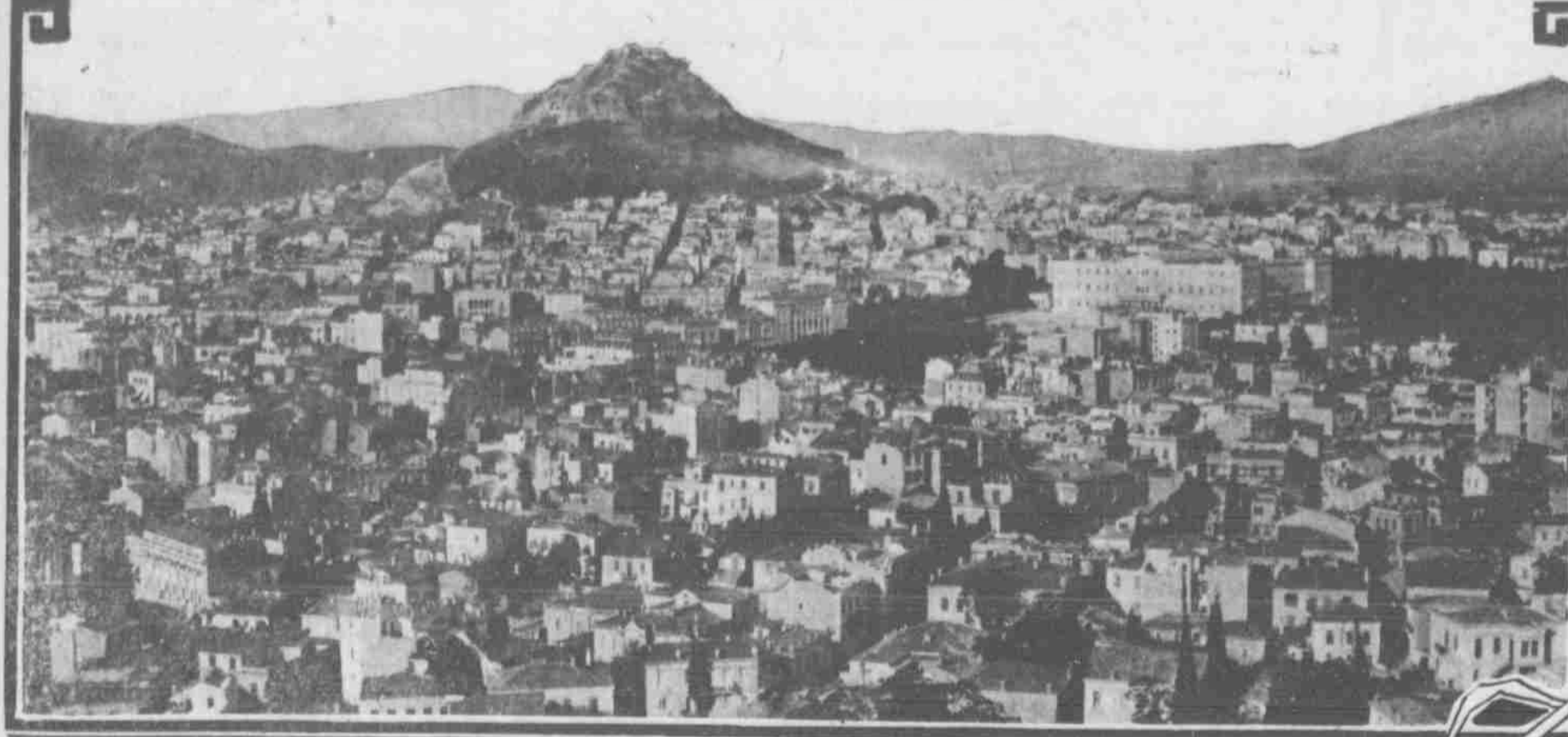
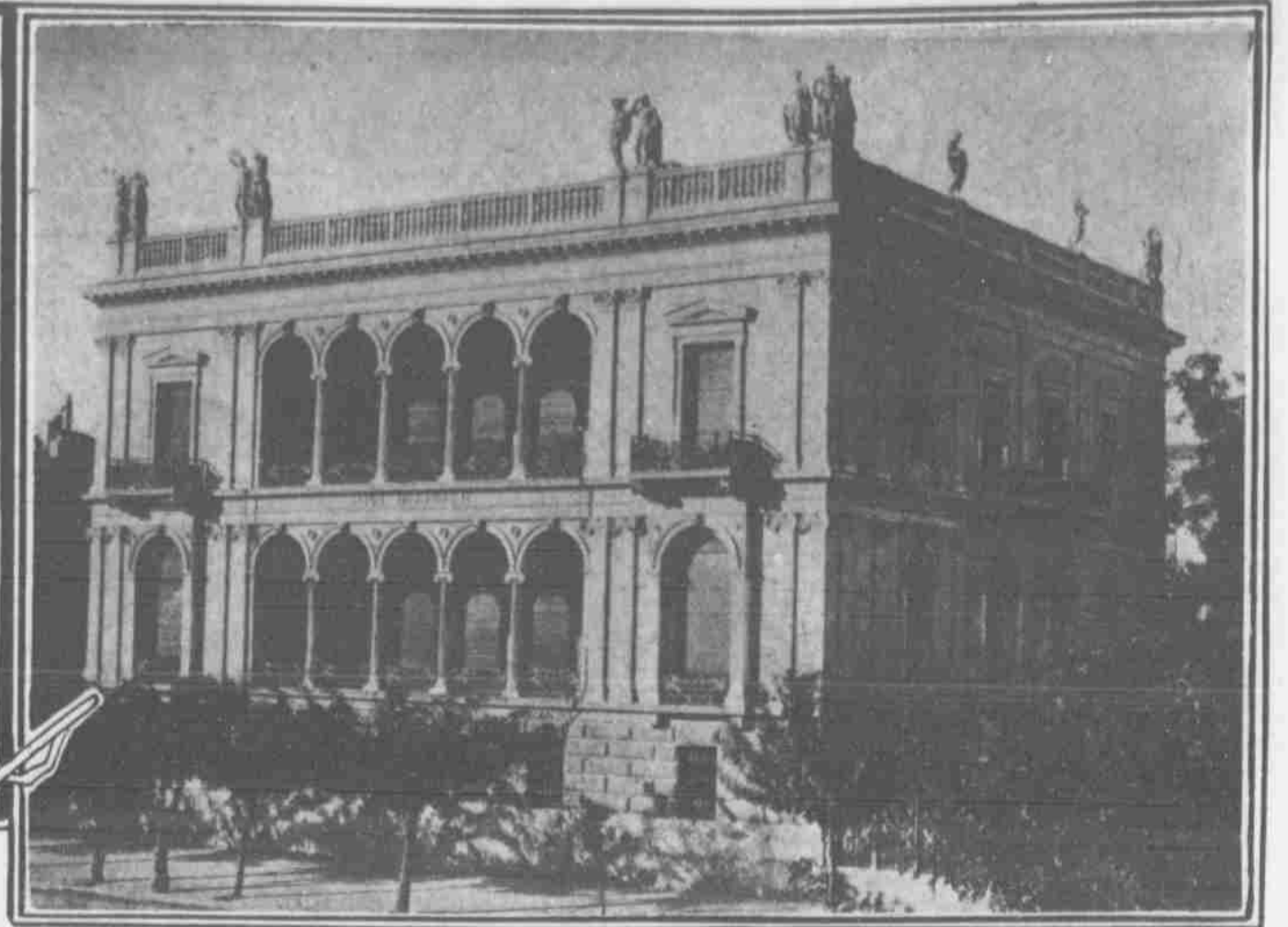


