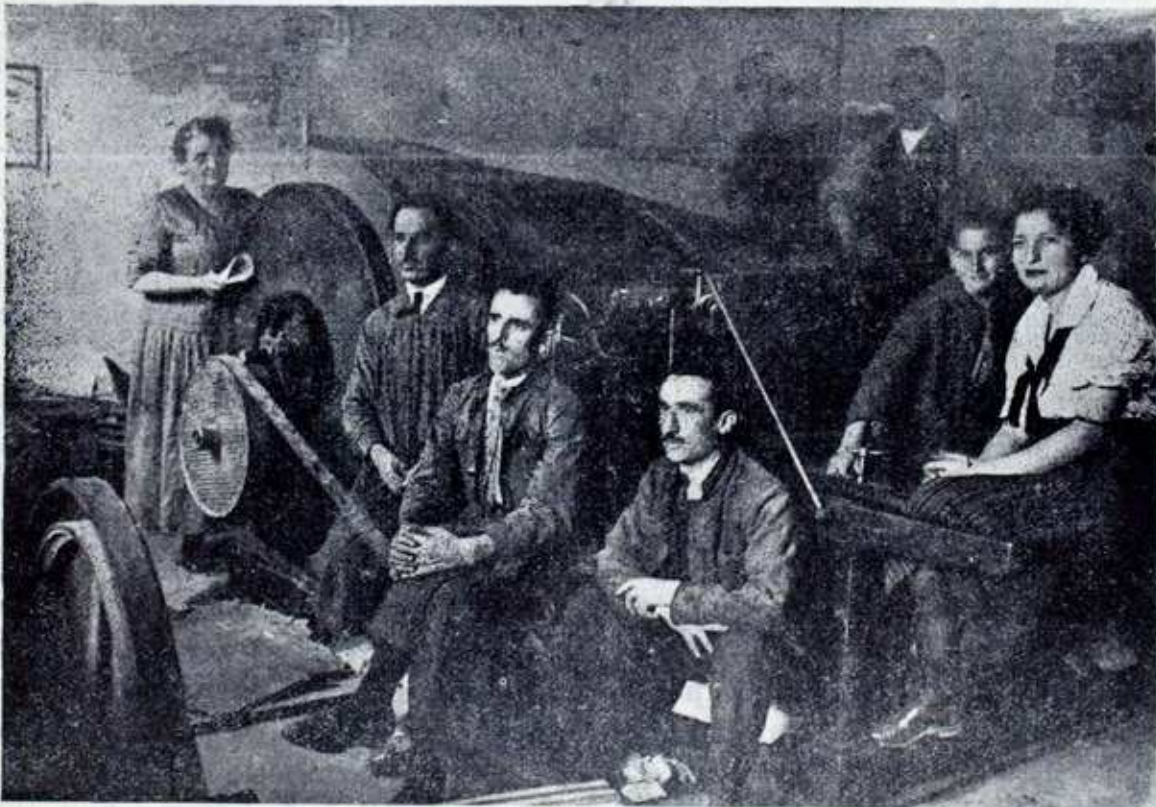
NOVEMBER, 1923

No. 1

The New Hymnal

One of the first concerns of the American Board's early work among the Bulgarians, after organizing churches both in Bulgaria and Macedonia, was to supply

sole prerogative of the priest, who was paid for his monotonous chanting,— and as for understanding what was being sung, surely that was not for ordinary mortals to inquire into or comprehend! Only the dignified, ancient Slavic language was fit



THE GLADSTONE PRESS, ON WHICH THE HYMNAL WAS PRINTED

the constituency with a hymn-book. Fifty years ago there was no such thing in the country. Indeed, why should there be such a book? Singing praises to God was the

to convey praises and petitions to the Almighty!

But the day came when the missionary arrived in Bulgaria, and with him

came his hymn-book. In those days the singing by the congregation proved to be a great attraction and a means of getting people to listen to those "strange Americans."

One of the earliest collections of hymns for general use bears the date 1874. It is a small pamphlet containing 134 hymns without notes. The Russian influence on the language is very apparent. The hymns are translations by the early missionaries, Dr. Elias Riggs, Dr. Long, and Mr. Byington, and by one or two Bulgarians.

In a few years, as churches and membership increased, this little collection grew in size, and notes were added to the text. Rev. W. W. Sleeper and the late Rev. Robert Thomson in the early '80's and '90's gave great impetus to this work. They found translators — both Bulgarian and American — to add to the original collection. The last edition, printed in 1907, contained 626 hymns, of which 479 are the translations of the great missionary linguist and scholar, Dr. Elias Riggs. Then fourteen years elapsed without any effort to reprint the last edition, due chiefly to the Great War and the state of the country after the armistice.

