

A SHORT HISTORY OF YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (YWCA) ACTIVITIES IN TURKEY

The document which is published for the first time in this article is a brief history of YWCA activities in Turkey during the Ottoman Empire and later on in the Republic of Turkey.¹ I came across this document while doing research on a completely different subject in the Admiral Mark Bristol papers that are preserved at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.² The importance of this document is that it treats a subject which has not been studied and researched so far by scholars specialised on Ottoman and Turkish history and social life. Although much has been published on the subject of Protestant missionary activities in the Ottoman Empire no one has been interested with YWCA or YMCA. Most probably the reason of this apparent lack of interest is that all primary materials concerning YMCA and YWCA activities in Turkey are preserved in foreign archives which are not so easily accessible.

What is YWCA ?

YWCA is a “nonsectarian Christian organization that aims to advance the physical, social, intellectual, moral and spiritual interests of women”. These aspects of the program are symbolised in the insignia of YWCA which is a blue triangle the three sides of which stand for body, mind and spirit.³ YWCA grew out of the homes for young women and female prayer unions established throughout England in mid 19th century.⁴ The two groups which would later on merge and form YWCA were a Prayer Union for women and a group which founded Christian homes for young women. These two groups merged in 1877 and took the name of Young Women's Christian Association.⁵ YWCA from its earliest years would show an interest for similar work among women in other countries.⁶ One of these countries would be Turkey.

¹ Admiral Mark Bristol Papers, Box 42, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

² Rear Admiral Mark Bristol was the US High Commissioner to Turkey between January 1919 and March 1927.

³ ‘Young Women's Christian Association’, in *American History by Encyclopaedia Britannica*, accessed thru the internet.

⁴ “Young Women's Christian Association”, www.encyclopaedia.com/htm/Y/YoungW1om.asp

⁵ ‘Young Women's Christian Association’ in *American History by Encyclopaedia Britannica*, accessed thru the internet.

⁶ Mary S.Sims, *The Natural History of a Social Institution – The Young Women's Christian Association*, The Womans Press, New York, 1936, p.125.

YWCA Activities in Turkey

The document which is published in this article gives a fairly good picture of YWCA activities in Turkey until the early Republican years and the difficulties it encountered after the Turkey declared itself a Republic on October 29, 1923. In addition to that the following excerpt from the book *Constantinople To-Day or The Pathfinder Survey Of Constantinople A Study in Oriental Social Life* published in 1920 is also very useful since it provides data which makes more easy to understand the wide scope of the activities of YWCA in 1920:⁷

The Young Women's Christian Association was organized in June, 1919, with secretaries and funds sent by the National Board of the Y.W.C.A. of the United States. This was considered war work. A committee of women of different nationalities is in charge. The Association was started in one small house in Pera, but it has grown so steadily that at present there are two service centers, used for clubs, classes, and meetings; two hostels, and a personnel house for the secretaries.

Centers

The Pera service center is located at 10 Rue Chimal. This is a large house, opened March 20, 1921, with a gymnasium built on the roof which gives plenty of opportunity for gymnastics, games, and large gatherings.

The Stamboul⁸ service center, 1 Djighaloglou, was opened April 24, 1921. It is a house of eight rooms in the Turkish quarter.

Hostels

The hostel at 132 Tarla Bashi, Pera, opened in February, 1921, accommodates 34 guests and a matron. Lodging and breakfast are given to young women under 35 years of age. The house is almost full.

⁷ Clarence Richard Johnson, M.A., *Constantinople To-Day or The Pathfinder Survey Of Constantinople A Study in Oriental Social Life*, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1922, pp. 161-163.

⁸ In the 1920's 'Stamboul' was the word used to define the 'old city'. Galata Bridge was the border dividing 'Stamboul' from Grande Rue de Pera and Taksim.RNB

The Russian Y.W.C.A., opened in March, 1921, at No.10 Kouloglou, Pera, is a hostel accommodating 28 young Russian women and a matron. It also has a restaurant, and is a gathering place for many Russians. They have music and tea every Sunday afternoon.

The Personnel House at Taxim contains rooms for about twelve secretaries, also for the office of the National Y.W.C.A. for the Near East, and for occasional meetings.

Pera Center

The membership fee is Ltq. 1 (80c) with additional charges for educational and physical privileges.

There are 977 members made up partially as follows:

<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Religion</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Ages</u>
American.....17	Catholic.....65	At Home.....585	12-16... 29
Armenian.....320	Ch. Of Eng.....17	Servant.....6	16-20...390
Australian.....1	Gregorian.....238	Clerk&Saleswomen...107	20-30...342
Belgian.....2	Israelite.....126	Coiffeur&Manicure.....2	30-..... 7
English.....26	Moslem.....16	Dr. & Nurse.....11	
French.....5	Orthodox.....268	Dentist.....1	
Greek.....250	Protestant.....100	Dressmaker.....9	
Hebrew.....123	Karayite.....1	Governess.....3	
Italian.....14		Photographer.....2	
Polish.....3		Housekeeper.....	
Russian.....41		Painter.....2	
Czecho-Slovak....1		Secretary.....	
Turk.....16		Stenographer.....20	
Serbian.....3		Student.....27	
Swiss.....3		Soc. Worker.....6	
Syrian.....4		Teacher.....44	
Spanish.....3		V.A.D. Telephone.....11	
Bulgarian.....			
Egyptian.....			

Activities

Educational: English Advanced Classes.....	183
“ Beginning.....	34
“ Girl Guides.....	<u>4</u>
	221
French	24
Stenography (2 classes).....	21
Office course & typing.....	11
Physical Education (2 classes).....	30
“ “ Girl Guides.....	8
Sewing.....	9
Art and Designing.....	<u>5</u>
Total.....	329 Students

There are 13 clubs with an average membership each of 25. These clubs are studying literature, music, embroidery, travel, current events, cooking, and anything in which the girls are interested. They have also social activities, such as teas and picnics, and they do social service work by dressing dolls, making scrapbooks for orphanage children, and holding bazaars with the proceeds of which they give Christmas parties for orphans.

There are two Bible classes. Other activities are a weekly Sunday vesper service, the average attendance at which is 50. At these there is a speaker and music, and tea is served. Lectures are given on hygiene, and other subjects of general interest.

Stamboul Service Center

During the first month 43 members joined: 21 Turks, 11 Armenians, 8 Greeks, with 25 members in 6 classes to study English, French and dressmaking.

The Physical director has taught normal classes, and also the children in 11 orphanages:

Turkish, 2, with 900 girls.

Armenian, 7 and 1 Armenian Catholic, with 940 girls.

Greek, 1, for trachoma cases, with 200, making

A grand total of 2040 girls.

On May 21, 1921, the Y.W.C.A. gave a pageant in Osman Bey Garden, Shishli, in which over 300 girls of all nationalities took part in dances and chorus singing. Several dances were by children from the orphanages, trained by the Y.W.C.A. Physical Director

YWCA ACTIVITIES IN SMYRNA

Another archival source gives a brief summary of YMCA activities in Smyrna for 1921. An unpublished manuscript prepared by the staff of the International College of Smyrna, a college established by American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, briefly mentions YMCA and YWCA activities in Smyrna as follows:⁹

Athletics in the YMCA and YWCA: During the winter of 1919-20, the YMCA offered the following out-door sports baseball, basketball, football, shot-put and discus throwing; and the in-door sports of boxing and wrestling. A basketball team was organized which played against the International College. The work here is new, but will probably grow. The fact that the YMCA teams have on them men from different nationalities and different clubs may help to render athletics in the city more general and to raise the standard in the keeping of rules.

In the summer of 1920 a tennis court was opened jointly with the YWCA being used on certain separate days by the two institutions.

During the summer months the YWCA carried out a recreational program which did real pioneer work in opening the way for proper athletics for girls in Smyrna. The members of the Association used the tennis court three days a week, and six hours of instruction in the game was given per week. About the middle of August a tournament was held which created much interest among the members. Three evenings a week volley-ball, baseball, and other ball games were played. Twice a week any members who desired, were taken by one of the secretaries to the beach of the Grek orphanage at Baircle [Bayraklı], which had granted permission to the YWCA to use their grounds on certain days for bathing parties.

While only a relatively small number of girls are receiving the benefit of such organized athletics, the rapid growth in the Association membership, the support they are receiving from

⁹ Kautz Family YMCA Archives, University of Minnesota, YMCA Turkey Files, Manuscript entitled "A Survey of Some Social Conditions, Smyrna Asia Minor 1920-1921", pp. 15-16. This manuscript has been translated and published in Turkish under the title: *İzmir'deki Bazı Sosyal Koşullar Hakkında Bir Araştırma İzmir 1921*, translated by Aykan Candemir, İzmir Büyükşehir Belediyesi Kültür Yayını, İzmir, 2000.

people of the city, and the eagerness of the girls for athletic games, all point toward an increase of such wholesome recreation. It is filling the double need of giving school girls something to do during their vacation, and of giving working girls a needed change and recreation after work hours.

However, the YWCA can never carry on a recreational program large enough to meet the needs of the hundreds of young women of Smyrna who have no means of enjoying sufficient exercise and good recreation. Similar sports for girls under the municipal government or some philanthropic institution should be opened. Such recreation for its women would in time add greatly to the health of the population of the city as a whole.

General recreation of the YMCA and YWCA: The two Christian Associations in Smyrna are proving to be centers of recreation for young people in other ways than through their organized sports. Both buildings are always open for members and friends. The YWCA offers rooms where girls can rest, read, play the piano, or dance informally. Picnics for groups of members are occasionally arranged. Part of the building is open every afternoon as a tea room.

At the YMCA is one room for billiards and table games and another for reading. An entertainment of some sort is given about once a month. A tea room is open every afternoon. A special feature is the cinema which is run four times a week, twice for members, one evening for Greek soldiers, and one evening for the YWCA members only.

The membership of the YWCA at present is 950, and that of the YMCA is 700. The average daily attendance at the Y.W. is about 150, and that of the Y.M. 275. Recently the YWCA has opened up a new branch in the factory and railroad section of the town. The activity there is particularly recreational. The average attendance there is also 150.

During the summer of 1920 a boys' camp was run five months by the YMCA at Devilikuey [Develiköy], where about 200 boys had a summer of outdoor lessons, agriculture, and recreation. The latter included swimming, military drill and games of various sorts.

To give the city of Smyrna adequate recreation and to prevent the large amount of illness which always prevails during the summer, camps for boys, for girls, and others for mothers with young children should be established. Of course these must be carefully run by people who are trained for such work.

The question to why this report is in the Papers of Admiral Mark Bristol is answered by the accompanying letter of the report. In this letter dated March 18, 1924 Ruth F.Woodsmall, Secretary in Charge of YWCA states that she was sending the report

upon the request of Admiral Bristol and that she would appreciate his criticism. The letter of Admiral Bristol which is also published in this article is his comments on the report itself.

DOCUMENT I

ADMIRAL MARK BRISTOL'S LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF YWCA

March 20, 1924

Miss Ruth F. Woodsmall,
Secretary in Charge of
Y.W.C.A.
Constantinople.

Dear Miss Woodsmall:

I have received your note of the 18th instant enclosing a copy of your report. In the first place I want to congratulate you upon this report. I have read it from beginning to end with the greatest interest and I am very glad to have a copy of it for our files. If you have no objections I am going to forward a copy of it to the Department.

I really have no criticisms to make because it is so good but, at the same time, I would like to make some comments that I hope may be of some assistance to you.

On page 4, paragraph 3, Economic Situation, you lay a good deal of stress upon the loss of about two million "economic producers" in Anatolia. What you set forth is rather a popular way of stating the question, yet I do not think, if you will stop to consider, that these Christian races represent about 90% of the commerce and wealth producers of the country. There is no doubt that the Christian minorities were in general the financiers, merchants and artisans, but, at the same time, a careful study of the subject will convince you that they were the leeches of the country, taking everything possible out of the country and giving very little in return – in the same class of the Levantines doing business in Turkey. Just as a little piece of inside information, in addition to the above, you will remember as you look back now that it is a well established fact that business in this part of the world was done almost entirely through the method of baksheesh, that is, bribery and corruption. If the Levantines and the Christians were the business men they must have been the ones

who practiced baksheesh. Still, there is no doubt that the Turks were not business men but were the soldiers and civil functionaries of the Government, and thus were the ones who accepted the baksheesh. Still further, the disappearance of the Christian races cannot mean a very large decrease in productivity and exports, because, if they were the business men and artisans they were not the producers of dried fruit, tobacco, mohair, wool, cotton, grain, etc. You will be interested to know that the crop of tobacco last year in the Smyrna district, after the Christian races had all disappeared, was nearly as big as they had before the war.

On page 7, paragraph 8, you refer to the Tribunal of Independence. I think if you would add another sentence or paragraph stating the outcome of the trial of accused persons here in Constantinople you would give a clearer idea of that particular situation. I realize that you must have written this paragraph when influenced by the forebodings of many people when the Tribunal of Independence first assembled here.