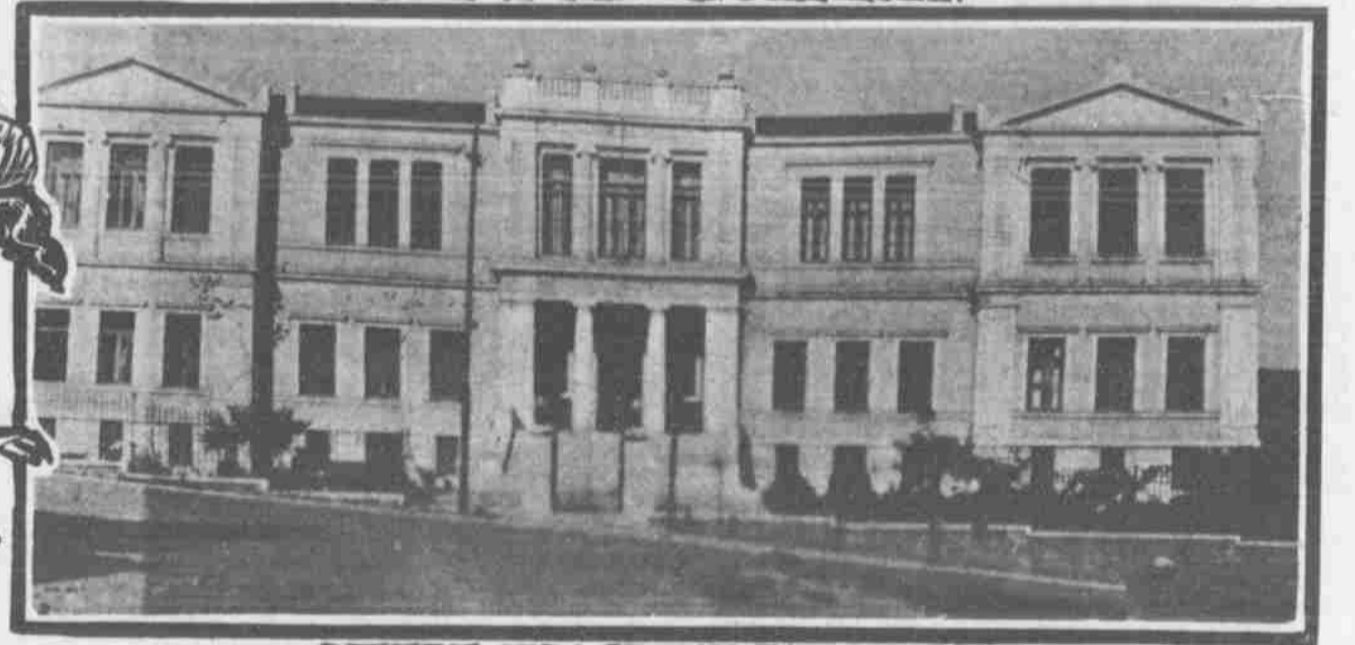
Politics and Business the Live Things in Modern Athens



