

# TURKISH WAYS HAVE NOT BEEN CHANGED MUCH BY THE NEW REGIME

**B**EDROS KELJIK, a merchant of St. Paul, Minn., who has just returned from a trip to Turkey, had unusual facilities for studying the Turkish situation, as he combined with his American education the advantage of familiarity with the language and customs of the land which he visited. His views, therefore, have special interest.

Before stating his personal reasons for the pessimistic opinions he formed as to conditions and the outlook in Turkey Mr. Keljik related to a *Six* reporter what Dr. Riza Tewfik, member of Parliament for Adrianople, with whom he travelled from Munich to Constantinople, confided to him.

According to Dr. Tewfik, who was incarcerated and even assaulted and beaten by members of the Committee of Union and Progress about six months ago, the difficulties of the new régime were due to the non-existence of political parties in Turkey. The Committee of Union and Progress would not brook an opposition party. So there was only the "Itihad," which looked to the army for its support, but a Government that is propped merely by the army cannot be stable. The Itihad fell.

"The Itihads made another mistake," Dr. Tewfik told Mr. Keljik, "when they tried forcibly to Turkify the various races which constitute the population of Turkey. This was not only a mistake but an anachronism. A similar attempt might have succeeded seventy years ago, but at that time the Christian races were compelled to remain isolated. For instance, they were not allowed to wear certain clothing like that of the Mohammedans.

"The 'Itihads,' who are now in power, will undoubtedly succeed in restoring peace and order if they do not discriminate against the Christian subjects of the empire and if they can improve the country's financial condition by securing loans from European Powers. The borrowing money is at present seriously impaired, as the Powers have lost hope in the possible regeneration of Turkey. Besides, the Turkish Government must reconcile the conflicting interests—English and German.

"The whole sentiment of the liberal movement is pro-English, but Turkey is commercially strangled by Germany. The Anatolian Railway concession to German capitalists is the greatest concession ever granted by Turkey to any foreign syndicate. Ninety per cent. of our laws and precepts must be copied from the English Government. By the tolerance which elevated Disraeli to the office of Prime Minister England is enabled to govern a heterogeneous empire. The English officers are splendid in their intelligence and efficiency. Unless the Itihads justify the hopes reposed in them the disintegration of Turkey is imminent."

As an illustration of the stupidity of Turkish officials Dr. Riza Tewfik cited one of his experiences with them. He was visiting a friend at Kadé Kouy, across the Bosphorus. About 10 o'clock at night Dr. Tewfik heard the watchman call "Yangin var, Galatada yangin var" ("There is fire, there is fire in Galata"), the usual alarm given when fire breaks out in any quarter.

It happened that Dr. Tewfik's own home was in Galata and he rushed to the nearest telegraph office to inquire concerning the safety of his family. He received no answer to his telegram and his fears were aroused. But as no boats cross the Bosphorus at night he was obliged to wait till morning. When he arrived home all was safe. On inquiring why his family had not answered his telegram he was informed that they had not received any. So Dr. Tewfik went to the telegraph office and demanded an explanation. One Osman Agha, to whom Dr. Tewfik's telegram had been given for delivery, was called.

"Where is the Effendi's telegram?" Osman Agha fumbled in his pockets and drew forth the message.

"Why did you not deliver it?" demanded Dr. Tewfik angrily.

"Oh, Effendi," answered the imperturbable Osman Agha, who had evidently perused the telegram to his own satisfaction, "I knew that your house was not on fire."

"But," Mr. Keljik was asked when he had repeated the story, "has not the new régime, adopting modern ideas, suc-

ceeded somewhat in bettering the general condition of the country?"

"There is yet no progress there," answered Mr. Keljik decidedly. "When, after leaving behind the beautiful green stretches of cultivated land in Bulgaria, we reached Mustafa Pasha, on the frontier of Turkey, there was nothing to greet the eye but a barren, desolate waste, dotted here and there by a few stray camels.

"At each station on our journey onward to Constantinople we saw idle, lazy beings lying around, some of whom craned their necks at us with a passing curiosity and lapsed into sleep, while others never even stirred. There was slothfulness in the air as well as on the faces of everybody."

"Of course when you entered the capital everything was changed?" was suggested.