I have been much interested in your final summing up under "Future policy and future outlook". I realize that you told me this report was written for home consumption. I note in the fourth item you state, "Careful study and constant emphasis must be put upon the development of full membership among the girls of the Christian races so that a strong nucleus will be built up as a guarantee for the permanent Christian character of the organization". In the next item you refer to the work with the Turkish girls. I am sorry you do not go more into the question of how you are going to work with the Turkish girls. I am sure you will realize the spirit in which I point out that the maintenance of a strong permanent Christian character of the organization does not seem to be consistent with the prosecution of the Y.W.C.A. work in Turkey where the young women at the present time are practically all Moslems. The fact is that in Turkey today, out of a population of about ten millions, there are about 200,000 Christians left. As you know, I am absolutely in sympathy with and advocate in the strongest terms the maintenance of the Y.W.C.A. according to Christian principles, but if the Y.W.C.A. is going to become an organization to work in Turkey in my opinion you cannot emphasize the maintenance of a strong nucleus of Christian membership with a predominating Christian atmosphere in your organization. This is particularly the case on account of the peculiar significance which Christian influence

in this country has. As you know, Christian influence in this part of the world means nothing more than a political influence. I will not go on with further comments along this line. The thing is too big a subject and I believe you know my attitude in regard to it. I only wish to stir up your thoughts on the subject, believing that you, yourself, can work out, better than I could suggest for you, what should be your future policy and future outlook as regards the work of the Y.W.C.A. in Turkey. I do not believe the policy of the Near East can be the same policy as the one for Turkey. This idea has been growing more strongly in my mind in the last week or two. Thus I regret, at this last moment, that you are now going away but it will probably be for the best for you to get away where you can think out the problem in a clear atmosphere.

Again I want to thank you for this report, and with kindest regards and hoping that you will have a most successful and pleasant trip home,

Very sincerely yours,

DOCUMENT II

REPORT OF THE Y.W.C.A. IN THE NEAR EAST FROM MARCH 1919 TO JANUARY 1924.

General Situation in the Near East.

- A. Present Situation Contrasted with 1919.
- B. Events leading up to the Present Situation.
- C. Characteristics of the Present Situation.
 - 1. Political status.
 - 2. Financial basis.
 - 3. Economic situation.
 - 4. Separation of Church and State.
 - 5. Increased freedom of women.
 - 6. Relation of Turkey to Russia.
 - 7. Turkish attitude toward foreigners.
 - 8. Attitude of foreigners toward the Turks.

I. The Development of the Y.W.C.A. in the Near East.

A. Brief History of the Y.W.C.A. March 1919 – January 1924

1919

1920

1921

1922

1923

Personal Service Work and Migration Bureau Athens.

Athens Hostel.

Athens Y.W.C.A. Club Work.

Change in location in Beirut.

Adverse Newspaper Publicity.

Forecast for 1924.

B. General Characteristics of Y.W.C.A. Work from March 1919 – January 1924.

1. Pioneer period of expansion.
2. Reason for decrease in centers and American staff.
3. Increase in local leaders.
4. Finance facts.
 - Comparison of budgets of successive years.
 - Local support:
 - Finance outlook in Constantinople.
 - Finance outlook in Beirut.
 - Finance outlook in Greece.
 - Previous finance situation in Adana, and Smyrna.
5. Affiliation of the Y.W.C.A. in the Near East with the World's Y.W.C.A.
 - Basis of Membership.
 - Membership courses. Distinction between Service Center membership & Full membership.
6. Plan of organization.
 - National Organization.
 - Local – Constantinople.
 - Beirut
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7. Conferences.
8. Relationships & Cooperation.
 - a. Contact with Russian Refugee Problem.
 - b. Contact with Smyrna Refugee Problem.
 - c. Contact with the League of Nations.
 - d. Relationship to European Student Relief.
 - e. Relationship to Lord Mayor's Fund.
 - f. Relationship to Local Agencies.
 - g. Relationship to Constantinople Civic League.
 - h. Relationship to the American Board of Missions.
 - i. Relationship to Christian Workers' Union.
 - j. Relationship to Robert College and Constantinople College.
 - k. Relationship to the American Hospital.

I. Relationship to the Y.M.C.A.

m. Relationship to the Near East Relief.

Supervision of Girls' Homes.

Recreation Work.

Personal Service Work.

Piraeus Migration Work.

n. Relationship of the Y.W.C.A. to the American Embassy and American Consulate.

o. Business relationships.

p. Relationship to the American Club.

9. Publicity and Cultivation.

Reason for limited amount of publicity.

Adverse Turkish newspaper publicity.

Emphasis on personal cultivation.

Cultivation of tourists.

Possibilities for cultivation in Greece.

10. Registration of the Y.W.C.A, with the Turkish Government.

11. Features of the work in the Near East of special interests

12. Liabilities and Assets.

13. Future Policy and Future Outlook.

REPORT OF THE Y.W.C.A. IN THE NEAR EAST
FROM MARCH 1919 TO JANUARY 1924.

Every organization in the Near East is at the present time faced with the necessity of making a careful evaluation of its results to date, its assets and liabilities in the present situation and its general forecast for the future. The Y.W.C.A. is no exception, and therefore a general report at this time is written not merely for the information and doubtful edification of the New York Headquarters, but also as a means of checking up on the organization here on the field in order to take stock of our resources. The pressure of events in the Near East in the last four years has been so insistent and the changes so marked that without a careful inventory just now we run the danger of not being able "to see the forest for the trees".

I GENERAL SITUATION IN THE NEAR EAST

A. Present Situation Contrasted with 1919:

The present situation offers a startling contrast to the situation in March 1919 when Margaret White was sent out from New York with the Near East Relief party to resume the Y.W.C.A. work which begun before the war, had come to an end during the war at the death of Miss Gage. In March 1919 Constantinople was distinctly a city of the Allies. The Bosphorus was full of Allied ships. The streets were full of Allied troops and officers. The Grand' Rue¹⁰ was gay with Allied flags, the blue and white of the Greek flag conspicuous among them. Allied Police controlled the mad rush of street traffic which was congested with Allied automobiles. Cafés and hotels carried on a flourishing business with Allied officers. The city was in fact completely dominated by the Allies, and the usual polyglot cosmopolitan population moved about in an atmosphere of relaxed sense of freedom, while Turkish life and atmosphere were quite submerged.

¹⁰ "Grande Rue" is used in short form instead of Grande Rue de Pera which in Turkish is called Beyoğlu, or İstiklâl Caddesi in Turkish. RNB

Today the Allied uniforms are conspicuous by their absence. The Grand' Rue on special days flames with the red and white Turkish flag. Allied flags are only displayed if with a Turkish flag of equal size. A Greek flag now would be a dangerous anachronism. Even an awning painted blue and white, since a suspicious reminder of the Greek flag recently almost caused a riot only prevented by the active Turkish police. Instead of stalwart British Tommies, trim-looking Turkish police. Instead of stalwart British Tommies, trim-looking Turkish police guide the traffic by their red and white batons which remind one of a miniature barber pole or a stick of candy. Numerous cabarets that waxed fat before now have waned and closed their doors. Luxurious limousines with Turkish officials and many with well dressed Turkish women, mostly with veils thrown back, weave through the traffic of the Grand' Rue. Turkish signs have replaced the Greek and French signs of shops, and one looks in vain for old landmarks. The Galata Bridge is still crowded but now with more East than West. The number of fezzes has increased and thus the Greeks and Armenians are inconspicuous in the crowd. The Grand' Rue, the index of Constantinople, demonstrates that Turkey for the Turks is a fait accompli.

B. Events Leading up to the Present Situation:

It is interesting to enumerate very briefly the events which have brought about this startling change between March 1919 and January 1924. The Treaty of Sevres with its excessive demands on a completely prostrate Turkey furnished the incentive for the rebel Mustapha Kemal's revolutionary beginning in the Interior. The occupation of Smyrna by the Greeks as representatives of the Entente but by no means disinterested representatives fanned the flame of Turkish nationalism. The English pro-Greek policy in Smyrna and afterwards, added fuel to the flame and the Nationalist power in the Interior was steadily strengthened. The repudiation by the Greeks of Venizelos and the recall of Constantine, which necessitated a change in English policy, followed by the persistent war of aggression of the Greeks against the Turks, gave the Nationalists a real cause and rallied new followers to their support.

Then the French recognizing the new power in its ascendancy broke the Entente solidarity by concluding a secret treaty and evacuating Cilicia. The military evacuation

was accompanied by the complete evacuation of the Christians from Cilicia. This French pro-Turkish policy further materially increased the Nationalists power.

The disaffection of the Greek officers and steady demoralization of the Greek army made most opportune the August 1922 Turkish offensive. The Greeks retreated to Smyrna, the Turks in close pursuit with the inevitable result of the taking of Smyrna, followed four days later by the Smyrna disaster.

Then Constantinople was threatened by the advance of the victorious Kemalists, but saved by the English reinforcements. The lack of Allied military support made complete opposition impossible but the immediate crisis was averted by the Moudania convention¹¹ resulting in the long drawn out conferences at Lausanne. Finally after a winter's bargaining the Allies paid practically the full price of the Orient, scrapping the Treaty of Sevres except for the mandate of Syria and Palestine, and the opening of the Dardanelles, and sacrificing their main possession in the Near East which they had had for four centuries – the capitulations. After the Treaty of Lausanne the Allied occupation moved quickly to a close without incidents, the Allied forces formally evacuating October 2nd and turning over Constantinople to the Turks. The victorious Turkish Army entered the city October 6, and the Turkish regime began.

These in brief are the historical events which from our present vantage point seem to have followed each other in a logical sequence inevitably bringing about the complete reversal of the whole situation in the Near East. Five years ago in 1918, when the Turks signed the Treaty of Moudros¹² completely beaten and down and out, such an outcome would have seemed inconceivable. The one outstanding factor which has made this possible is the lack of solidarity among the Allies, the utterly selfish Near East policy which each of the Great Powers has followed. A second factor which some people discredit but which should not be overlooked is the inherent strength of Mustapha Kemal, his persistence and ability to capitalize the discord of the Allies into his victory.

¹¹ The Mudanya convention was signed on 11th October 1922. RNB

¹² Mondros in Turkish. This treaty was signed on 30th October 1918. RNB.

C. Characteristics of the Present Situation:

1. Political Status.

The completeness of that victory and its significance to Turkey and to all foreigners in the Near East is summed up in five words, "the abrogation of the capitulations". This means literally for the Turks a second conquest of Constantinople; for the foreigners a re-shaping of their whole policy – an absolutely right-about-face change of attack. Turkey is now master in her own house. She has now the full status of a sovereign power and therefore the undeniable right to choose the treatment she desires. Formerly as the "Sick Man of Europe" she was more than less at the mercy of her over-zealous physicians, the Great Powers, all eager to prescribe for her. Now Turkey has the power to throw the medicine in the Bosphorus if she chooses. It is no longer a question of what various people may think she needs but what she is willing to have. A full appreciation of just what the loss of the capitulations means must be the basis of all foreign effort in the Near East for the future, whether business enterprise or relief, educational or missionary undertakings.

Politically Turkey occupies then a stronger position in her foreign relations than at any other time in her history. It remains to be seen whether she proves equal to this supreme opportunity, or whether her power will be undermined by internal political discord, and whether she can exert sufficient strength in constructive development to make the Republic a real instrument of power. The victory over the Allied power in the Near East is only half the problem. The real crux of the problem of Turkey's future is economic.

2. Financial Basis.

Strange as it may seem the financial basis of Turkey today is not as bad as might be supposed for a country so long at war. Through the Lausanne Conference she won not only a political victory but material gains financially because the war debt with Austria and Germany is cancelled as well as all reparation claims against Turkey. Furthermore the cost of the occupation is borne by the Allies. The loss of Empire has meant a reduction of debts. The question of the payment of pre-war debts in gold Turkey succeeded in evading this question of the payment of pre-war debts in gold Turkey succeeded in evading this question being left for later settlement. Turkish

currency, the most tattered disreputable and germ-laden in Europe, has retained more nearly its normal value than some of the other European countries. The pre-war value of the Turkish pound is \$4.40; its present value about \$50 or 1/9 of pre-war value. The reason for this is that there has been no new money printed since the Armistice, due to the allies largely and to the Ottoman Public Debt Commission, a joint financial control in Turkey of her creditors, the Great Powers. This freedom from inflated currency has kept Turkish securities from being discredited. The war of the Nationalists has been carried on, without incurring foreign debts, entirely from internal revenues. The budget for 1923-1924 shows only a very small deficit. The army and navy has been reduced and taxes of all kinds increased. The 11% tariff under the capitulations has been increased. There is a great need of foreign capital but it must be, the Turks feel, without any entangling special political privileges – hence the desire for American capital through concessions, such as Chester Concession eagerly advocated by the Turks,¹³ the failure of which will mean a loss to the country and a loss in American prestige.