ATHENS IN 1911 - ACROPOLIS IN CENTER



HOME OF MRS. DR. SCHLEMMER



WHERE THE GREEK PARLIAMENT MEETS

(Copyright, 1911, by Frank G. Carpenter.)
ATHENS.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—Take a look at Athens today! It lies here under the rocky Acropolis, filled with and surrounded by ruins. Nevertheless, it is the brightest, gayest and busiest city of the near east. It has some of the most elegant homes of the world; its marble buildings vie with those of the best cities of Europe, and its stores are full of fine goods. The town grows as fast as blackberry bushes on top of the Blue Ridge. About fifty years ago it had something like 10,000 people, who dwelt in 300 miserable houses. Today it has almost 200,000, and among them are Greek millionaires, who have made fortunes in Alexandria, Cairo, Constantinople and other centers about the Mediterranean sea. It is the aim of the Greek to come to Athens to die and the rich bring their savings and live here in luxury. They spend so much that the finest of everything may be bought in the stores, and the cost of living is about as high as anywhere else in the world.

A Look Over Athens.

I climbed the Acropolis yesterday and took a view of the city. The Acropolis is a hill of rose-colored limestone which rises to a height of 200 or 300 feet out of the plain upon which Athens stands.

It is right on the edge of the town, and from the Parthenon, on its top, you can see the whole city. Your first glance shows a flat plain of grayish-white buildings, the chief of which is the palace, a three-story structure of marble, surrounded by trees. Farther over are the Parliament building and museums and schools, and scattered about the outskirts are the massive ruins of ancient temples, such as that of Jupiter, Olympus and Theseus, and also the new stadium, which was erected by an Alexandrian-Greek millionaire named Averof. It is now being repaired and repolished, and I am told that its cost altogether has been about \$800,000.