"Not at all," responded Mr. Keljik. "Even there you can see little, if any kind of progress. Time and human energy, the most precious gifts of civilization, are the cheapest things in Turkey. There are three calendars in use, the Julian

calendar, the Gregorian calendar and the Turkish calendar. Two kinds of time are kept, Western time and Turkish time. But a confusion of the hour would not necessarily bother the traveller who wished to go through the tunnel from Pera to Galata, for the trains in that famous tunnel, which was built to save time, run by men and not by schedule and positively refuse to start until they are full, no matter how long the wait.

"The cars of these trains resemble old buses; each holds about forty men when packed like sardines. When the delay has begun to wear upon the nerves of even the apathetic Turks umbrellas and canes are vigorously pounded upon the floor of the car, feet are stamped, into which demonstration the sprinkling of Europeans or Americans generally join, and the stifling air is filled with Turkish cries of 'Duniayi zapt edejekimiz?' or 'Do you wish to own the earth?' Then the train starts. There is no ventilation whatever, but the passage of the tunnel takes only a few minutes and the traveller does not complain."

As an illustration of the cheapness of time Mr. Keljik recited his experience with a Constantinople bootblack. Having begun to shine Mr. Keljik's shoes the bootblack suddenly remembered that he had ordered a cup of tea. The tea was duly brought and the bootblack placed it on the ground beside him and began to sip it, polishing the shoes now and then between times. This lasted for about an hour, and Mr. Keljik, enjoying the novelty of the experience, patiently waited.

On another occasion Mr. Keljik took a carriage and proceeded to the wharf in order to take a boat for Galata. An old barefooted man ran along behind the carriage; Mr. Keljik was at a loss to know why he was thus followed. Upon arriving at the wharf, a journey of some fifteen or twenty minutes, the old man approached him and asked to be allowed to carry Mr. Keljik's satchel to the boat, saying that his price would be 4 cents.

"The custom of tedious bargaining which prevails in the Turkish capital reveals how entirely the Turkish people disregard the value of time," said Mr.

Keljik. "Nothing is sold without much bartering and loss of time in fixing the price. On passing a vender of nuts we observed three Turkish women bargaining with him. Ten nut kernels for a penny," said the vender. "No," protested the ladies, "we can get eleven kernels for a penny." "Ten kernels for a penny," persisted the vender. The ladies demurred, and after about fifteen minutes of bargaining they retired with the eleven kernels.

"I and my friend proceeded to a bazaar, where we inquired the price of slippers. 'Twenty piastres,' said the shopkeeper for those we had selected. That being an exorbitant price we bargained with him for a time. Finally he offered them for 17 piastres and then for 15. The price being still too high we wearied of the bargaining and departed.

"We had gone some distance and turned a corner when, to our great astonishment, we found ourselves face to face with our friend the shopkeeper. Producing the slippers from under his jacket he said, 'Effendi, you may have them for five piastres.'"

Mr. Keljik then went on to explain his experiences in money changing.

"Upon making any purchase," said Mr. Keljik, "I would invariably receive less change than was due. Upon inquiring the reason the answer would be, 'Effendi, that is the amount due me for changing your money.'"

This changing of money has nothing whatever to do with foreign money, but is confined entirely to the domestic Turkish currency. The rate is about five cents on a dollar. There are over a thousand regular money changers in Constantinople.

"Numberless peddlers," said Mr. Keljik, "infest the notoriously narrow and filthy streets of the city and their voices make the utmost confusion. The city has been rid to a great extent of the dogs, but these and other animals still sleep on the thoroughfares, the pedestrians going out of their way to avoid the sleeping brutes.

"Through the narrow, uneven, cobbled streets buffalo carriages may be seen passing, and if an automobile happens along it must give way to the buffalo

carriage, for the latter has the right of way. The hamals, or carriers, pass through the streets with enormous burdens upon their shoulders, and one is constrained to think if there is no statute against cruelty to men they might at least be protected under the law of prevention of cruelty to animals."

While in Constantinople Mr. Keljik paid a visit to the great mosque of St. Sophia. Upon entering the edifice, which was lighted by cottonseed oil lamps, the visitors were requested to remove their shoes; much swearing was going on at the time, and general roughness characterized the place, but notwithstanding such things, Moslem edifices must not be profaned by the dust of the feet. Inside the mosque there is a marble pillar to which there is a hand-shaped hole. Mr. Keljik inquired the meaning of the hand-shaped cavity.