3. Economic Situation.

Although the financial basis of Turkey seems not entirely unsound it all depends of course on the economic situation which offers doubtful guarantees for the future. The country is rich in undeveloped resources, in mines and agriculture. The success of the new Republic will depend on economic and industrial expansion and reconstructive power. The danger lies in the fact that the same militant nationalism which won an unparalleled military and diplomatic victory may mean an economic defeat. The danger lies in the excessive nationalism which fails to look ahead for the best interests of the country. Turkey has lost by the Exchange of Populations about 2,000,000 economic producers in the Anatolian refugees to Greece. The Christian minorities, tobacco raisers, rug weavers, merchants, artisans, etc., thus expelled, who represent about 90% of the commerce and wealth production of the country, constitute a commercial majority which Turkey could ill afford to lose. This has meant

¹³ The Chester Concession project was discussed in 1908. It was promoted by General Colby Mitchell Chester. The project aim was to construct and manage a railroad network in Anatolia (specially Southeast Anatolia). It was foreseen that Chester will be compensated by getting concessions to prospect subterranean resources which existed within 40 kms on both sides of the railroad. During World War I the project was freezed and reactivated in 1922. At that time it obtained the agreement of Ankara but since United States did not ratify the Lausanne Peace Treaty and this resulted in disturbing Turkish-American relations the project did not materialise. (Source Zafer Toprak, 'Demiryolu, Devlet ve Modernite', www.ata.boun.edu.tr/demiyol/demiryolzaferbey.htm)

a big decrease in productivity and exports. The return of Turks from Greece, many of them tobacco raisers, also, may bring some adjustment in this labor problem, but cannot replace the thrift and skill of those who have been driven out. The Turks themselves, who are left in Anatolia, must develop a higher degree of working power than hitherto in order to make up for the valuable economic population which has been lost.

Excessive nationalism has seemed also to fail to realize the need for encouraging foreign business in Turkey which is necessary for Turkey's economic expansion. The loss of the capitulations has naturally had the effect of discouraging foreign investment since no longer protected by special privilege. The uncertainty as to Turkey's policy toward foreign business, the high tariff and apparent tendency to restrict possibilities for foreign business are not conducive to confidence. An anti-foreign policy will mean killing the "goose that laid the golden egg". The immediate need for money in Turkey has led to the imposition of a variety of taxes and the attempt to make some of these taxes retroactive. The lack of a strong centralized government control has made the tax question particularly difficult since there is no regular standard, and so much seems to depend on the cupidity of the tax-collector. Various restrictions have been made on foreign companies, such as the requirement that business firms should employ only Turkish employees, which was modified however later to apply only to concessionary companies. Although foreign business still seems to be carrying on in spite of minor irritations, the general economic situation of the country would be certainly greatly improved by a less nationalistic and more actively encouraging attitude toward foreign enterprise.

The nationalistic spirit of Turkey if not carried to an excess has some measure of strength. In giving up the idea of an Ottoman Empire, delimiting their territory and settling down within their logical racial borders, people agree that the Turks have chosen a wise course. This policy of intensive nationalization requires Angora as the capital since this will insure a strengthening of Anatolia, and it is hoped will bring its intellectual improvement, and any future expansion will be eastward. Constantinople though the logical financial, economic, and religious center is too subject to foreign influence for the capital of the new state, the primary aim of which is "self-determination, a homogeneous population, and freedom from foreign interference"

Anatolia by the removal of the minorities is now 100% Turkish and hence the new state depends on the development of its own people.

4. Separation of Church and State.

This extreme spirit of nationalism has been the cause of two important new movements in the state – the separation of Church and State, and the increased freedom of women. The abolition of the Sultanate and establishment of the khalifate under the Angora Assembly was a radical evidence that New Turkey is interested primarily in strengthening the National power and throwing off the Islamic yoke. This was a blow to the Pan-Islamic movement. The sterilization of the power of the Church means for Turkey a distinctly progressive step, the same step as that taken several centuries before by other countries in Europe. It shows a lessening of the hold of Islam; for although of course Turkey is now fully 90% Mohammedans, still the leaders are not radicals. This change in the Khalifate may mean the opening of Turkey more fully to the penetration of Christian ideas and also to the breaking of the supreme power of Islam striking a blow to the Pan-Islamic movement, no longer working for religious and racial amalgamation. Of course there is a reason to this but the gain of the initial movement cannot be lost.

5. Increased Freedom of Women

The change in the position of women is unquestionably the greatest gain of the New Republic. The idea of more freedom for women has been slowly gaining ground for some time, but only since the Nationalists have been in power has it received anything like official sanction. Mustapha Kemal Pasha and the other progressive leaders recognize the need for intelligent women in building a new state and realize that the continued seclusion of women militates against real progress. Halidé Hanoum, the foremost woman leader in Turkey,¹⁴ has had no small share in bringing this about and other women leaders such as Nakia Hanoum, a leading woman educator and Latifé Hanoum, the wife of Kemal Pasha, are exerting their influence toward the further emancipation of Turkish women. Women through the war in the Interior shared in manual labor; now there are growing opportunities in mental

¹⁴ Halide Hanoum is Halide Edip Adivar (1885-1964). *Turkish Ordeal* and *Memoirs of Halide Edib* are her memoirs.

pursuits. The veil passing and with it the romance of seclusion in the harem which has been incorrectly considered the synonym of polygamy.

This practice of polygamy also is passing largely from economic necessity. Of course the growing freedom of women is much more evident in Constantinople than elsewhere, as for example Smyrna where women are still very conservative. It has been most interesting to watch step by step the gradual increase in the freedom of women in Constantinople; first seen in the lifting of the veil and modifications of the conventional dress then the opening of business opportunities and public positions; next greater freedom in appearing in public places – formerly no Turkish women could appear in public restaurant or hotel; and then the more active participation of Turkish women in public affairs, as for example the formation of a suffrage society; and in the social intermingling of men and women, as in a mixed club in Stamboul representative of the best Turkish society. The most interesting development showing the new freedom of women is the removal from the tram cars of the curtains partitioning off the seats for women in the front cars. The notice authorizing this was published two days ago in the Turkish newspapers and immediately the curtains removed. The day before Christmas 1923 Turkish women for the first time sat in a tram car fully exposed to the public eye. A similar notification concerning the separation of women in the boats has not yet come, but it will only be a question of time.

In taking advantage of these successive gains toward fuller freedom Turkish women have moved quietly but surely. I am told that now there are practically no restrictions on what Turkish women can do, but their leaders have very wisely avoided a militant attitude, as one of them expressed it, "The most of us prefer to have more rights than we take in order to be sure of what we have." This policy of making haste slowly has made the coming of freedom to the Turkish women not a revolution but an evolution which has been greatly helped by the Nationalists.

6. Relation of Turkey to Russia.

Turkey's alliance with Russia is an interesting feature of the rise of the Nationalist movement and of the present situation, an alliance which may have even more importance in the future. Proverbial enemies each country for purposes of mutual

selfish interest, has used the other by making an alliance. A weak nationalist movement in the beginning needed the alliance of Soviet Russia as a protection from the rear and as a strong Ally in European Conferences. Russia needed Turkey as a means of extending the Red Conquest and as an entering wedge also in European Councils. The alliance certainly has proved of advantage to Turkey in Lausanne and its power is felt in Constantinople today, as shown by the fact that recently the Turks at the request of the Soviets turned over the buildings of the former Russian Embassy in Constantinople to the Soviet, denying further recognition to the old regime. What the future of this strange combination will be is a matter for interesting speculation.

7. Turkish Attitude toward Foreigners.

The present situation has tended to bring all American interests in the Near East to a very careful consideration of the attitude of Turkey toward foreigners. Although of course each organization sees the situation from its own special angle, it is safe to generalize on the main points. The Turkish attitude is characterized by an oversensitiveness to their new power and a growing jealousy of their sovereign rights. This is the primary consideration. Although many of the more progressive Turks recognize the need for foreign advisers in finance, education and government, they would sacrifice these benefits without question if there is any suspicion of foreign interference with Turkish interests or infringement on Turkish rights. This is the general attitude toward foreigners as a whole. Americans have the advantage of being more favorably regarded and are perhaps on better personal terms with the Turks and less suspected of ulterior aims, since American interests in the Near East have never been involved in political considerations as have the Great Powers.

8. Attitude of Americans toward the Turks.

In this connection it is interesting to consider briefly the attitude of Americans toward the Turks. Although this classification may not be entirely inclusive, speaking broadly, there are three main points of view. First, there are those who because of their intimate knowledge of the Turk in the past cannot see any hope for the future, firmly convinced that the leopard cannot change his spots. Their consciousness is always dominated by the wrongs to the Christian races. Having lived under the regime of the capitulations they cannot conceive of doing business satisfactorily with the Turk a

master in his own house. Second, there are those who know very little of the past and either discount all accounts of Turkish excesses or match them with wrongs committed by other races. They consider massacres as a characteristic Near East form of settlement of differences, the determining factor being not religion but merely the temporary position of power. Hence the evil of the Near East is fifty-fifty Christian and Turk. They will support the Turkish government in order to further individual interests, reserving however general suspicion for all the people of the Near East, and regarding them all with a feeling of superiority as "natives". Third, there are those who know the past whether from actual experience or an intelligent effort to study it, who admit the wrongs of the past and the weakness of the present ruling power. They are willing, however, to allow some benefit of doubt for the future, recognizing the tremendous present opportunity of Turkey. They make a fair attempt at a neutral position desiring, without dishonorable compromise of their own ideas, to encourage the new Republic as far as possible to make good.

It is impossible to forecast what the future will bring forth. There are grave signs of disintegration in the Republic. The solid Angora front and the dictatorship of Mustapha Kemal Pasha broken. The Nationalists do not have the country with them without criticism and opposition. Particularly in Constantinople there is much dissension. The newspapers for the past few months have been outspoken in their criticism. The decrease in prestige and power of the Khalifate has become an issue and a question of growing importance. Fearing the criticism and possible alienation of many from their cause, the Nationalists have arrested four or five leading newspaper men and are trying them on the charge of treason. This trial has caused a great sensation, and the outcome will be of vital importance to the republic. If the Tribunal Judges sentence them as guilty of treason it will mean that the new Republic is only despotism under a changed name and that freedom of the press is not yet realized in Turkey. It may mean the beginning of a regime of fear which will hardly lead to constructive progress. However this may be averted and the Republic move steadily on in constructive progress.

II THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE Y.W.C.A. IN THE NEAR EAST

A. Brief History of the Y.W.C.A. March 1919 – January 1924

This rather superficial analysis of the historical events since 1919 and general tendencies and reactions of the present situation give us the setting in which the Y.W.C.A. has been working and is working. Its development just as the development of other organizations and interests has necessarily been affected by the general political changes. Hence an understanding of them is necessary in order to have the proper perspective for the Y.W.C.A. Before taking up special features and problems of the organization here in the Near East, let us first briefly review in chronological order what this period of development has meant.

1919. The first year from March 1919 to January 1920 marks the beginning of the work in its present type of organization although not the actual beginning of Y.W.C.A. work in the Near East, since two secretaries, Miss Anna Welles (Mrs. Wylie Brown) and Miss Gage, had already laid the foundations in 1913 and the work had been carried forward until Miss Gage's death in 1917. Miss White's coming in March 1919 was really the carrying out of the plan made before the war to have her complete her training and then return to the Near East. During 1919 the Service Center work in Constantinople was begun; a head quarters for the Near East was established in Constantinople and National Committee formed; and two Y.W.C.A. secretaries were assigned to the supervision of Girls' orphanages under the Near East Relief¹⁵ at Harpoot. In November four secretaries arrived making a total of nine for the first year. One was retained for Constantinople; one sent to Sivas for work with the Near East Relief; and two sent to Smyrna to open a Service Center there.

1920. In January 1920 three new secretaries arrived, one of whom was assigned to supervise the Near East Relief orphanage and Sewing Industry in Talas, and two were sent to Adana to establish a Service Center, which after several months of preliminary work was opened April 19. In February 20 the Constantinople Y.W.C.A. moved from the rue Yemenidji house, which was retained as a hostel, into larger quarters at Taxim Square, a move necessitated by the rapid growth of the

¹⁵ Near East Relief was an American charity organization which initially was established in 1915 by James L. Barton and Cleveland H. Dodge, two American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions members for collecting funds to help the Armenians during the 1915 deportation. Initially it was called the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief. It was renamed the American Committee for Relief in the Near East in 1918 and was incorporated as Near East Relief by an act of the U.S. Congress in 1919. RNB

work. The Taxim house was used as a Service Center, also headquarters for the Near East and personnel house for the American staff. Early in February two more secretaries had arrived, one being sent to Marsovan¹⁶ to supervise the Girls' Home for the Near East Relief, and the other to Smyrna for recreational and club work. The Near East staff was further increased by the temporary transfer of five secretaries assigned for Russian work who had for some time been in Constantinople waiting to go into Russia. Three of these were used in the Constantinople work and two were sent to Beirut in March 1920. The Beirut Service Center was opened May 17. In June the Y.W.C.A. work with the Near East Relief in Arabkir¹⁷ was closed, when the secretary returned to America. The work in Harpoot¹⁸ ended in September 1920, and the work in Caesarea¹⁹ and Talas was discontinued in November 1920, when this secretary came to Constantinople and took up regular Y.W.C.A. Several transfers of secretaries were made in November. The Russian secretaries Loaned in Beirut were withdrawn – two replacements being sent and in addition a new recreation director from Constantinople, making a completely new staff in Beirut. One transfer was made in Adana at this time, and the Constantinople staff was increased by two secretaries who had been released from work in the Interior with the Near East Relief, and also by a new business secretary who combined the work of the Service Center and headquarters, and by a secretary assigned for special work on the Constantinople Survey.