But with the return of more normal times, the Mission once again turned its attention to this feature of its work, and appointed a committee of four of its missionaries,— Miss Baird, Miss Long, Mrs. Haskell, and Mr. Rowland — to take charge of the preparation of a revised edition of the old hymn-book. Even before the printing of the last edition of 1907 (long ago exhausted) it had become very apparent that a thoro revision was imperative and that new hymns should be added to meet the social and religious needs of this progressive people. The language had changed in many respects, having become stabilized

and enriched in phraseology, as the result of education in a country freed from Turkish rule. This was a task for the joint coöperation of Americans and Bulgarians. Therefore, to the four members of the Mission were added four men appointed by the Bulgarian Evangelical Society.

The first meeting of the full committee took place in Sofia in August, 1921. Of the 626 old hymns, 302 were retained. To this number were added new hymns to be translated from English and German hymnals, and original poems from Bulgarian poets and writers,— one of them an Orthodox priest, a man literary in taste and broad-minded in spirit.

The text committee was fortunate in that it could give over the arduous task of revision and the translation of new hymns (about 70 in number) to Dr. L. Sechanova, a highly-educated and gifted Bulgarian lady, the daughter of one of our pioneer pastors, himself a man of literary ability. Twenty-five hymns—both original poems and revised translations — are the work of Mr. Stoyan Vatralski, a former graduate of our school and later of Harvard. Two former teachers of literature in our schools contributed five hymns each — originals and translations, while one of the American teachers composed music for thirteen of the original Bulgarian poems.

A Sofia artist was found who was willing to undertake the drawing by hand of the hundreds of notes for the 220 tunes which lacked music cuts. Finally, early in February last, the first 16 pages of the new hymnal appeared, and saw "the white day," as the Bulgarian saying goes. The book contains 452 hymns, including six chants. There are fifteen short anthems for church choirs. Responsive readings

and short biographical notes on some of the most prominent composers are included. Two editions of 2000 copies each have left the press. One edition is without notes, for the most modest pocketbook; the other is printed with notes in two grades of paper.

There were obstacles of various kinds to hinder the rapid printing of the hymnal. One was the loss of nearly a month, due to the revolution of June 9, when Stamboliski's regime suddenly came to an end, and brought up, as one result, the question of orthography. (Spelling and politics go together in Bulgaria. What *would* become of our language, if the United States went Democratic at the next presidential election and a new spelling came in with the new administration?!)

The new hymnal has been eagerly awaited thruout the country, and was enthusiastically received at the recent Church Conference at Kiustendil. Its long-delayed appearance fills a great need in our churches, Sunday Schools, and homes.

Above is the hymn "For the beauty of the earth," in Bulgarian. The first verse is left between the notes just as it appears in the new hymnal. Below, however, the four verses have been transliterated into Latin script. The vowels all have the "continental" or Italian values, with the exception of [ü], which is the vowel-sound in "but."

За кра - си - ва - та зе - мя, За туй ху - ба - во не - бе
И за лю - бов - та Тво - я, Що кжм нас пре - чу - дна бе,

Го - спо - ди, с, при - е - ми То - зи хими на по - хва - ли! А - мин,

1 Za krasivata zemya,
Za tui hubavo nebe
I za liubovta Tvoya,
Shto kãem nas prechudna be,
Gospodi, o priëmi
Tozi him na pohvali!

2 Za tez divni nebesa,
Za tui slãntse prez denya,
Tez polya i dãrvesa
I bezbroinite tsvetya,
Gospodi, o priëmi
Tozi him na pohvali!

3 I za toz priyaten zvuk,
Shtoi naslada na dushi—
Tainstveniya trepet tuk,
Shto ni radva i teshi,
Gospodi, o priëmi
Tozi him na pohvali!

4 I za chufstva plameni
Na priyatel i na svoi,
Za liubov fsãrtsata ni —
Dar nai-skãpotsenen Tvoi,—
Gospodi, o priëmi
Tozi him na pohvali! Amin.

Dr. Ivan Panaiotov

After an absence of a number of years, we welcome the return to the teaching force of Dr. Panaiotov, whose connection with the school dates back to his student days here twenty years ago. On the completion of our course, he studied in Park College, Missouri, graduating in 1908, and then returned for a year of teaching. Desiring to specialize in history, he took graduate work for one year at the University of Chicago, and for two years at the Sorbonne in Paris.

