

and Armenia. The President cabled acceptance, conditional upon receiving necessary information and diplomatic support. Up to January 11th, no reply had been received. President Wilson has transmitted his findings as to boundaries to the Powers, but they are not yet published, and may never become actual boundaries. Armenia, lacking cohesion, leadership and friends, has succumbed at last to Bolshevism. The awful tragedy goes on, largely because of the paralysis of America and the preoccupation of other Powers.

TURKEY-IN-ASIA. The larger part of Asia Minor remains in Turkish hands. The "Turkish Nationalists" have set up a government at Angora, headed by Mustapha Kemal Pasha, and continue to resist the Allies. They seem to be joining with the Bolsheviki, with whom they have made contact through Armenia and Georgia. It is impossible to foresee what will happen in this important region.

ARABIA. Except for the Hedjaz, Arabia is not within the province of the Turkish treaty. It is difficult to follow the succession of changes in the Arabian peninsula. Very little missionary work has been possible here, the only stations being at Aden (under British rule) and in Muscat, Bahrein and Kuwait on the Persian Gulf.

NEW HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTED

Important railroads were laid during the war. The Constantinople-Baghdad line was brought nearer to completion, by Germans and British. Only the section from Nisibin to Tekrit is unfinished. The British also built from the Suez canal through Palestine to assist Allenby's campaign. Today the railroad is complete from Constantinople to Cairo, via Aleppo, Damascus and Haifa, and is all standard gauge except for the old Turkish line between Rayak and Afuleh. This gap is now being standard gauged.

Jerusalem is connected by standard gauge railway now with both Haifa and Jaffa, the new Jaffa-Ludd broad gauge being opened last October. Jerusalem now uses Cairo standard time, which is telegraphed daily.

A railroad is projected from Angora east and southeast through Yozgad, Sivas, Kharput, Diarbekr and Mardin to the Aleppo-Baghdad main line, and doubtless when this is built and the country is quiet an arm will run up to Erzerum, thus connecting Constantinople, Cairo, Beirut and Baghdad by an all rail route with Tiflis, Batum, Baku, Erivan and Tabriz.

The war brought new importance to the port of Basra, (Busrah) on the Persian Gulf, with its new imposing wharves on which powerful electric cranes load and unload the cargoes. Metalled roads radiate in many directions. The city has electric cars and the telephone service is now said to be more extensive than that of Bombay. Electric lights have been installed in the towns along the Tigris.

The day is not far off when it will be possible to board a train at a channel port, perhaps in London, and travel by rail continuously through Constantinople and Aleppo, either to Cairo and Capetown, to Baghdad and India, or to Transcaucasia, Central Asia, China and the Pacific ports. The pivotal position of Aleppo is to be especially noted.

Aerial navigation is not to be overlooked. Regular commercial day-and-night aerial service may be expected from London to Constantinople within a year or two. Important links exist already, e. g., London-Paris and Paris-Strasbourg. Other links are promised soon. When the route is complete and well equipped, passengers may leave London one evening, travel 2,000 miles by air, and reach Constantinople in time for dinner the next evening.

The important position of the Near East, "crossroads of the world," is being accentuated with the establishment of every new railroad and aerial route that intersects it.

ADJUSTMENTS OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONS

Dr. Zwemer writes: "We are too apt to forget that the Near East has now had its Gethsemane. The war has plowed deep furrows in human hearts and lives. There are millions of orphans and widows. There is not a home in some parts of Turkey without its vacant place. Islam is defeated on the battle-field, disillusioned in its outlook, and distracted in its program. People are ripe for the ministry of friendship and the message of hope. The war has shown Moslems that Allah is no longer fighting for Islam as he once did. Their plans of rebellion and revolt, and even those more subtle endeavors cloaked in a program of nationalism to crush non-Moslems have failed. The Jew has come to his own in Palestine. The Christian in Egypt and Syria dares to hold up his head where formerly he was scorned and despised. Moslems themselves have begun a critical study of Mohammed's life and teaching. This is evident from the new commentary on the Koran published as a serial in the leading magazine of Cairo, *Al Manar*. The whitewash is coming off. Educated Moslems are reading French and English books on the subject . . .