1921. In January a new secretary arrived for the position of cafeteria director in Beirut and two new secretaries for work with Russian refugees to meet the emergency needs arising from the Crimean evacuation, which had brought 135,000 Russians to Constantinople. Two new hostels were opened in Constantinople in February. The regular hostel which had been at 15 rue Yemenidji was moved to 132 Tarla-Bashi and opened February 1, and a special Russian hostel opened February 7 at 10 rue Kouloglou. Aside from the Russian hostels supervised by one of the Russian secretaries other special lines of work, such as an Employment Bureau, were carried on by the other secretary for Russian work.

¹⁶ Merzifon in Turkish. RNB.

¹⁷ Arapkir in Turkish. RNB.

¹⁸ Harput in Turkish. RNB

In February 1921 a new Service Center was opened at 10 rue Chimal as the Taxim Square house had proved too small for the combination of Service Center, Headquarters office, and Personnel house. In March the work of the Y.W.C.A with the Near East Relief in Marsovan was brought to a sudden close by the deportation of all of the American workers there. In April in addition to the Pera Service Center in Constantinople at 10 rue Chimal, a second Service Center was opened in Stamboul.

At this time there were several important changes in the staff of the Near East. Miss Carrie V.P. Young, the Executive Secretary, who had completed two years of splendid pioneer work and had laid the foundations for strong permanent work, returned to America. In October the Y.W.C.A. secretary was withdrawn from the Near East Relief Girls' Home in Sivas. This brought to a close this piece of cooperation with the Near East Relief which had been carried on in various places in the Interior for about two years since the arrival of the first unit of Y.W.C.A. secretaries. It was necessary to conclude this joint work with the Near East Relief in order to concentrate the Y.W.C.A. staff on the regular Y.W.C.A. work which was developing rapidly and which was in need of additional staff. The Beirut staff was decreased during the summer from four secretaries to two, one returning to America and one being transferred to Constantinople.

In September 1921 a secretary arrived to undertake the new department of Migration work in Constantinople. About the same time the combined position of business secretary for Headquarters and the Constantinople Centers was divided as it became necessary to have a full time secretary for each of these positions. In October the Russian hostel at rue Kouloglou was combined with the Tarla-Bashi and Miss Ogden one of the Russian secretaries left Constantinople to enter Russia with Miss Dunham under the American Relief Administration.

In November when the French concluded a secret treaty with Angora, and began to evacuate. November 20, immediately the wholesale evacuation of the Christians from Cilicia began, and the Adana Y.W.C.A. Center was reduced from about 500 members to about 10 within two weeks time.

¹⁹ Kayseri in Turkish . RNB

1922. The final evacuation of the French from Cilicia was completed January 4 and the Turkish regime was begun. The Adana center in spite of the almost total loss of membership was continued for reasons of policy and also to make the experiment of a center in a purely Turkish community. The number steadily grew and the center proved a success, but from lack of funds it was necessary to close in June. Several Constantinople secretaries returned to America in the spring of 1922 including the secretary for Russian work and the educational secretary neither of whom were replaced. The staff was further decreased in the autumn by the return to America of the Club secretary and no replacement was sent. In September a new physical director for Constantinople arrived and also two new secretaries to undertake new lines of work – a student secretary for Constantinople College to combine the position of Y.W.C.A. College secretary and Physical director, and a Physical Director for a special recreation program in the Near East Relief orphanages which was unfortunately discontinued in November as the orphanages were moved to Greece because of unsettled conditions.

September 9, 1922 the Smyrna fire completely destroyed the splendid Service Center in Smyrna. The local staff with one of the American secretaries went on a refugee ship to Greece, the other American secretary came to Constantinople for a short time. Following the Smyrna disaster the Y.W.C.A through a special Smyrna Relief Fund received from New York was able to cooperate with other relief and welfare agencies in meeting the tremendous refugee situation. Half of this fund of \$10,000 was pooled with the general relief fund and used on the Greek islands, with one of the Smyrna Y.W.C.A. secretaries for about two months assigned for this island work in helping to administer relief and distribute and settle the refugees. The other half of the fund was used on special personal relief cases in Piraeus and Athens and on Migration work in Athens. One American secretary, who came to Athens with the first refugees, was engaged from the beginning in personal relief and later supervised a special Personal Service Bureau in cooperation first with the Y.M.C.A. Later this work was linked with the Near East Relief regular Personal Service program as part of a chain of Personal Service Bureaus through Greece.

1923. Personal Service Work and Migration Bureau, Athens.

The Personal Service Work in Greece in cooperation with the Near East Relief was discontinued in February, since Near East Relief personnel were by that time available for it. In January another piece of cooperation between the Y.W.C.A. and the Near East Relief, namely joint financial support of a Migration Service Bureau in Athens, was undertaken on a six months' basis. The Y.W.C.A. Migration secretary transferred from France began this work in February. It was continued till July as a joint proposition with the Near East Relief and then the Near East Relief withdrew. The work was carried by the Y.W.C.A. alone on part of the Smyrna Refugee Relief Fund allocated to this purpose. November and December 1923 additional funds were allocated to the Athens Migration Bureau from the Constantinople Migration Bureau in order that Athens might not be closed. The decision has now been reached to make the Athens Migration work permanent as a part of a regular Near East Migration budget.

Athens Hostel.

Another line of work was developed in Athens as a result of Smyrna – namely the Refugee hostel financed by funds from a local campaign in Smyrna shortly before the fire and other relief funds given in Athens. This hostel will continue as long as the funds last probably the summer of 1924.

Athens Y.W.C.A. Club Work.

An independent piece of Y.W.C.A. work, also the result of Smyrna, is the club work of Theodora Isaakidou which has been organized entirely on her initiative without the direct supervision of the Y.W.C.A. secretaries or the Near East Executive, since they were not free to undertake anything but pure emergency work in Athens and this club was regarded as possibly leading toward permanent Y.W.C.A. work in Greece. Miss Isaakidou has of course had the benefit of their sympathetic interest and advice, and her work has been made possible by the Migration Bureau's lending her for half time work for the club but continuing however her full time salary.

Constantinople in 1923 has fortunately had no staff changes, the first year without any changes a blessing in view of the critical situation of the past year. The Student Work at Constantinople College has steadily progressed. The Migration work has been made permanent or at least will be continued for another year.

During the year the Near East staff has been brought into contact with the Y.W.C.A of Palestine and Egypt; first through the Ramallah Conference April 1923 attended by a Headquarters secretary, a Beirut secretary and Beirut committee members; and through the six weeks visit in Constantinople of Miss King.

Change in location in Beirut.

The Beirut Y.W.C.A. has changed its location, moving in October from the Jessie Taylor Memorial School and opening a new Service Center in the heart of the Beirut business district. The reason for the move was the fact that the other location since in the Moslem quarter made development difficult, and secondly this splendid downtown location offers far more opportunities for contact with girls.

Adverse newspaper Publicity.

1923 has been characterized in Constantinople by some adverse newspaper publicity and difficulties in connection with the work and also by the question of registration of the organization with the Turkish government. All of this is discussed elsewhere in this report in some detail. The involved political situation and changes in status of foreigners have necessitated much time and thought on the subject of official connections and means of cultivating more Turks.

Forecast for 1924.

For 1924 we can forecast two or three staff changes; the successful official registration of the organization with the Turkish government we trust; a continuance of work in Constantinople and Beirut on the present lines, with an increase especially in Constantinople in general community service through the leaders of recreation trained at the Service Center; the establishment of more personal Turkish contacts; the admission of our program of recreation leaders into some of the Turkish schools; less suspicion of our work from the Turks; and more confidence in us and recognition of the value of the Y.W.C.A. to Turkish girls. There can be little expansion of the program since there is no increase in budget, but there should be a deepening of our work and an intensifying its meaning. The year we hope will bring the appointment of an advisory secretary for the Y.W.C.A. in Greece to guide it through the important stages and lay a solid foundation for a permanent Y.W.C.A. movement in Greece.

Through all the Near East we look for greater interest among committee members and an increasing number of active members of the Y.W.C.A. who accept membership with the full knowledge of all the responsibilities as well as privileges that it implies.

B. General Characteristics of Y.W.C.A. Work from March 1919 - January 1924

This chronological review of almost five years shows a number of interesting facts.

1. Pioneer Period of Expansion.

The outstanding fact is that the first two years were a period of pioneering and expansion, later followed by a concentration at the main centers and reduction of work due to reduction of budget. In the spring of 1920 the Y.W.C.A. was more widely represented than at any other time having secretaries at the following points: Harpoot, Arabkir, Sivas, Talas, Marsovan, Constantinople, Smyrna, Adana, and Beirut. The largest number of secretaries in the field at any one time was in the winter of 1921 when there were twenty-one.

The present scope of the work includes various lines of work in Constantinople and Beirut, with work in Greece started as a result of the Smyrna disaster and the migration work to continue as a permanent bureau. The present number of American secretaries is twelve divided as follows two in Beirut, two in Athens, and eight in Constantinople.

2. Reasons for later decrease in centers and American staff.

The decrease in centers and secretaries has taken place for three different reasons: first as a modification of policy, second as a result of political events, third as a result of decreased budget. The withdrawal of secretaries from the Near East Relief Centers in the Interior was due to the fact that the Y.W.C.A. program had developed along its own special lines and it was deemed wise to concentrate money and secretaries on this program. Furthermore the emergency need for the supervision of Girls' Homes had passed, and the Near East Relief was able to handle this work as a part of its own program. This piece of cooperation was a splendid idea for the Y.W.C.A. as an opportunity for general service on a human problem in the Near East

and as a general background for more definite Y.W.C.A. work. It would of course have proved of more permanent value as organization experience if the later deportation and evacuation of the Christian races from the Interior had not completely eliminated this problem of work in the Interior from our consideration.

The closing of Adana in June 1922 was due primarily to a drastic cut in budget which made impossible carrying work in four centers. The reason however for closing Adana rather than Beirut or Smyrna was because the evacuation of the French from Cilicia January 1922, which had caused the Christian evacuation, had reduced the Adana Service Center to the vanishing point. Although as a Turkish center it had in the following five months built up quite successfully a membership of 100, still it could not be compared with the other centers.

The closing of Smyrna was "force major" a real calamity, destroying in a few hours of consuming flames our hopes of a fine permanent self-supporting center. Connected with this same political cause was of course our beginning of work in Greece, forced upon us by the Smyrna disaster as a responsibility for the refugees from Smyrna and as an obligation of the organization, because of its presence in the Near East, to render its special contribution in such a crisis even though Greece had never been technically regarded as part of this field.

The decrease in staff in the Near East has been due naturally to reduction of work and need for economy but also to policy. The decrease in Beirut from four to two in the summer of 1921 was due to the fact that work had not developed along sufficient lines to warrant four secretaries. More concentrated work of two secretaries, it was felt, was wiser as it would offer more scope for local leadership. The decrease in Constantinople from the winter of 1921, when there were the greatest number, namely, eleven secretaries, to the present time when there are eight, has been due to reduction of work. Two Russian secretaries were only needed for the Russian emergency. And to the decrease in budget combined with the possibility of replacing American secretaries with local secretaries is due the decrease of the club and educational secretaries. The Survey secretary on the staff in the winter of 1921 was of course only a short time position. The staff in Constantinople has been increased by the two new departments of work, - the Migration secretary added in Sept. 1921,

and the Student secretary at Constantinople College in Sept. 1922. For a short time in the autumn of 1922 there was also a Y.W.C.A. Physical Director assigned for Near East Relief orphanage supervision, a position offering great promise of developing a wider community program of physical education. This however by the turn of political events in September 1922, causing the transfer of the orphans, was soon rendered unnecessary.

3. Increase in local leaders.

The decrease in the number of American secretaries has been due, as already mentioned, to a steady increase in local staff – each center having as one of the main objectives the training of local leaders and giving them a real job. A summary of results shows that to a certain degree this is being slowly accomplished. In Constantinople there are at the present time the following full time local assistants in various lines of the work.