He was then called on to take part in the Balkan War, after which he resumed his teaching with us until interrupted by the European War, in which he served three years. He then filled a position as secretary in the American Legation at Sofia for three years, when circumstances finally permitted the long-desired fulfilment of his purpose, and he was able, after a year of work, to receive his doctorate from Göttingen University, Germany.



DR. PANAIOTOV

Naturally deeply interested in the school of his youth, Dr. Panaiotov brings to it, in addition to his broad training, a readiness to assist in various school organizations, which makes him a valuable member of the faculty. His wife, a graduate of our Girls' School, and after study in America a most efficient teacher here for a number of years, is also gladly welcomed back to our circle.

Political Acrobatics

In the past five months the politics of Bulgaria have gone flip, flop, hippy hop! When the last issue of *SAMOKOV NEWS* went to our readers (May) the

Agrarian Party had over 200 out of 240 deputies in the newly-elected Assembly. Today most of its leaders are killed, imprisoned, or fugitives from Bulgaria. In the elections next month it scarcely will secure enough deputies to be counted. The daily press already has explained how the roughshod methods and ruthless determination of the agrarians to make themselves the permanent rulers of the land brought about reaction and revolution.

In the *Sobranië* as constituted last February sat 48 representatives of the Communist Party. In May, under the election laws and gerrymanders of the agrarians, there were less than a dozen. Of the few communist leaders whose lives have been spared, there are none outside prison walls of sufficient prominence to be candidates.

Before the Great War the Bulgarian socialists were divided into "broad" and "narrow." At that time both groups were pacifists, but the "narrows" were uncompromisingly against opportunism or coöperation with any other party for any object whatsoever. No "half-loaf-better-than-no-bread" policy for them! Under the influence of Russian bolshevism and of the familiarity with bloodshed caused by the war, they not only changed their name to "communists" but advocated armed revolution as the only means adequate to their end. It brought their *end* in a different sense! The militarists took them at their word in September, and went them one better, with the result above indicated.

Meanwhile the "old-line" parties (bourgeois) have formed a combination called "Demokraticheski Sgòvor," or Democratic Union. A rather queer ally of this combination is the "Broad" Socialist Party.

By adhering to peaceful and legal methods and refusing to lift a finger to help the communists, the "broads" have escaped being stamped out and have so far gained the goodwill of their natural enemies as to be promised 37 seats in the next Assembly. Many of the communists, now convinced of the futility of violent methods, will join them, and it would not be strange if a considerable number of agrarians should temporarily do the same. The "broads" may easily become the nucleus of a new opposition party when normal conditions shall have been reestablished.

The results of the elections to be held on November 18 were announced in at least one organ of the Democratic Union on October 20. An amicable division of the seats in the next Assembly has been made by the allotment of unopposed candidates. Two of the parties forming the new combination get 50 seats each; the former "Democrats" get 57; the "Radicals" (not the red kind) 45 seats; the Broad Socialists 37; the Agrarians 0. The Petrich district (in Macedonia) being left unallotted, one seat is doubtful. Total 240. It is convenient to know the results of an election a month before it occurs, as the newly-elected deputies can be arranging their affairs to leave home for the session, and it saves the common citizen the weariness of sitting up election night to get the returns.

Two Girl Graduates

In the fall of 1907 two little girls came to our school,—one, Nevènka Sèndova from a village not far from Philippopolis, and the other, Krustànka Pachejèva, from Sofia.

Serious-minded, dependable, and full of enthusiasm to do something worth

while, — they were ready, after their graduation in 1915, to enter the Queen's newly-founded Training School for Nurses in Sofia, when Miss Helen Hay and Miss Rachel Torrance, the two Americans in charge, made their appeal for volunteers to enter into a career held in little respect by the Bulgarians.

War conditions made the two years of training heavy ones, no less than the additional year of service required of the graduates after completion of the course. Reliable nurses were scarce and those who were capable had to do double duty.

During the first five months of her probation year, Miss Pachejèva had sur-



MISS PACHEJEVA

gical cases in the childrens' ward of the Alexander Hospital, — the largest and best in the country. Then after two months of work with wounded soldiers, she was called into the X-ray department, where, because of her exceptional ability, she has been kept for the last six years. Just at the close of the war, when doctors were scarce (many sick, some captive, and others missing), Miss Pachejèva was left entirely alone in the X-ray department. She took the pictures, finished them, and from them diagnosed the cases. Then, alone, she gave X-ray treatments for cancer.