As I look closer at the buildings below me I can pick out the details. The city is cut up by streets which cross each other at right angles, except at the center, where they go in and out like the pathways of Rosamond's bower. The heart of the town is right at Constitution Square, in front of the palace. There the car lines converge and from there go off the chief business streets. To the left of the palace are many beautiful homes, and to the north of it are the chief public buildings, including the university, the library, the National Museum and the Academy of Science.

The main part of the town is made up of buildings of much the same height. They are painted yellow, rose pink, sky blue and other gay colors, and their roofs are gray or red tiles. There are no skyscrapers and no great church spires, as in the other cities of Europe. Here and there the blue dome of a Russian church may be seen, and occasionally, rising out of a garden, a clump of tall cypress trees of dark green. But little manufacturing is done, and I can count the smokestacks on my fingers.

A Ride Through Athens.

But let us get down and take a ride through the streets. We can go several miles on the tramway for a fare of 2 cents. We pass over the ground where Diogenes went with his lantern hunting an honest man, and through the streets which Alcibiades traversed in his seven-horse chariot. We can take the steam tram and go down to the seaport of Piræus, or we can ride out to the slopes of Lykabettos or to the Acropolis, the high rocky cliff upon which St. Paul stood when he preached his sermon to the Athenians.

The streets of Athens are wide and well paved and many are covered with asphalt. There is a macadamized road as good as any in Central park leading down to the Piræus, and this is now being planted with trees.

The main part of the city is compactly built and the business buildings are four and five stories. The shops have plate glass windows, and the best of them are devoted to dry goods, fashions, millinery, jewelry and other such things. The shopping hour is from 5 to 7 o'clock every evening, at which time the streets are thronged with fashionable women.

Shrewd Business Men.

I have spent some time in the stores talking with the merchants and looking at their establishments. The Greeks understand how to do business; they are smart traders, their character being well expressed by a saying which is current throughout the orient; it reads: "From the Greeks of Athens, from the Jews of Saloniki and from the Armenians everywhere, good Lord deliver us!" It is said in the near east that one Greek is equal to two Jews, and although the Jews are scattered throughout other parts of the Mediterranean, you will find none in Athens. The storekeepers have no fixed prices and you bargain for everything. You must dicker with your doctor, butcher and baker, and even with your druggist. There are no price marks in the average store, or, if so, the bargaining is done all the same.

The Cafes of Athens.

A great many of the people live in flats and dine at the cafes and restaurants. Rentals are high and houses are taxed 5 per cent on the rental. If one



MR. CARPENTER AND MODERN GREEK SOLDIER



lives in his own house he has to pay a percentage on the rent it would probably bring. The cafes are good; they are full of people afternoon and evening, and many of them keep open all night. At those about the Place de la Constitution you may see men chatting as late as 3 o'clock in the morning. There are also daily lunch rooms, where a breakfast consisting of eggs, rolls and butter may be had at low cost; and afternoon tea rooms near the palace and other places. As to hotels, Athens has a dozen of fairly good ones at which tourists can stop, and there are a score more which are not bad. At the best houses the rates are from \$3 to \$5 a day on the American plan, or you can pay for your rooms and order what you please at fixed prices per meal or per dish. Many of the native hotels let rooms without meals, and there are boarding houses where one can get accommodations from \$1.50 to \$2 per day.

A City of Politicians.

Athens is a city of politicians. Every modern Greek is a statesman, and the average man will settle the greatest questions of the world off-hand. The chief places for political discussion are about the cafes. There are a half dozen news journals, and each man reads his paper as he sips his coffee. The papers are printed in the same characters that you find in the Greek classics, the modern Greek language being much like that of ancient Greece. Indeed, I find that I can get along with a phrase book; I can read the papers and can even discover the points of some of the jokes in the comic periodicals. Just now the chief talk is about the New Turkey, and as to what place it will hold in this part of the world. Most of the people here think that it will be largely influenced by the Greeks who live in Constantinople, Smyrna and other cities of the Levant. They say that a new Greek empire will some day arise and that its capital will be Constantinople. Today the Greeks are the chief bankers, merchants and other business men of the capital of the sultan. They have monopolized the trade of that country and the Turks cannot do without them. They have had to work quietly and secretly, but with the new regime they expect to hold a high place in the empire and to openly be the moving power in all things financial.