Constantinople

Pera Service Center – 1 Armenian, 2 Greeks, 1 Russian

Stamboul Service Center – 2 Turks

Hostel – 1 Russian

Migration Bureau – 2 Greeks (A Turkish girl will be added)

Headquarters – Greek (secretarial & book-keeping)

Beirut – 1 Syrian

Greece

Hostel – 1 Greek (Directrice)

Migration – 1 Armenian, 1 Greek, 1 Levantine – English

The Adana staff before it was closed had two very good local assistants. The Smyrna staff had perhaps in a short time gone further than any other center. At the time of the fire there were two Greek assistants, one Armenian, and one Turkish. One of the Greek assistants, Miss Isaakidou, had charge of a flourishing factory center with entire responsibility for program and management. The result of her Smyrna experience is seen today in the splendid Y.W.C.A. Club in the Old Palace in Athens, organized and directed by her with remarkable initiative and effectiveness. The other

local assistants from Smyrna have reflected great credit on the organization. The Turkish girl, who remained in Smyrna, is a loyal supporter of the Y.W.C.A. The Armenian assistant in the business courses occupies a position of trust in the American Express Company in Athens; and the Greek assistant, who was trained as a recreation and girls' club worker, now supervises the recreation and health of 2,500 children in the Near East orphanage in Syria. These girls from Smyrna, who immediately after the Smyrna disaster went to Athens, were singled out by various American relief workers as most efficient and valuable assistants. The way they met their own emergency and helped through the refugee crisis was a real tribute to the influence and training of the American secretaries in Smyrna.

In Greece it is possible for local leaders to assume full positions of responsibility far more quickly than in the rest of the Near East since Greece does not present a complex national problem. In Constantinople for example it is practically impossible to place full responsibility on any of our local assistants in the Service Centers – Greek, Armenian, or Turkish. Even aside from the question of training the complexity of nationalities makes it necessary for the American secretary to work with the local leaders. Although we hope that the leaders of the country may gradually come into positions of larger responsibility, and are working toward that end, we must realize that Americans cannot expect to withdraw as in other European countries if the work is to continue on its present broad international basis.

4. Finance Facts.

Comparison of budgets of successive years. It is interesting to compare briefly the budgets of the different years represented in this analysis. An accompanying sheet gives in detail some finance statistics. The original budget allowed in 1919 was \$125,000 of which \$33,000 was spent in the Near East from July 1919 to December 1919. The budget for 1923 (and we hope also for 1924) is \$35,000. This decrease illustrates very well the changed basis on which we are now working, the first being more or less the war-work basis for an emergency and pioneer experimental period, the present budget being the basis which in the light of that experience, we feel, is the minimum on which we can operate adequately. The amount for secretarial expense budgeted for 1920 was \$73,375.00, the actual amount spent in 1923 was \$

22778,33 and amount budgeted for 1924 is \$ 24697,50 which again we feel is a minimum allowance.

Local Support. The question of local support of the Y.W.C.A. in the Near East is a very difficult one, not offering much hope for the immediate future, either in Constantinople or Beirut for different reasons. Greece is an entirely different proposition, distinctly hopeful if we can think in terms of permanent work.

Finance Outlook in Constantinople. In Turkey, that is Constantinople since that is the only center remaining, the political situation has completely changed our prospects for local support. In 1920 the Constantinople Y.W.C.A. after less than a year's work raised 1350. Ltqs. In October 1921 a finance committee of different nationalities working on a well organized plan in a month's special finance effort raised 3456.30 Turkish Liras, which equals \$1815.53. It was planned to carry this same plan out the following autumn with the hope of raising a much larger amount. In order to accomplish this a finance publicity committee was appointed to continue the interest roused in the special effort and cultivate the contributors by various means of finance publicity; for example publicity teas at the Service Centers when contributors were shown the building with a regular day's program in progress. This plan was carried out most successfully.

In September 1922 the Smyrna disaster changed completely our finance outlook. A finance campaign in October 1922 was too wild an idea even to mention. The suspense and in many cases panic of the Greeks and Armenians made personal safety and protection of their own possessions the only consideration. The tremendous refugee situation drained the purses of our regular American and British contributors. Furthermore even if the refugee appeal had not been so appallingly insistent, people would have hesitated to invest in a permanent type of work such as the Y.W.C.A. in view of the daily uncertainty and by no means remote possibility of evacuation of all Christian races and foreigners from Constantinople. We did not believe that this evacuation would take place, but it was daily in the air. A general finance crisis in business further more made raising money impossible. But added to all this there has been a more serious obstacle against securing funds locally; namely the attitude of the Turkish government, which beginning last winter, January 1923

has been that no funds can be secured for any public or private enterprise without the consent of the government. This consent cannot be secured except for organizations officially recognized by the government. This government regulation constituted an insurmountable obstacle since the Y.W.C.A. is not officially registered, and this organization for reasons explained elsewhere in this report cannot be pushed at this time. This regulation has made impossible not only a finance campaign but also the usual other means of raising money; such as by entertainments, pageants, etc. Whereas in 1921 the Constantinople Pageant had raised 800.00 Turkish Liras, in 1923 no receipts from this source were possible. A gymnasium exhibition was given and contributions in lieu of entrance tickets were received, but of course as this could not be advertised and could not be given a large scale since the Y.W.C.A. was desirous of keeping out of this lime-light, only a very small amount was raised.

In May 1923 a quiet effort to raise money from the English and American community was carried out with a result of 2128 Ltqs, \$880. However no local people could be used in this finance effort, nor could funds be solicited from local contributors. The bazaar, which was recently held at the Pera Service Center, December 8, 1923, brought in about 400.00 Turkish Liras to be used for the definite purpose of Christmas parties for orphan children and camp scholarships for next summer. This was put on a basis of an entertainment given by the members, and the various clubs, to raise money for their own activities, as the bazaar was planned by the Club Council and the money will be administered by them.

The Y.M.C.A. is under the same restrictions as the Y.W.C.A. but last spring they had virtually a finance campaign on the basis of securing sustaining memberships. The Y.W.C.A. questioned this method as a matter of policy and principle. This is of course however a possible solution of the situation. But until the organization is registered officially it is difficult to raise funds locally. Even if the organization were officially registered it is doubtful whether permission would be given for raising funds for work which is not entirely Turkish since the government policy is to restrict the financial appeals definitely to work for Turks. An example of this policy was shown in the fact that the government forced the Civic League to limit its home for Delinquent Girls

entirely for Turkish girls, although this meant putting out several other nationalities. This policy is in line with the excessive nationalism of the moment.

Every effort will be made to overcome this difficult situation of raising funds locally, but the coming year will probably not offer a hopeful financial prospect, and hence permanence of the work in the Near East is conditioned on support from America.

Financial Outlook in Beirut. In Beirut the question of financial support is not a matter of political hindrance but of a very conservative attitude of the Syrian people which makes raising money exceedingly difficult. A very small beginning was made last spring when about \$64.00 was raised. This is scarcely worth mentioning, but when one considers that Beirut University after forty or more years still can count on almost no support from its alumni, it does not seem strange that the Y.W.C.A. after four years was able to do so little. Some solution of this problem must be found and the community educated to give some support to an institution recognized to be of general service. Doubtless one reason for the difficulty in raising funds locally is the fact that the missionary effort has been supported entirely from America and this has established a precedent in the minds of the people. The people of Syria have no idea of community giving.

Previous Finance Situation in Adana and Smyrna. The situation in Adana and Smyrna, before these two centers were closed, furnished a stimulating contrast to Beirut. The outlook in Adana before the Christian evacuation was very promising. Undoubtedly a very large proportion of the funds necessary for running expenses would have been raised in the next year as some of the wealthy Greeks had become much interested, primarily through the excellent work at one of the cotton factories. In Smyrna the summer preceding the disaster a very successful campaign had been carried on very largely through the efforts of Miss Nancy McFarland in 3581.60 Turk Liras + \$1.000 had been raised. Of this 2.000 Turk Liras were from the Greek High Commission, \$1000.00 from a wealthy Scotch exporter and the remainder 1581.60 Lira the contributions from a great number of business men, small shop owners and various other people in the community who knew and valued the Y.W.C.A. This splendid result in the Smyrna finance campaign has made possible the much needed Refugee Hostel in Athens.

Finance Outlook in Greece. In Greece the financial outlook is most stimulating. The Y.W.C.A. Club, organized by Miss Isaakidou, has had no outside funds, but has carried on quite successfully through the help of various interested people. The expense has of course been very small, practically covered by class receipts with almost no running expenses, since the revolutionary committee of the government has allowed the club the use of the Palace staircase and landing, and volunteer teachers have been secured for all classes. The Executive Committee working with Miss Isaakidou felt assured that they can secure all the necessary funds for running expenses, but they are urgently requesting an American advisory secretary as their primary need. Athens offers just now a most unusual opportunity not merely because of the need which existed before the influx of refugees and has been greatly intensified by the refugee problem, but because in Athens we have just now as a result of the work in Smyrna practically the consummation of what we try to produce else-where often with long deferred success; namely, a local leader full of initiative, enthusiasm, and devotion, a live developing club with a large membership of girls, an interested supporting committee of representative women, and an excellent outlook for local support. All that is lacking is the experienced American secretary to capitalize all these assets into a permanent organization on sound foundations. The future of the work in Greece undoubtedly depends on this final factor.

5. Affiliation of the Y.W.C.A. in the Near East with the World's Committee.

Up until June 1922 the Y.W.C.A. in the Near East had not been definitely organized as a permanent national Y.W.C.A. (national in the usual sense is a misnomer since this field is anything but national) but merely as demonstration Service Centers or foyers with only one general type of membership. However, during the fall and winter of 1921 to 1922 the Near East Committee and the various Service Center Committees had been working on the general problem of a permanent organization; studying the idea of a Christian membership basis as distinct from the general Service Center membership; and drawing up a Constitution. Before the St. Wolfgang Conference a constitution and basis had already been sent to the World's Y.W.C.A. Committee for preliminary suggestions. At the St. Wolfgang Conference in June this constitution and basis were formally presented and accepted, and the Y.W.C.A. in the Near East was affiliated as a corresponding member with the World's Y.W.C.A.

Basis of Membership. The fundamental consideration in the choice of a basis was that it should have really vital significance for the members and be a personal declaration of Christian belief and principle of living rather than an involved theological statement of creed. Therefore the basis of the World's Y.W.C.A. was not considered suitable as the basis which members should be asked to accept for active membership in the organization. However the sub-committee of the World's Committee felt that the personal basis submitted by the Near East Committee did not embody the idea of the basis for the whole movement but urged that the World's Y.W.C.A. basis and statement of principle should therefore also be incorporated in the constitution. This suggestion was accepted and the World's basis was however inserted in the Near East constitution as the general basis of the movement; but this did not change the personal basis which had been chosen as the basis which each member accepts and signs for active membership.

The personal basis chosen was the result largely of a special discussion group of girls in the Constantinople Service Center who met for some months under the leadership of Mrs. Wylie Brown, the Chairman of the Membership Committee of the Constantinople Center and also Chairman of the Constitution and Basis Committee of the Near East Board.

Membership Courses. Because the results of this discussion group were so satisfying in developing an understanding of Y.W.C.A. principles and membership responsibility, the plan has been adopted of carrying out the idea of discussion groups in preparation for active membership. The course is entirely voluntary, including a series of discussions on Y.W.C.A. aims and basis of full membership and the World Y.W.C.A. organization. Then at the close of these simple course girls are given the opportunity to join the Y.W.C.A. as regular or full members, and a recognition service is held for the new members.

Of course membership is not conditioned on these courses and full members, who already know the Y.W.C.A. are admitted without any preliminaries, as for example the Committee women and various American or English women. But for the girls in the Service Centers, the membership courses have proved a splendid idea as they

make full membership signify more than merely signing a card, not merely meaning privileges but definite responsibility. In 1922-1923 two courses were held in Constantinople – one in the autumn with three divisions two in English and one in French and another course in the spring with one division. 75 girls finished the course and became full members. In addition about 48 have joined the Y.W.C.A. as full members. Another group has been organized this winter. Girls are invited but not urged to join these groups.

It is thought best for the full membership to grow slowly in order that there may be a strong nucleus of full members who really know what joining the organization means. Of course if urged the majority of the girls of the Christian races, represented in the Service Centers, would join without hesitation, but such a large membership would not be a real strength. A slow steady development seems by far the best plan. Practically all of the full members among the girls belong to the Service Center, joining this in the beginning for the privileges it offers, in classes, clubs, etc. No additional fee to the Service Center membership is charged for full or regular membership. Those who do not belong to the Service Center but desire to be full members pay the fee of 1.50 Turkish Lira (about \$1.00) a year.

Distinction between Service Center and Full Membership. Between the two types of membership, - Service Center and full or regular membership, a clear distinction is drawn. The terms Service Center and regular or full membership are used rather than associate and Active, as these terms would not be so well understood. The Service Center membership takes in any girls over eighteen years who subscribe to the simple statement. "By love serve one another". All girls have equal privileges in the Service Centers regardless of race, religion, or creed. Turkish girls belonging to the Service Centers are not in any way implicated in Christian membership. To make the very definite distinction between the Service Center as a thing in itself, and Christian membership in the organization as something quite distinct means fairness to the Turkish members and at the same time to the organization. The Service Center is regarded as a demonstration of the Y.W.C.A. or an outlet of service. At this particular time and since this is a Moslem country it is very necessary to think clearly and make very definite clean-cut distinctions in these types of membership. These general membership distinctions laid down by the Near East constitution, and the personal

basis of membership apply for the local centers and are incorporated in their special constitutions which may of course differ in the general details of organization.