During the war the Training School was taken over by the Germans, and later, when they left, by the Bulgarians. But

since the return of Miss Torrance last year, it has been again under American supervision, and Miss Pachejewa, after a few months of private nursing and public health work, has accepted a position in it as instructress.

It was with great difficulty that the hospital authorities were finally persuaded to release Miss Sendova in the fall of 1918 from her

additional services at the hospital, in order to become a nurse at our school. She stayed with us four years, doing excellent work, at a time when the effects of the war caused more sickness than usual.



MISS SENDOVA

Then she went to Constantinople to the American School for Nurses, where, because of her previous experience in Sofia, she was able to continue her training. Mrs. Van Buren of Newport, R. I., on a visit to Constantinople, became interested in the school and especially in Miss Sendova. Mrs. Van Buren decided that she should have advanced courses in nursing in the States. So this last summer, after a few months of much-needed rest, Miss Sendova started for America. She will have work in the Presbyterian Hospital in New York, at the Henry Street Settlement, and at Teachers' College, Columbia. Within a year she expects to come back and help raise the standard of nursing in this country.

Our Schedule of Studies

In the spring of 1921 we received the welcome permission of the Ministry of Education to arrange our schedule of studies as we saw fit, in accordance with American secondary school practice, adapted to the needs of Bulgaria. Up to that time we had been bound, hand and foot, by the crushing Continental program of studies, on top of which we had added the further burden of from three to five hours a week of English! This meant a load which no boy or girl of adolescent age was ever meant to carry. Hence our joy at receiving practical *carte blanche* to make our own schedule.

We at once reduced the hours, gave the beginning class 12 hours a week of English instead of 5, began to teach certain other subjects in English, and demanded more home preparation on the part of the students. The German system in vogue all over the Continent turns out passive listeners and spasmodic crammers. We were here to turn out self-reliant students, thinkers, and leaders.

Of course, such a radical reform could not be put into effect simply by a sudden gesture. It takes time to work such changes into a whole curriculum. We are now in the third year of transition, experimentation, and adjustment. But already the main features of the new schedule are emerging in plain view, and it is possible, by a glance at the schedule of the Boys' School here printed, to see what we are driving at.

The subjects in heavy type (from "English Language" to "Religion") are taught in English, with English text-books. Three years ago not one of them (except the first) was taught in English, or could have been taught in English. The progress of our students during the past two years in the power to use English has been notable, and we are still going strong on the up-grade. It is not the intention, however, to teach all subjects in English, as they do at Robert College or at the American University of Beirut. With our homogeneous constituency, there is not the same need, and to denationalize our students, or to prepare emigrants to the United States, is the very last thing we aim to do. Hence, all other subjects (printed in ordinary type) are taught in Bulgarian.

Our five-year course corresponds to High School and the first year of college, and fits our graduates to enter any Continental university.

A Step Forward

At the end of last month, Mr. Herbert B. King, with his wife and daughter, arrived in Sofia to take up residence after a three years' absence in America. The Kings first came to Bulgaria ten years ago, and were here thru all the trying time of the European War, when Mr. King acted as treasurer and business agent of Samokov Station, and was in charge of the Publication Department of the Mission. Returning to the United States on furlough in 1920, reasons of health prevented their returning to Bulgaria at once, and Mr. King resumed his former business of building houses, thus acquiring valuable experience in up-to-date methods of construction. At the urgent request of the Mission, he comes now to take charge of the work on the new school site, as head of the Committee on Plans.

SUBJECTS				ARTS		SCIENCE	
	I	II	III	IV	V	IV	V
Bulgarian	4	4	3	3	3	3	3
Bulgarian Geography	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Bulgarian History	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Civics	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Mathematics	4	4	3	—	—	3(5)	3(5)
Physics	—	—	3	—	—	3	3
Chemistry	—	3	3	—	—	3	2
Zoölogy	—	—	—	—	—	3/-	—
Geology	—	—	—	—	—	-/3	—
Biology	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
English Language	12/7	5/3	1	2	1	—	—
English Literature	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
Geography	-/5	4/-	—	—	—	—	—
History	—	-/6	4	3	—	3	—
Hygiene	—	—	3/-	—	—	—	—
Botany	—	—	-/3	—	—	—	—
Evolution	—	—	—	3/-	—	—	—
Psychology	—	—	—	-/3	—	—	—
Sociology	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Business	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Religion	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
French or German	—	—	—	5	5	(2)	(2)
Total prepared	22	22	22	22	22	23	23
Public Speaking	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Drawing	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
or Singing	—	2	3	3	3	3	3
Carpentry	3	3	3	(2)	—	(2)	—
Athletics	2	2	2	2	—	2	—

Subjects in heavy type, taught in English.