"There is new opportunity for the social message of Christ, the uplift of childhood, the emancipation of womanhood, and higher ideals of marriage. In this effort, the missionary has for his allies all educated Moslems whose standards and ideals are no longer those of the religion of their fathers. Slavery has gone; the veil is going, polygamy and Moslem divorce laws are impossible under new conditions."

"No other part of the world calls for more thorough study of the adjustments that are needed in the years following the war," writes Dr. James L. Barton. The adjustments with respect to

missions should be many, but they will be known in detail only after careful study. In general terms, they will surely include the following:

1. There must soon be a *large increase in the number of missionaries*. The need is intense in the wake of the war, and Christians must respond in much larger numbers.

2. Because of the disruption of former settled life and the destruction of the means of support of many thousands, there must be an *increased adaptation to the economic needs of the people*, without in the least losing the central spiritual emphasis of Christian missions.

3. There must be a *fresh study of the areas of strategic importance*, in the light of developments in communication facilities, of the creation of new states with fresh access of nationalistic spirit, the administration of mandate territories by European powers, and the economic exploitation of the natural resources. The present importance of such centers as Aleppo, Damascus, Baghdad, Basra and Haifa must be recognized and mission work adjusted accordingly.

4 *Special adaptations* will probably be necessary according to the policies of the several mandatory powers in their respective mandate territories.

Missionaries will have not a little to live down—not of their own past, but of the actions of some of the European powers, especially during the last months. At the same time they have much to live up to—the wonderful devotion and heroism of scores of missionaries who have stood their ground at all costs for the sake of the men and women and children for whom they would gladly give their lives.

IMMEDIATE RELIEF FOR ARMENIANS NEEDED

The Near East Relief is clothing and housing 7,768 children and feeding 25,872 others in Armenia. These little ones face death from the rigors of a mountain winter unless they have sufficient clothing. These orphaned boys and girls constitute the hope of the future in the Near East. They are the coming generation who will have to create a peaceful civilized, prosperous Armenia if that land is ever to be regenerated at all. The future depends, therefore, upon the aid we give them now. Hundreds of thousands who are living today would be dead had it not been for American relief. Hundreds of thousands of Armenians are still refugees from their homes in Turkish Armenia, and have neither food nor shelter nor the means of getting either, themselves. What happens to them depends upon the generosity of the American people.

Popular Idolatry In China

A visit to the Sacred Mountain of Shantung

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CHINA is a land of religious pilgrimages. Shantung, the "Sacred Province," is especially notable for its Holy Mountain, "Tai Shan," to which have journeyed, for countless ages, more millions probably than to any other shrine. But many other hills are also crowned with shrines which make of them "Holy Mounts." Many of these mountains are locally famed for some god who sits in his temple upon its height to which great companies journey each spring and fall to trade and worship—mark it, *to trade and worship!* To some of these sacred mountains Chinese evangelists and Christian missionaries also journey that they may preach and distribute tracts to the pilgrims.

One of these "Holy Hills," which I visited not long ago, is crowded with many temples. In one of these on the summit sits the heroic image of "Lao Niang Niang," also called "The Venerable Dragon Queen," or the "Goddess Who Protects The Wheat From Hail." At times the hail destroys the wheat and the protectress does not intervene; yet, with the obdurate unreasonableness of superstition, the people again continue to press up to worship here, just as they have done for ages. When conditions are propitious the priests are in high glee, but this year when crops have failed and an awful famine is at hand there is great gloom.

At the pilgrimage season all roads are full of pilgrims—old women hobbling on their tiny feet, little boys in gala attire, mothers with babies strapped on their backs, men gossiping and story-telling—all pressing eagerly on to worship. Despite the fact that everybody would naturally wish to travel as light as possible, many a pilgrim carries a bird cage with a singer inside, to relieve the monotony of the journey. From his point of view this is far more dignified and reasonable than the foreign custom of carrying canes or staves. Pilgrims from afar naturally form themselves into companies, both for protection and to while away the tedium of long, footsore journeys. Many pilgrims come as in a festive pageant, with banners flying and pennants waving. On the former are characters inscribed in praise of the idols, while the latter bear the sign of the Manchu dynasty, the image of the Dragon. In all the companies not one flag of the Republic is seen, for idolators are poor patriots. Many of them probably have never heard of the Republic, and when the new magistrate of that district posted an edict forbidding such festivals on the ground of the waste of time and money,