6. Plan of Organization.

National organization. The general plan for organization provided for in the constitution is a Near East Board of Directors for the whole field, with representatives from the different local centers and some members chosen at large. When the constitution was drawn up, there were four local Centers – Constantinople, Smyrna, Adana, and Beirut. Soon after the affiliation with the World's Y.W.C.A. Adana was closed and within two months Smyrna was destroyed leaving only Constantinople and Beirut to make up the Near East Field. Due to the political conditions in Turkey during the past year it has not seemed wise to effect the organization of the complete Near East Board. The Executive Committee in Constantinople, which was during the first two years the promoting committee for the Near East and since St. Wolfgang has been the nucleus of the Near East Board ratified by the World's Committee, continues to function as the general advisory committee for the Near East. As soon as it is possible to hold an Annual Meeting the Board will be completed. In the meantime the interests of Syria have not suffered, although not represented by actual members on the Board of Directors, as the Executive Secretary forms the link between the Near East Committee in Constantinople and the Board for Syria in Beirut. Properly speaking Greece has not come into the consideration as a permanent part of the field since the work there is still a temporary emergency.

Local Organization. Each local center has its local Board of Directors which has the general supervision of all local work; for example in Constantinople two Service Centers and a Hostel. Each Service Center, Pera and Stamboul, and the Hostel have their committees, which meet every month having the detailed supervision of the local work. The local Board of Directors meets only every two months, its main function being to control the general policy of the local organization.

The Beirut local organization differs from the local work in Constantinople since it represents more than merely one local center. The Beirut Service Center is the Central Branch for Syria, uniting the seven small Y.W.C.A. organizations which have

existed in Syria since 1911. There is a general Board of Directors for Syria, with the Service Center as the Headquarters and the General secretary of the Beirut Service Center as secretary for all the work in Syria. This constitutes really a field type of organization under the Near East Headquarters.

Migration and Student Work. Two lines of work in Constantinople independent of the local centers and directly dependent on the Near East Headquarters and independent of the local administration are the Migration Bureau and the Student Work at Constantinople College. The idea in starting both of these new lines of work in connection with Headquarters was that they represented not merely Constantinople but work in these lines for the whole field. Although at present localized in work; their outlook is broader than merely the local work. Hence it seems wise to keep them related to Headquarters.

The Migration Work has a special committee, the chairman of which is a member of the Near East Executive Committee. The Student Work does not have a separate committee but a member of the Near East Committee on the Faculty of the College stands in an advisory relationship to the Student secretary. The Student Work is under the joint supervision of the College and the Near East Executive Secretary.

Another special piece of work in Constantinople for a time under the Near East Headquarters was the special recreation work in the Near East Relief orphanages, transferred after a short time to Greece, the secretary being released from the Y.W.C.A. to the Near East Relief.

All of the Near East Headquarters secretaries report of course to the Near East Committee, which meets usually once a month.

7. Conferences.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to plan a special Near East Conference for this field. The general uncertain conditions have made such a conference unwise, although its value is fully realized. The Near East however has had the advantage of being represented at several Conference in the last four years. Two secretaries from

Constantinople attended the Champéry Conference in May 1920. One American secretary from Headquarters, one local secretary from Constantinople, and two Committee members of the Near East Board attended the St. Wolfgang Conference in June 1922. Two American secretaries, one from Headquarters one from Beirut and two Committee members from Beirut, were visitors at the Ramallah Conference of Egypt and Palestine April 1923. The American Student secretary with a Turkish student, representing Constantinople College, attended the European Student Conference at Parad, Austria, June 1923; and two American secretaries, one from Constantinople and one from Beirut, attended the Girls' Work Conference at Sonntagsberg, Austria, July 1923. From all of these conferences the Y.W.C.A. in the Near East through its delegates has received very distinct benefits in actual practical ideas for the development of the work, but even more in the inspiration which has come from the deepening consciousness of world fellowship. When conditions are more favorable it is hoped that the Y.W.C.A. in the Near East may have a Conference bringing into closer relationship the different parts of the field.

8. Relationships and Cooperation.

Constantinople as the pivotal point of importance in the Near East is naturally the Headquarters of all American Interests in the Near East and, because of its international character, also the center of various foreign agencies. Therefore the question of relationships is of various foreign agencies. Therefore the question of relationships is of more than ordinary significance. The Y.W.C.A. has had direct and active contact with the following agencies: American Agencies: - American Red Cross, American Relief Administration, Near East Relief, Y.M.C.A., American Board of Foreign Missions, American Hospital, Robert College, Constantinople College, Mennonite Relief, Christian Science Relief, American Woman's Hospital, Jewish Distribution Committee, American Chamber of Commerce and American Business Interests, such as the standard Oil Company and American Express Company, American Embassy and American Consulate. International and Foreign Agencies and Agencies of the Country: - the League of Nations, International Red Cross (at first separate but later with the League of Nations office) the Lord Mayor's Fund, European Student Relief, Russian Red Cross, Russian Zemstvos, Russian White Cross and other Russian Relief Agencies, Greek Red Cross and Greek Patriarchate

Armenian Red Cross and Armenian Patriarchate, Turkish Red Crescent and the Civic League, (a joint local committee international in type).

The variety of these organizations with which the Y.W.C.A. has had contact illustrates the complexity of Constantinople and the need for breadth in the organization to meet the various demands upon it, since it must function in vital relationship to all the other agencies in the city.

a. Contact with Russian Refugee Problem.

The Y.W.C.A. has had a special interest in the Russian problem through the Russian department and special fund of \$10,000 allocated from the Russian budget for Russian work in Constantinople. In addition to this fund individual secretaries received special funds sent for individual cases of Russian relief. In this special Russian work the Y.W.C.A. has been connected with the following organizations – American Red Cross, Mennonite Relief, Christian Science Relief, American Relief Administration, Y.M.C.A. Russian Department, private individuals operating special relief funds and the various Russian Relief Agencies.

To coordinate all of the American relief effort for Russians a joint committee, called the Disaster Relief Committee, was formed in November 1920 just after the Wrangel evacuation of Crimea. The Y.W.C.A. was represented on this committee. All of the organizations represented administered independently their own funds but were guided in their administration by the information on individual cases gained through the meetings of the committee, held at first every day and later once a week at the American Embassy. Thus duplication and exploitation of American relief agencies was avoided. The Y.W.C.A. practically had no part in actual relief funds but through the Russian hostel supplemented the relief agencies on housing special emergency cases, and furthermore contributed to the general handling of the problem by being in a position to do special investigation as the only organization specifically for women.

b. Contact with Smyrna Refugee Problem.

Immediately after the Smyrna debacle, the Disaster Relief Committee, which had functioned effectively on Russian relief, was reorganized to meet this new relief crisis by Admiral Bristol as Chairman of the American Red Cross Local Chapter and High Commissioner. The organizations represented were American Red Cross, Near East Relief, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and American Woman's Hospital with Admiral Bristol as Chairman. To meet the crisis, a large proportion of relief funds were pooled and the problem was handled as a whole each organization reserving the freedom to use part of their funds for any special responsibility which came logically under its special program; for example the American Woman's Hospital and Red Cross specialized on medical supplies, the Jewish Committee on the relief of Jews remaining in Smyrna, and the Y.W.C.A. on the special problem of protection of girls refugees in Greece. The largest funds were of course pooled by the Near East Relief and American Red Cross. The Y.W.C.A. allocated half of its Smyrna Refugee fund of \$10,000 received from New York to this joint disaster fund. The Navy and State Department through official authority and through use of ships in solving the transportation problem made possible a most effective expenditure of a large emergency relief fund.

The active connection with this Disaster Relief Committee, which handled the Smyrna situation in a remarkably efficient way, has made it possible for the Y.W.C.A. to be in closest touch with the whole situation in Constantinople. This has been distinctly valuable for the development of the regular program, since the refugee problem has been an index of the political situation, and an understanding of the changing political situation is vital to further the best interests of the organization.

c. Contact with the League of Nations.

Through the Russian situation the Y.W.C.A. has had close relationship with the League of Nations office. We have helped on special investigations on problems relating to women; for example, an investigation on Russian women employed in restaurants and another investigation on special training courses for Russian women preliminary to evacuation. The Y.W.C.A. several times met for special discussion of the Russian problem with the General International Committee under the League of

Nations, made up of special representatives from the Allies and Americans and Russians.

The Migration Bureau has had very close contact with the League of Nations in connection with the evacuation of Russians from Constantinople, referring special cases to the League for help in visas and for the transportation allotment granted by the League to certain categories of refugees.

The Y.W.C.A. Service Center has had a connection with the League of Nations in its Summer Camp, where a special group of children from the League of Nations Home were given a two weeks holiday. The purpose of this home is to take care of children of the Christian races taken by the Turks during the war and released after the armistice.

d. Relationship to the European Student Relief.

The Y.W.C.A. has had for two years a part in the distribution of funds for Student Relief allocated to this field by the European Student Relief. The first two years these funds were allowed, the Y.W.C.A. was unfortunately not notified nor given a share of these funds. However after that time a joint committee was formed with a Y.M.C.A. secretary as chairman. The two colleges and the Y.W.C.A. were represented. The student relief funds for this area were divided for distribution among these various agencies. The Y.W.C.A. allotment was divided among students of the country, Greek, Turkish, Armenian, and Russian students. The Student Y.W.C.A. secretary at the College handled all the student relief given there. All cases were carefully examined. The total amount distributed by the Y.W.C.A. on Student Relief is 1120.00 Turkish Liras.

e. Relationship to Lord Mayor's Fund.

The Y.W.C.A. relationship to this English Committee and the various other foreign agencies has been in connection with special relief problems and largely through the Migration Service. It may be added that the Allies, French, British, and Italian, have been far less represented by relief agencies in the Near East than America. Figures

are not available, but the funds invested by American agencies and private funds would far exceed the sum total of the relief of all other countries. There has been much more contact of American agencies with English than with French or Italians. The Y.W.C.A. relationship with the two latter is nil, and the same is, generally speaking, true of other American agencies. This is doubtless due to one of two reasons or both: first the fact that French activities in the Near East have always been largely dominated by political propaganda, and there is naturally competition in this line between the English and French; second the French influence is essentially Catholic, the American influence, Protestant. Natural points of contact therefore do not exist other than official, social, or diplomatic relationships.

f. Relationship to Local Agencies.

The Y.W.C.A. has been in continual connection with the different national agencies working on their special problems – the Greek and Armenian Red Cross Societies, Greek and Armenian Patriarchates, the Armenian Refugee Camp Committee, the Turkish Red Crescent and Turkish Orphanage Societies. By contact with all of these agencies the organization has maintained a neutral position acting merely as a channel of help connecting the needy case with the proper agencies. The connection with the Church heads is quite characteristic of the country since the Church head is the political and governing head of the national community and not merely the religious head. Therefore the Greek and Armenian Patriarchs are referred to in a variety of appeals. The Migration Bureau has occasion frequently to take up questions with these two Patriarchates. The relationship with the Turkish Red Crescent is of course important as a matter of policy. These various local agencies have been almost a negligible factor in view of the tremendous relief situation in Constantinople the past five years. Judged on the standard of social work in America, these agencies are sadly lacking in method and scope, but they must be recognized as far as possible and given encouragement.

g. Relationship to Constantinople Civic League.

A local organization international in character with which the Y.W.C.A. has had contact is the Civic League, the primary purpose of which is to protect girls under

fifteen from prostitution. A home has been established and is being operated by the Civic League. Every attempt is made to educate the girls in this home and prepare them to lead normal lives. One of the Recreation Leaders from the Y.W.C.A. Service Centers give classes in gymnastics and recreation at this school twice a week, a very much needed contribution to the regular program. The Executive Committee of the Civic League is a very interesting composite of the nationalities of Constantinople including two American, a Greek, a Turkish, French, Italian, Dutch, Jewish, and Armenian members.

h. Relationship to the American Board of Missions.

In all of its centers in the Near East the Y.W.C.A. stands in a very friendly relationship to the missionary agencies. All of the Y.W.C.A. local boards and Near East Board of Directors have members from the Mission. The Y.W.C.A. Service Centers in Smyrna, Adana, and Beirut, and the emergency work in Athens were started at the request of missionaries and have had their continued interest and support. The rapid development of the Y.W.C.A. in the Near East has been in large measure due to the long period of preparation by the missionaries. However there have been no direct pieces of cooperation carried on with the Mission, and although in close connection, the Y.W.C.A. acts quite independently. As a distinct matter of policy it is wiser for the Y.W.C.A. to function as an absolutely independent organization on its own feet. The American Bible House, which stands in close connection to the Y.W.C.A. is the Headquarters of the Mission.

i. Connection with Christian Workers Union.