Figures before slanting lines, first semester courses.

Figures after slanting lines, second semester courses.

Figures in parentheses, electives.

The reader will notice that from the IV class up, the course is divided into two, — an Arts Course and a Science Course. This is a new departure this year. The boys of the IV and V classes split about even in their choice between the two courses. We are contemplating somewhat putting in a commercial course parallel to the Arts and Science Courses, but have not definitely decided upon it, pending the collection of data as to the need and usefulness of such a course.

The Girls' School schedule is substantially the same as that of the Boys' School here given, — the chief difference being the substitution of such subjects as Child Psychology, Mothercraft, Sewing and Cooking in place of Business, Public Speaking, Carpentry, and Athletics.



MR. H. B. KING

With his combined knowledge of the language, of the business methods of the country, and of the actual processes of building, we are sure that Mr. King is eminently fitted to carry thru the important work that is waiting to be done.

News Notes

The schools opened on September 13, with 157 girls and 130 boys.

The faculty of the two schools consists this year of 29 teachers,— 15 women and 14 men. Ten of the 29 are Americans.

* * *

September 24 to 29 was "Labor Week" in our schools. A Labor Week in the autumn and another in the spring for all schools is part of Bulgaria's compulsory labor law. The girls cleaned their dormitories, the church, the S. S. rooms, and the yard. Most of the boys worked along the river Isker, which flows thru Samokov, filling wicker baskets with stones to make a dyke to protect the City Hospital. Another group of boys worked in the school library, cataloging books, while a third group helped put the finishing touches on the stage decorations in the new Municipal Theater.

* * *

On October 6, the well-known Bulgarian pianist and composer, Pancho Vladigerov, and his violinist brother, gave an unusually interesting concert in the assembly room of A. S. B. Mr. P. Vladigerov describes himself as an ultra-modernist, carrying on the tradition of Rimski-Korsakov and Scriabin. He has a wide reputation in Germany as a composer. The program included several of his own compositions, one of which was built on various Bulgarian themes.

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The city of Vratsa was one-third destroyed by fire early in October, leaving thousands homeless and destitute. Our school community took up a subscription for the sufferers, which amounted to 4220 *levs* (\$40).

* * *

On October 14 we were honored by a flying visit from President C. F. Gates of Robert Colleg^e, Mrs. Gates, Mr. Albert W. Staub (New York representative of the three best-known American colleges in the Near East), Mrs. Staub, and some Bulgarian friends. On November 3 Mr. Staub paid us a second visit after having been to Constantinople. There is a movement on foot to link up all American colleges in the Near East for the purpose of presenting their work

and needs as a whole to the American public. The record of American schools in the Near East is one of the brightest pages in our history, and needs only to be more widely known in order to be appreciated at its full value.

* * *

A welcome visitor to the schools during October was Mr. Svetozar Tonjorov, who returned to Bulgaria last summer after an unbroken absence of thirty-five years. Well-known in journalistic circles in the States for many years, he now comes back to the Balkans as correspondent of the Associated Press. With unmistakable pleasure he revisited the school of his youth, in the industrial department of which he had learned to set type, and thus taken the first step in his literary career. He addressed the whole student body at morning chapel, urging on them appreciation and appropriation of the special American features of training offered them by this school.

* * *

The "Sport Club" of A. S. B. has had an unbroken series of victories in Association football, having twice defeated the local National Gymnasium by scores of 7—0 and 4—1, and in its last game having punished a strong team from the neighboring city of Dupnitsa to the tune of 5—1.

* * *

During the last week in October five of our teachers attended the annual church conference in Kiustendil, a city of 16,000 people lying very near the Serbian border. The public lectures held in connection with the gathering received valuable— and free — advertisement from placards thruout the city warning people not to attend. These had been posted by the local priests, most of whom in that extreme western end of the country, have not been in touch with Protestant work. They also summoned from Sofia two leading speakers of the National Church to give a course of lectures during the days of the Conference.

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The address of our Sofia representative is Mr. Herbert B. King, 53 Gladstone St., Sofia, Bulgaria.