"This mosque," replied Mr. Keljik's Moslem informer, "was once a Christian church, having been built by a Christian Emperor. The altar of the church was toward the east, but all Moslems must turn their faces toward the south when they pray. So Sultan Mahmood took hold of the pillar where you see the shape of a hand and turned the church so that the altar was toward the south."

Then Mr. Keljik paid a visit to the only statue in Turkey, the Statue of Liberty, erected after the second revolution. The Moslem's faith forbids him to make any graven images, and this particular monument elicits a great deal of interest. The Statue of Liberty is a great canon, with its mouth directed toward heaven.

"Why," said Mr. Keljik, "do you not turn the cannon's mouth toward the barracks there, so that it means something?"

"Well, Effendi," was the rather elusive reply, "we were in a hurry this time, next time we will build better."

Turning to the question of real estate, building conditions and business in general in Constantinople, Mr. Keljik said:

"All the important industries are in the hands of Europeans. The telephone service, electricity, the tramways, tunnels, ferry-boats, &c., are European concessions. Various factories are operated, under the very worst conditions. There are no sanitary provisions, and little children are found squatted on the factory floors employed in the making of carpets. When questioned concerning the influence the war with Italy had upon the Turkish people Mr. Keljik said the people took absolutely no interest in public affairs. They did not concern themselves about the war with Italy, and the fighting in Albania might just as well have been in South Africa.



Anshag D. Mahdesian

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Dr Tewfik 9

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## IN TOKEN OF GOODWILL.

### Armenian Embraces Turk at Universal Races Congress.

The proceedings of the Universal Races Congress were concluded in London on Saturday.

The Rev. Dr. T. A. Walker (lecturer on International Law at Cambridge), speaking at the morning session, said that they had in The Hague Conference a body voicing international law. Let it be a Parliament for all mankind. It could be that if the civilised countries willed it. (Applause.) There were newspapers which called the members of that Congress "cranks." Twenty-five years ago he met a gentleman who had something to say on a special subject; he had ideas concerning flying machines, and thought it possible to apply electricity to flying. Sitting on a music stool, and with the assistance of a grey goose's wing, he demonstrated how birds flew. His brothers whispered that he was a "crank," and that he had got his ideas from the bird from which he had got the wing.

That "crank," said Dr. Walker, was last year the president of a great Aero Club in this kingdom; and they all knew how within the last few days the King had been honouring the winner of a £10,000 prize race. (Cheers.) That was a happy augury. The ideas of the "cranks" to-day would be the realised facts of the men of the next generation. (Cheers.)

A dramatic incident created much enthusiasm during a speech by the Rev. Professor G. Thounaïan, of Armenia. After referring to the Turkish question, he stepped forward and shook hands cordially with M. Riza Tewfik (a Turkish delegate), who occupied a seat on the platform. Madame Thounaïan and M. Hadji Mirze Yaha (a Persian delegate) also joined in the demonstration of goodwill, and on concluding his speech Professor Thounaïan, still grasping the hand of the Turk, kissed him on both cheeks.

At the close of the morning session it was announced that suggestions had been received that the next Congress should be held at Shanghai or Honolulu.

## Imperial and Foreign

### NEW ANGORA AND OLD

#### A CITY FROM A WASTE

From Our Correspondent in Turkey

To live in Angora is no longer the hardship of a few years ago, when the new city was springing up from a barren waste and its atmosphere seemed wholly artificial. To-day there is vitality about it and the artificiality is fast disappearing. When the main building programme has been completed, perhaps in five years' time, the city will bear comparison with many capitals in Eastern Europe.

New Angora remains essentially the seat of government, and, but for the employees of head offices of banks and the small traders who supply the needs of the population, the commercial element is absent.

Building still goes on apace, and new blocks of flats and offices at once catch the occasional visitor's eye. Here and there a new Embassy is being built, roads are being widened or converted into boulevards, and everywhere *pavé* is giving way to tarred macadam. The new constructions may not please the eye, but at least they give the impression of being solid and serviceable.