Together with the other educational and missionary agencies the Y.W.C.A. has had an active part in the Christian Workers Union, an organization which meets four times a year and the purpose of which is to give unity to all the various lines of Christian work. In 1921 this organization undertook the making of a Survey of Constantinople. Different organizations contributed financially to this plan. The Y.W.C.A. had a full time secretary appointed to work on the Survey staff and made an additional financial contribution. Due to inadequate funds for staff and running expenses greatly, it was necessary to modify the original plan and carry out the Survey on a much more

limited scale. As a scientific survey the result fell below what was anticipated. However the combined effort was important and valuable as indicating in a general way the main channels of information which social workers in Constantinople should follow as a basis for intelligent and efficient work.

j. Relationship to Robert College and Constantinople College.

With the two colleges – Robert College and Constantinople College the Y.W.C.A. has very frequent points of contact. One of the definite objectives of the past three years has been the development of a close relationship with the Woman's College, thus establishing a closer connection between it and the local centers, as the college furnishes the best material for future leaders for the Y.W.C.A. Having a regular Y.W.C.A. Student secretary at the college has been an excellent means of accomplishing this objective. In order that the student secretary may be regarded as a part of the Y.W.C.A. staff, her expense is divided approximately equally between the Y.W.C.A. and the College. During the school year she lives at the College occupying the double position of Student secretary for the Y.W.C.A. and Physical Director for the College. During the summer months she has the regular one month's vacation and assists at the Y.W.C.A. Summer Camp. This combination position has been and is a question of delicate relationships, hard to make a perfectly clear cut proposition. The personality of the Student secretary, her enthusiasm, quiet force and tact have made this Student work at the College a distinct success.

k. Relationship to the American Hospital.

The Y.W.C.A. has had charge for two years of recreation classes for the pupil nurses in the American Hospital. The Nurses Training School is growing rapidly with at present fifty girls of various nationalities including twenty Turkish girls in the number. The American Physical Director of the Y.W.C.A. is assisted in these recreation classes for the nurses by her Greek assistant, one of the Service Center girls who has completed the course for Recreation Leaders. In addition to the recreation classes held at the hospital, a special effort is made also in assisting the hospital in planning for the social life of these girls. This work at the hospital is a fine piece of cooperation and general service much needed by this special group.

I. Relationship to the Y.M.C.A.

The Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. except for a few mixed social events and summer outings have no joint pieces of work in the near East as in some countries; for example Roumania; but there is a very close harmonious relationship between the two organizations. A good many questions in connection with the new regime have arisen affecting both organizations and a united policy has been adopted; for example the two organizations have both had from time to time some very adverse publicity in the Turkish press. After conference it has been decided that no answer to these attacks should be made. The question of the official registration of the organization has been fruitful of numerous conferences. It has been decided that the present moment of uncertainty about the treaty is not the proper time to raise an issue on organization.

m. Relationship to the Near East Relief.

The Y.W.C.A. has had more direct lines of cooperation with the Near East Relief than with any other organization. As with Constantinople College the connection with the Near East Relief has been on a basis of joint financial support for certain pieces of work in which both organizations were interested. To sum up briefly, these lines of work are as follows:

Supervision of Girls Homes in the Interior. Supervision of Girls homes in the Interior opened the summer of 1919 and later to shelter Christian girls who during the war had been taken into Turkish houses. Six Y.W.C.A. American secretaries were allocated to the Near East Relief for this work at different times, stationed in five different centers. The period of this cooperation was from August 1919 until August 1921.

Recreation Work in the Near East Relief Orphanages. The Y.W.C.A. supervised recreation in the Girls Orphanages in Constantinople which were partially or entirely supported by the Near East Relief. A highly trained American Physical Director was sent out by the Y.W.C.A. for this work September 1922, and the program was started

with promise of great success. The girls in the Teachers Course in Recreation who had begun the training the year before and were still continuing were used as assistants. The American secretary's full expense travel, outfit, salary and living were borne by the Y.W.C.A. She was considered a part of the Y.W.C.A. staff but working in connection with the Near East Relief orphanage department. The local assistants were paid by the Near East Relief as part of their local personnel. All expense for equipment was borne by the Near East Relief. The working relationships of this whole plan were splendid but the political situation in three months transferred the need to Greece, and the Near East Relief took over the plan as part of their regular orphanage program.

Personal Service Work in Greece. Following the Smyrna disaster the two Smyrna Y.W.C.A. secretaries were for a time engaged in the general relief problem, one on the islands, the other in Greece. The secretary in Athens began work with the Y.M.C.A. in trying to locate lost refugees. This developed into a Personal Service Work which was later taken over by the Near East Relief as part of their regular Personal Service program. The Y.W.C.A. secretary continued working in the Bureau under the direct supervision of the Near East Relief. Director of all Personal Service Work. This relationship continued until February 15. It was then discontinued for the following reasons: first because there were more Near East Relief personnel available for it; second because the Y.W.C.A. needed the Athens secretary for work in Stamboul, and furthermore because the physical condition of this secretary demanded a change from a refugee situation (one of the Smyrna secretaries had already been sent back to America because of threatened nervous break-down); and third because the immediate need for Y.W.C.A. cooperation in this program was past, during the first emergency the Smyrna Y.W.C.A. secretaries having been of great value because of their direct knowledge of Smyrna and wide acquaintance. In this Personal Service Work the Y.W.C.A. secretary was merely temporarily assigned to the Near East Relief with the full secretarial expense borne by the Y.W.C.A. The running expense for the office was borne entirely by the Near East Relief.

Athens and Piraeus Migration Work. The Smyrna disaster and subsequent influx of over a million refugees into Greece created an urgent need for migration service bureaus in Athens and Piraeus. The Near East Relief realizing the bearing of the

migration problem on their Personal Service Work and regular orphanage program agreed to six months joint support of a migration service in Athens and Piraeus. The American secretary was chosen by the Y.W.C.A. and worked under the supervision of the Y.W.C.A. but in close cooperation with the Personal Service Department of the Near East Relief. The total expense for American secretary, local assistants and operation of the bureaus was shared jointly by the two organizations. The approximate cost to each organization for the six months period was \$1,100,00. The reason for the discontinuance at the end of six months was twofold; first, the Personal Service Department which they felt connected with Migration work according to the original plan, was practically closed by that time, secondly, the budget of the Near East Relief had been reduced and the work limited to the orphanage work. This piece of financial cooperation on migration service proved very successful, and the personal working relationship was excellent. The proof of this is the fact that the Near East Relief is making a contribution of \$2,500,00 for further cooperation in the Migration Service; this amount to be considered as general cooperation at all points where the Near East Relief has need of the Migration Service and not merely for the Athens and Piraeus bureau.

In all of the various lines of close cooperation between the Y.W.C.A. and Near East Relief in the Constantinople, Greece, and Beirut areas, there has been an excellent understanding and cordial friendly relationship which has made these joint lines of work a pleasure and assured their success.

- n. Relationship of the Y.W.C.A. with the American Embassy and American Consulate.

All of the organizations working in the Near East consider themselves very fortunate in having the cordial and sympathetic support of the American officials, the Consul-General and the High Commissioner. This has been a very great benefit to the Y.W.C.A. Aside from the usual official connection with the Consulate, the Y.W.C.A. has a closer relationship through the Migration Service. Both Migration secretaries in Constantinople have been particularly successful in bringing the Consulate in touch with the Migration Service and in carrying out an effective working relationship.

The American Embassy through the High Commissioner, Admiral Bristol, has been of the greatest value to the Y.W.C.A. in advising at all times and helping the organization to shape its policy wisely through a very difficult period. The staff as a whole has felt the warm sympathy and interest in their work and in themselves of Admiral and Mrs. Bristol, and this official recognition and appreciation has been not only a genuine pleasure but a real moral stimulus. At several particular crises Admiral Bristol has taken a very strong stand for the organization when its interests and even existence were endangered. Mrs. Bristol, as a member of the Near East Board of Directors, has had an active share in the organization and has given unfailing interest and support. The organization will indeed regret deeply Admiral Bristol's leaving when a permanent ambassador is appointed. The present relationship to the Embassy is fully appreciated.

o. Business Relationships.

In business relationships the Y.W.C.A. has had contact with the Guaranty Trust which handled the accounts until the withdrawal in September 1922, the American Express handling the accounts since that time, the Standard Oil through whom the organization has on several emergency occasions transferred funds to the other centers, and from whom the Executive secretary has received advice on general finance questions.

p. Relationship to the American Club.

During the last two years the American Community in Constantinople has been welded into a much closer unity through the formation of the American Club. The Y.W.C.A. has had an active part in helping to form this club, appreciating its value to the organization. The need for such a club is obvious in view of the international complexity of this city and the general Near East situation. Even a short stay in the Near East brings the deepening realization of the fact that American effort must be more and more felt as a whole. The penetration of Christian ideas can be fully accomplished only by a concerted effort, and Americans should work unitedly toward this common end. It is a hopeful sign that the old idea of the separation of business and missionary interests is passing, and there is now an increasing realization of the

intimate connection between these various interests. The problems of business interests affect us and our importance to them is also realized. Therefore the significance of an American Club in Constantinople can be readily appreciated.

9. Publicity and Cultivation.

Reason for Limited Amount of Publicity. Aside from some special folders printed for the tourists ships and for other regular visitors constantly passing through Constantinople, the Y.W.C.A. in the Near East as a National organization has done practically nothing in the line of printed publicity. This has been partly due to the fact that the National organization is still in the formative stage and that funds have been conserved. Also during the past year printed publicity has been avoided as a matter of policy, since it seemed better for the organization to work quietly and steadily without being unduly in the lime-light.

The local centers have of course printed whatever folders were necessary for their work and have advertised conservatively in the news-papers. The language complexity of Constantinople requires one to know several languages. For the Stamboul Center all folders are printed in Turkish and French; for the Pera Center French and English are used. The Migration Bureau has printed its publicity in Greek, Armenian, and French. Newspaper publicity in the Near East is not as effective as in the West as the newspapers do not have as wide a reading public. A certain amount however is of course necessary.

Adverse Turkish Newspaper Publicity. The publicity question in Constantinople has offered quite the reverse of the usual problem, being not a matter of how to secure publicity but how to avoid it. Within the past year since January 1923 the Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A., since the two are usually confused, have several times had adverse publicity in the Turkish press. This has of course given pause for thought, as our appearance in the lime-light just now is to be avoided. This has been instigated doubtless by some radical pro-Turkish policy as well as by the very radical pro-Moslem group. An attack on a foreign organization is a rather good appeal and has good news value. In a way the adverse Y.W.C.A. publicity has been an encouraging

evidence of the strength of the Stamboul Center since it has been the target of the attack, and there would be no point in attacking a weak unimportant line of work.

In all of this adverse newspaper publicity the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. have followed the policy of making no reply since this seemed the wisest plan. If newspaper attacks were answered, the organization would doubtless be misquoted and a controversy started which could only be detrimental to our best interests. It has seemed however very strange to our Turkish girls and to the Turkish member of the Stamboul Service Center Committee that we have not defended our position. One of the saving features of the situation is that things are not long remembered if allowed to die out. Furthermore the very changing quality of Turkish policy is in our favor.

Emphasis on Personal Cultivation. The problem of publicity in the Near East as concerns the people of the country resolves itself very largely into a matter of personal cultivation, since the personal equation is the deciding factor of success. A concentrated effort is therefore being made to enlarge the circle of our friends among the various local nationalities, particularly among the Turks, since they are more reserved and harder to know. This is being accomplished by cultivation teas at the Service Centers in which attractive parts of the program are shown, by At Home days at the Personnel House and by individual calling. This personal cultivation is not a case of "he who runs may read". One must be content to make time by losing it and the leisurely attitude is most essential for the most successful cultivation in the long run.

Cultivation of Tourists. The number of tourists and visitors to Constantinople is steadily increasing. A good many of these visitors come for some definite reason and are therefore well worth meeting. An effort to give these tourists and other visitors an opportunity of seeing our part of America's investment in the Near East we have felt to be exceedingly worthwhile. Although our staff is limited, we can usually arrange to show the general Y.W.C.A. program in Constantinople to anyone with whom we make a contact. By using the automobile this can be done in about an hour if the visitor's time is limited, as it usually is. The Committee members are realizing more the value of this kind of publicity and assuming more responsibility in helping the American staff to do this important cultivation work. Letters of introduction from the

World's Y.W.C.A. office and from the National Board would help the staff in Constantinople to make the most of these opportunities for cultivation of visitors in the city who are worthwhile.

In Beirut there is of course very little tourist contact but a fair number of people passing through. The secretaries would appreciate being put in touch with them if letters of introduction are possible. As to personal cultivation of people of the country in Beirut the problem is now to increase the circle of friends among the people of the country. The Moslem women are even more reserved than the Turkish women and the Syrians far less approachable than the Greeks and Armenians. Hence the problem is a difficult one requiring time and tact and persistence. The only key however to work in the Near East is certainly the personal contact. The country is individualistic; the group idea, social consciousness and general civic life is lacking. Hence the appeal must be personal. There has been no adverse publicity in Beirut and no well defined antagonism, but there is a rather inherent suspicion of things foreign and an extreme reserve which makes it necessary for the foreigner to go three fourths of the way.