Said Count Mercati, one of the leading officials of the court here, to me the other day:

"The modern Greek is the strongest element in the orient; he does more business than the representative of any other eastern nation; he is predominant in Cairo and Alexandria and in every port on the Red sea; he is the financier of Palestine and Syria and his colonies are found as far north as Khartum, where Lord Kitchener said that the Greeks aided him greatly in bringing order out of the chaos of the Sudan. Turkey alone has 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 Greeks."

The Greek Parliament.

But let me tell you something of the government of this little country. The Greeks have a king, but he is merely a figurehead and a foreigner; they do not allow him to have anything to say about politics, and King George understands this and keeps out. It was different with Otto of Bavaria, who was king before George. Otto meddled with public questions and this caused his expulsion. The Greeks tell me that they believe in a perfect equality among themselves, and they could not have this if they had a Greek king. Therefore they have chosen a Dane for the throne.

The chief business of Greece is done in the Parliament; this is different from our congress in that there is only one house, known as the boule; this has 235 members, one being elected for every 12,000 inhabitants. The kingdom is divided into seventy-one districts and the congressmen are elected by districts. The elections are usually held upon Sundays, the ballot boxes being kept in the churches. In Athens the chief voting place is the cathedral, the ballot boxes

being arranged in a row along one side of it. The boxes are so fixed that only one man can pass through to vote at one time. The box is a foot square, with a pipe hole in its top about big enough to admit the arm of a man. This runs down into the middle of the box, where it meets a partition, which divides the box in half. On one side of the partition go the affirmative ballots and on the other the negative. The ballots are buckshot, and the voter, having put his hand down into the pipe, drops his bullet for or against the candidate as he pleases, without the possibility of anyone knowing just how he votes. Each voter is given only as many buckshots as there are candidates, and the judge sees that he has only a single ball in his hand when he puts it into the pipe of the box. There are also other means of preventing frauds in elections, and each candidate is usually present to look out for his rights.

The term of the members of Parliament is four years, and they receive salaries of about \$300 or \$400 per session. They are allowed free passes on the railways.

Parliament makes all the laws and votes all the money to run the government. It is ruled by a speaker, who is elected by ballot. The new members are sworn in by a priest and are sprinkled with holy water during the ceremony. At one session not long ago some members grew angry and a scuffle ensued, during which an ink bottle was thrown into the holy water basin, discoloring the fluid provided for the opening ceremony. Upon another occasion the speaker of the house, fearing adverse legislation, locked the doors and refused to let the opposition in, whereupon a locksmith was called and the speaker shoved out of the way.

Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints

(Continued from Page One.)

The Saints in Independence are located mostly in the West End, sometimes spoken of among the citizens as "Mormon End," the First and Fourth wards of the city being largely controlled by them. In politics they are perhaps predominately republican, though they are characteristically independent in voting, but they are practically solid against the liquor traffic. The Latter Day Saint vote at the last election carried Independence for state-wide prohibition, though so far locally the "wets" have outvoted the "drys." But among the Latter Day Saints an expression often is heard, "Just wait. We'll out the saloons yet." And the steady influx of the "gathering" Saints bids fair to soon put them in control sufficiently to make their boast good.

The constantly growing numbers of Saints has at times given some of the citizens of Independence much concern, and all is not smooth sailing for the Saints. Much prejudice exists against them here yet, though they are generally recognized as good, frugal citizens. It will be remembered that at one time the citizens of Jackson county and Independence drove the Saints out of the county. But this makes it necessary to touch briefly upon the history of the church.

Early History of Saints.

In April, 1830, Joseph Smith, usually spoken of among the Saints as "the martyr" with five others, organized the church at Fayette, N. Y., and immediately began an active campaign for converts. In a few months a few hundred members went west and located near Mentor, O., at a little place called Kirtland, where eventually a temple was built at much cost of labor and means. In 1831 a "colony" was sent further west, and this small handful was led to Independence, Mo., a small trading post at the beginning of the Santa Fe trail, also the Oregon trail.

I am told that considerable lobbying is done and that a great deal of money is spent on elections. The candidates have to treat the voters and one of them recently said that his election expenses averaged about \$5 per vote, a rate much less than that of Adams county, Ohio. One way of conciliating the public is by acting as godfather to babies, and it is said that one statesman here has a thousand god-children. A change of administration means a change of offices. The appointments are made on the old Jacksonian theory, "To the victors belong the spoils."