Within them is an air of activity. Gone are the sleepy, down-at-heel attendants and the casual treatment of callers. A porter, neatly dressed in a uniform of Turkish cloth, takes the visitor's hat and passes him on to an attendant for swift conduct to the official with whom an interview is sought. Inside the offices everybody seems to be busy, and, though you are received with every politeness, you are obviously expected to state your business and be gone. The old leisurely atmosphere wherein you lingered, drinking coffee and smoking cigarettes, talking of anything but your immediate business, has disappeared. You will still be offered cigarettes to smoke; coffee drinking is forbidden.

#### HOMES FOR OFFICIALS

As Administrations have been transferred to Angora and new departments have sprung up to handle the affairs of a modern State, the task of housing a host of officials has not been easy. Offices being a primary need, little thought could at first be spared for those who worked in them, nor was there either labour or material to provide private dwellings too. All but the highest Government servants had therefore to be content with whatever accommodation they could find—at best a small tumble-down house in old Angora or two rooms for themselves and their families in one of the few apartment houses in Yeni Shehir (new town); and there rents were stupendously high. Now many are able to rent a whole flat or a small modern house; soon a garden city suburb is to be built on the cooperative system, and residents in it, after paying rent for 10 years, will become their own landlords.

Angora is still too young to offer many distractions for the masses. There are cinemas, and the gardens on the President's model farm outside the city are open to the public; but few Government servants have the wherewithal to indulge in picture shows or to journey beyond the city's limits. The need for providing cheap entertainment is, however, no longer disregarded. In a new stadium the future football and athletic championships of Turkey will be decided, and there, on national holidays which commemorate great events in the early history of new Turkey, the armed forces and Turkish youth will parade. Alongside is the new racecourse. Not far away, on ground formerly a marsh and breeding place for mosquitoes, the curse of old Angora, are to be a park for the young and swimming pools.

#### THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY

In the past the wealthier officials and foreign community, composed almost entirely of the Diplomatic Corps, were not much more fortunate than the poorest Government servants in their search for distraction. Soon there is to be a golf course, for which a generous credit has already been allotted by the Government. Evening entertainments, except for the inevitable cinema, were for long non-existent in Angora. Lately the restrictions against foreign artists have been less stringently applied, with the result that two excellent foreign bands now find employment, and the leading hotel provides a nightly cabaret. But the pleasantest rendezvous is the Karpitch restaurant, run by a born restaurateur of Georgian origin, who came to Turkey after the Russian revolution and is now a Turkish subject. A delightful character, always to be seen in a silk tunic of spotless white, he is an institution in Angora and loved by all.

Those whose lot it may be to live in Angora will still miss the Bosphorus, the verdure of its shores, and the softer climate of Constantinople, but to judge by its present downward progress the old capital will by then be little more than a shadow of its former self. Though it will still be visited for its ancient monuments and magnificent site, its general air of decay will be a constant reminder that the new Turkey has finally broken with the old.

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# Trade and Industrial Developments, C

## J. M. SPEERS HAILED FOR LONG CAREER

James McCutcheon Chairman Has Spent 60 Years in Business and Welfare

### RETAIL GUILD GIVES DINNER

He Urges Fellows to Show They Have Higher Ideals Than Just Making Money

James M. Speers, chairman of the board of James McCutcheon & Co., was honored for his sixty years in retailing and religious and charitable work at a dinner given by the Uptown Retail Guild at the Hotel Pierre last night.

Adam L. Gimbel, president of the guild and of Saks Fifth Avenue, who presided, presented a specially bound illuminated volume to Mr. Speers, which was signed by many of the guests. It read in part:

"In giving recognition to his sixty years of service to McCutcheon's, we, the members of the Uptown Retail Guild and his friends, desire to pay tribute to his contributions to the business life of our city, and also to the service he has rendered to his fellow-men, both at home and abroad, a service given freely, without regard to race, creed or color. We hold him in high esteem as a citizen and in deep affection as a friend."

#### Speers Urges Business Men

In accepting the book, Mr. Speers said he was eager "that business men shall prove that we have higher ideals than just that of making money."

"I am very eager," he said, "that the men who represent so influential, so large and important a part of the commercial life of this country as we do shall not fail to take their full share in the making of the new world that is to be."

Among the many speakers who praised Mr. Speers and his accomplishments was John D. Rockefeller Jr., who recalled association with him over more than twenty-five years in religious and charitable work.

"Many of us, as we grow older, lose our zeal for accomplishment, become complacent with the frailties of human nature or discouraged in our efforts to overcome them and let down the bars in our own living," Mr. Rockefeller said. "Not so with our dear friend. With the passing years his spirit has only become finer, his faith deeper and his love for his fellow-men greater."

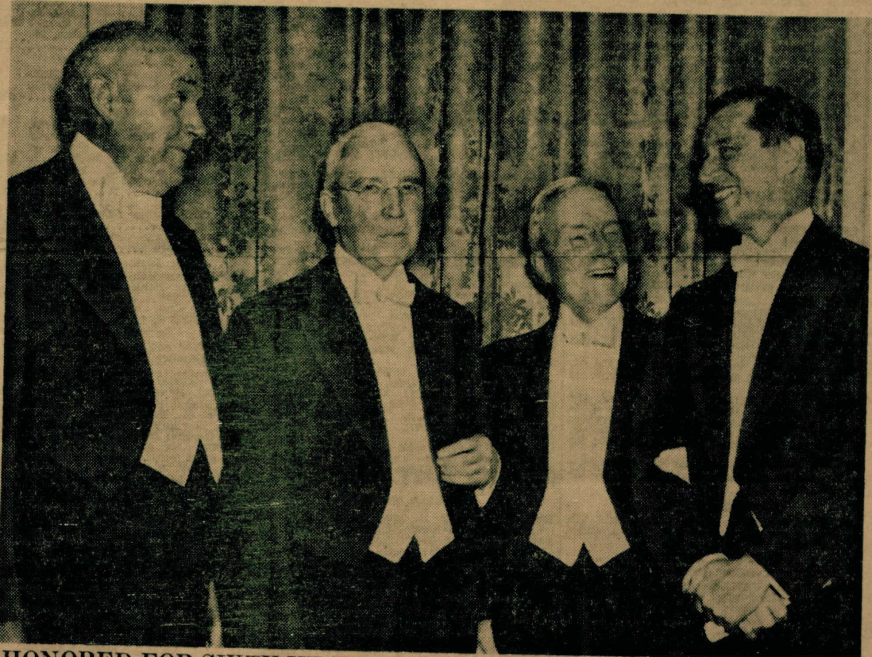
Richard W. Lawrence, president of the Bankers Commercial Corporation and president of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York, was the toastmaster. Dr. Jonah B. Wise of the Central Synagogue pronounced the invocation.

Included in the assembly were five of Mr. Speers's six sons, William E., Wallace E., Theodore, Guthrie and James M. Jr. The sixth, Carter, is in India. William E. Speers, who is president of McCutcheon's and Mayor of Montclair, N. J., spoke briefly.

#### Others Who Spoke

The speakers included Samuel W. Reyburn, chairman of the board of the Associated Dry Goods Corporation; Harry B. Earhart, founder of the White Star Refining Company, a prominent Christian layman and philanthropist of Ann Arbor, Mich.; Dr. George A. Buttrick, chairman of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America and pastor of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church; Eugene Barnett, general secretary of the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A.; Dr. John R. Mott, chairman of the International Missionary Council, and Dr. Robert E. Speer, formerly secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions.

Others present included Edwin Goodman, president of Bergdoff Goodman; Charles J. Oppenheim, president of Jay Thorpe and vice president of the Uptown Retail Guild; William M. Holmes, vice president of Bonwit Teller; Jacques Milgrim of Milgrim & Co.; the Rev. Joseph F. Flannely, administrator of St. Patrick's Cathedral, and Louis K. Comstock, formerly president of the Merchants Association.



## HONORED FOR SIXTY YEARS IN RETAILING AND WELFARE WORK

James M. Speers (second from left), chairman of the board of James McCutcheon & Co., at a dinner given for him by the Uptown Retail Guild last night at the Hotel Pierre. With him are Richard W. Lawrence, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York; John D. Rockefeller Jr. and William E. Speers, president of James McCutcheon & Co. and son of the guest of honor.

Times Wide World