When a new government is elected the old clerks have to leave, and this is so of school teachers and college professors, as well as of the librarians and officers of the museums.

From Athens to Paris by Rail.

Just now one of the questions which is agitating the Greeks is the building of a railroad to connect the system here with the line which runs from Paris to Constantinople. Greece has in the neighborhood of 900 miles of railroads. It has some which go to the northern boundary and which by an extension of less than sixty miles could be joined to the great Paris trunk line. I am told it would not cost more than \$8,000,000 to make the extension, and that both the great powers of Europe and the sultan have approved of its construction. It is delayed, however, for fear of military troubles. When it is completed it will have a great influence upon Greece. It will probably change the through fast route to India, which now goes by Italy and Brindisi, to this road to the Piræus. The mails will go that way and the passenger travel as well. The people are excited over the possibilities, and the money for building the line could probably be raised without difficulty.

Chances for American Trade.

In the operation of this road there is no reason why American locomotives should not be used. The

country is mountainous, and our railroad engines are said to be the best for such regions. Americans are popular here, and it might pay our locomotive companies to investigate the situation.

Speaking of American machinery, I am told that the people are beginning to use it. American sewing machines are popular and our bicycles bring the highest prices. I see some American revolvers and also arms made by the Germans to imitate American arms and sold as such. As to agricultural machines, the farms are small and the most of the implements are similar to those of the days of Herodotus.

Waterworks for Athens.

Other openings might be found in supplying Athens with water. The city often suffers from drouth, and as it is now it is about the dustiest town of the orient. The streets are macadamized, and the roads grind the metal to powder. The soil is thin and the dust is a white flour which permeates everything. It covers your boots to such an extent that you have to have them blacked several times every day, and this has caused Athens to have more bootblacks than any other town of its size in the world. The water now comes from a reservoir on Mount Lykabettos, but the supply is not sufficient, and they are now talking of utilizing the falls of the Styx, which are a long distance away, the scheme proposing an expenditure of something like \$1,000,000.

The Draining of Lake Kopais.

Another enterprise which is already under way and largely successful is the draining of Lake Kopais, the largest lake in Greece. This lake lies in the mountains some distance northeast of Athens. It has usually contained no water except in winter, when there was a depth of about thirteen feet. In the summer it was almost dried up, and it seemed to have a subterranean outlet to the sea. About twenty-six years ago a French company conceived the idea of reclaiming the land, and it spent about \$2,500,000 on a canal and tunnel through one of the mountains. It had gotten the rough work done when its money ran out, and it went into the hands of a receiver. Scottish company then took up the concession, and now, after twenty-three years, it has about 65,000 acres of land ready for farms.

During my stay in Athens I have called upon the manager of the company, Mr. J. B. Steele, and had a talk with him about the undertaking. He tells me that the draining was done by making a girde canal around the basin where the lake lay to catch the waters of the rivers and to prevent them entering it. This girde was twenty miles long and it joined a cutting in the mountain of two miles by a tunnel, which was twenty-five feet high, sixteen feet wide and 3,000 feet long. After leaving the tunnel the water passes through another lake and on into a second tunnel and thence on to the ocean.

Mr. Steele says that the soil of the lake basin is rich. It contains the earth washings of centuries, and will raise two crops a year. Some of the land will be irrigated and a great deal of it has been already leased to the peasants in small holdings, ranging in size from ten to 100 acres. The company has about 7,000 acres under cultivation, and also pasture lands in which are large droves of cattle. He tells me it is his idea to employ the latest of agricultural inventions, but so far it has found most of them unfitted to the soil. This is especially so of our heavy harvesters and reapers, and as it is now the most of the wheat and other grain is cut with the sickle.

One feature of this reclamation scheme is the peaty soil of the center of the lake. This burns easily, and within the last few months the management has had great trouble from fires started there. These have burnt down the soil so that the level of the earth has dropped over six feet, doing serious damage to the canals, cut for a higher level. The peasants find that the burning peat leaves a coat of ashes upon which they can sow their grain and grow rich crops without much cultivation. They are, therefore, interested in having the burning go on.

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