Possibilities for Cultivation in Greece. If work were organized on a permanent basis, there would be very little difficulty on the score of publicity or personal cultivation. The Greeks are very cordial to foreigners, seem eager to furnish all facilities for work, have no suspicions of ulterior motives of America, have more social and civic consciousness, and hence are much more cooperative. The fact that Greece is practically a racial unity and furthermore a Christian country eliminates the two chief problems which make work difficult in other parts of the Near East.

10. Registration of the Y.W.C.A. with the Turkish Government.

It is a source of genuine regret that this report cannot include the answer to the all-important question of the future status of the organization with the Turkish government. Until that definite answer can be secured, we cannot help using the rising inflection in speaking of the future of our work here. However the question of registration could not and cannot now be precipitated without running a grave danger of pushing an important issue at the wrong moment. The psychology of the East

requires a willingness to avoid issues and gain time by delay. Hence absolutely contrary to the writer's natural personal instinct and desire for decisive meeting of an issue, but with the full confidence that waiting for the right moment is the only wise policy in this case, the registration has not yet been effected.

The proper documents are ready however, and the Embassy is au courant with our basis of registration and will advise and help us officially when the time comes. In registering the organization we are making a special point of the fact that the Y.W.C.A. is not a post armistice organization but was represented by American Y.W.C.A. secretaries working here in 1913. This is a point in our favor since the Treaty of Lausanne makes a special point in regard to organizations recognized before the armistice. There is a very special aversion on the part of the government toward those organizations which as one says, "came on the coat-tails of the Allies". Therefore it is fortunate for the Y.W.C.A. that it dates its beginning before the war.

11. Features of the Work in the Near East of Special Interest.

As a supplement to this general resume of the Y.W.C.A. work in Near East special reports will be included on the different centers, on the Emergency Work in Greece, the Russian Work in Constantinople, the Student Work at Constantinople College and the two Migration Bureaus, Athens and Constantinople. These reports show in detail the development of work in all these various lines.

In reviewing the work as a whole however there are certain definite causes for encouragement and signs of progress:

First, The growing number of younger girls in the Service Centers is a most hopeful sign for the future since there is greater need here than in most countries for the association to reach the girl in adolescence if it is to have a very definite effect. The national and racial prejudices are less strong and the possibilities stronger for breaking down national differences. Furthermore the training of leadership for the future depends on an early beginning. The Girls Reserves in Constantinople, who now number 130, are steadily growing. In this movement we can really feel assured of a strong Y.W.C.A. movement for the future.

Second. The Training classes in Recreation and Physical work are growing and their effect is steadily being extended to broader community service. It now reaches for schools, 6 camps, 7 orphanages, 3 private institutions, and a total number of 3206 in classes taught by these Recreation leaders trained in the Service Centers. These classes represent the beginning of a real normal training department for Physical Education. The emphasis on the need for recreation and health standards is bringing a demand for leaders to meet this need. The development of a new profession for women we hope will be the far reaching result of these Training Courses.

Third. The increase in interest and sense of responsibility among the Committee members is most encouraging, as it indicates that the burden of the work is gradually being shifted. As long as it remains too largely dominated by the American secretaries it is too much transplanted from America and not indigenous. Representatives from the girls are now serving on the Executive Committees of the Service Centers.

Fourth. There is a growing appreciation of the real meaning of the organization and an increasing number of girls who are interested in the religious program. This is shown in a number of ways but especially by the larger numbers in Bible classes, the growing interest in the Sunday vespers and the increased attendance this year at the noon meetings during the World's Week of Prayer. About 50 girls were present each day.

Sixth. The Y.W.C.A. in the Near East has been very fortunate in having had through this period of its development a fine type of American secretaries, chosen with the greatest care. They have worked under nervous strain in critical situations, efficiently and quietly assuming responsibility and showing themselves equal to the confidence the organization has given them. In the uncertainties of life in the Interior, in political upheaval and threatened war in Constantinople, in the actual siege in Adana, in the Smyrna tragedy, in the refugee situation in Syria and in Greece, the work has gone steadily on like a clock in thunderstorm. Not all of the four years have of course been under abnormal circumstances like these, but whether under normal or abnormal conditions the work has steadily progressed due to the excellent staff working as

individuals and even more as a harmonious unit – a closely knit together Y.W.C.A. family in the Near East. Being a small staff and the only organization made up entirely of women, the secretaries have occupied a position of considerable prominence in each community, each one being regarded not merely as an individual but as a representative of the Y.W.C.A. The organization stands we hope very high in the Near East, and this is because of the fine type of the secretaries who have worked in all the different centers.

12. Liabilities and Assets.

An evaluation of the present situation and future outlook of the Y.W.C.A. in the Near East cannot fail to take into account the liabilities and assets. The chief liabilities or obstacles in the development are the complexity of nationality which constantly multiplies each effort by a coefficient of at least three – Armenian, Greek, Turk; the keen racial and religious antagonisms; the language barriers; the lack of any civic consciousness; the lack of any patriotic appeal; the suspicious official attitude toward all foreign effort; the result of the Allies' lack of solidarity and their individualistic aims; the suspicious attitude toward a Christian organization; the lack of a strong dependable centralized government and the resultant instability and uncertainty of the political situation.

The chief assets or positive factors in the development of the Y.W.C.A. are the strong unified Christian effort in the Near East and the support and cooperation of the Y.W.C.A. by other American Institutions; the friendly personal attitude of the Turks toward Americans; the unquestioned need for the Y.W.C.A. for all nationalities in the Near East and the eager response of the girls; the ripeness of the opportunity since Turkey is at the beginning of a new Era and the evolution of women of the Near East, makes a very special call upon the Y.W.C.A. to have a part in guiding and developing the girls of the Near East for their lives of larger freedom.

14. Future Policy and Future Outlook.

What should be our future policy and what are the possibilities for future development – these are the two great questions which every thinking member of the Y.W.C.A. staff in the Near East has to face:

a. The policy for the future should be along the following lines:

1. The whole problem should be regarded in the light of the present and the future – not the past. A knowledge of the past with all its gross injustice is necessary but dwelling continually on it will cloud the vision for future possibilities, furnish only the brakes and no engine power for future accomplishment. A new problem now exists to be solved.
2. The Y.W.C.A. must tackle the problem of a more united country. The old regime of capitulations and special privileges for different nationalities is past. The Greeks and Armenians remaining in the country must be helped in their readjustment. They must be encouraged to study Turkish as a necessity for their life in Turkey. The Y.W.C.A. must exert its influence steadily toward harmonizing the differences of nationality.
3. The language barrier must be overcome by having all American secretaries coming to the Near East have at least six months full time language study and longer if possible. This can be accomplished through the Language School of the American Board of Missions.
4. Careful study and constant emphasis must be put upon the development of full membership, among the girls of the Christian races, so that a strong nucleus will be built up as a guarantee for the permanent Christian character of the organization.
5. The work for Turkish girls must be more emphasized and means of attracting them into the Service Centers carefully studied. The increase of Turkish girls in contact with the Service Centers in the real key to our future effectiveness in Turkey.
6. The question of the development of Turkish Committee members on Service Center Committees must be given more thought.

7. The Service Centers must extend their influence more through the community emphasizing especially Turkish contacts. In this way it will be less a transplanted foreign product and more a part of the city life. A definite object to accomplish this is the admission of Recreation Leaders in the Turkish Schools for Girls just as these leaders have already been admitted into Greek and Armenian schools.

8. Constant and careful attention must be given to official Turkish contacts as the Y.W.C.A. must stand in harmonious relation with the new government.

9. There must be a constant effort to increase the number of personal Turkish contacts. Their tendency toward personal friendliness toward Americans can be capitalized for the development of the organization.

10. The Development of local leaders must be made one of the chief objectives and some more definite plans for training adopted and funds secured for this purpose.

11. The local support must be increased and more responsibility for the operation of the Service Centers put on the people of the country.

12. It is trite to say that the real problem for the future depends on the American staff. But the reduction of American staff to the minimum necessitates the most careful choice of each American secretary sent to the Near East. Now that the pioneer expansion period of demonstration is past and the work is on the permanent basis, the primary requisite for new staff is a knowledge of and sympathy with the Y.W.C.A. and an understanding of the general basis of work in the Near East as every secretary is responsible for carrying out this basis. Health is also a primary essential since the climate of the Near East, not bad, is not stimulating and seems to be a good deal of a strain. These two essentials every outcoming secretary should have along with the other special qualities required for a successful secretary in every foreign field.

13. The present non-proselytizing policy in relation to Turkish girls must be followed. This is the basis on which the organization has been and can be continued. A clear understanding of this basis is necessary for fairness to the supporting constituency in

America, to the secretaries in the Near East, to the Turkish girls in the Service Centers and to the Turkish government with which the organization hopes to work harmoniously.

An absolutely clear cut idea of aims and objectives is necessary so that minor details do not cloud the vision for the future. In a sense we are greatly affected by political changes in method and the scope of our work, for example the closing of Smyrna, but our fundamental policy should be something which remains unchanged. We must distinguish clearly between difference of method and scope of program and the compromise of our fundamental principles and purpose.

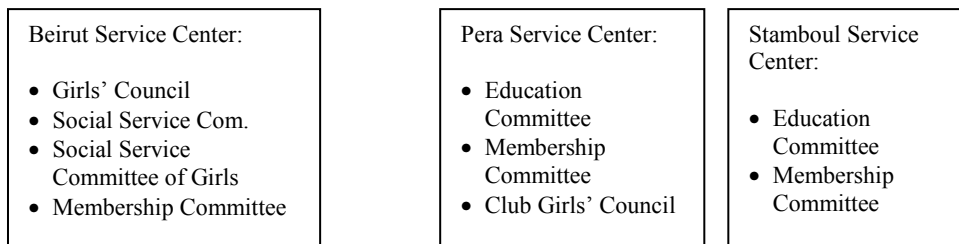
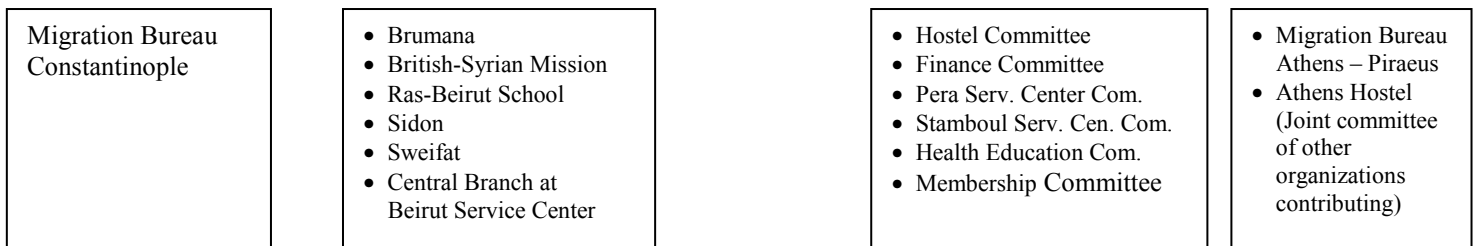
b. Future Outlook.

As to the future of the Y.W.C.A. in the Near East we feel that the belief in the future is certainly justified by the development of the past few years. There is a fair possibility that the development may continue on more or less normal lines. There is nothing in the program which cannot be continued even with the new exceedingly Turkish regime. There is of course a good deal of suspicion to be overcome which can only be accomplished through a consistent and conscientious and persistent attempt to win the confidence and friendship of more Turkish people. Under the present uncertain conditions in the Near East all projects carry a strong element of chance. If the returns can be measured only in terms of financial success, then any investment in the Near East now is certainly a lottery. However the Y.W.C.A. investment here is an investment in faith and whether the returns will be in exactly the form expected, all the money and effort expended in the Near East will certainly not be wasted. There is a saying in this country, "The dogs may bark but the caravan moves on". The Y.W.C.A. is sharing in a great movement for progress in the Near East and regardless of difficulties must move on.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth F. Woodsmall,
Executive, Y.W.C.A. in the Near East.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE NEAR EAST BOARD OF THE Y.W.C.A.
HEADQUARTERS CONSTANTINOPLE**



**CHRONOLOGICAL RESUME OF WORK OF YWCA IN TURKEY
AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRESENT ISTANBUL SERVICE CENTER**

1911-1938

- 1911 - Request for Y.W.C.A. organization as result of World's Student Christian Conference.
- 1913 - Two Secretaries sent by Y.W.C.A. National Board of United States. Direct evangelistic work in Christian schools and colleges.
- 1919 - Nine secretaries sent out by National Board of Y.W.C.A. for post war work. Service Centers established in İstanbul (Pera) Adana and Smyrna. Full Y.W.C.A. program.
- 1920 - Russian Hostel opened.
- 1921 - Second Russian Hostel opened. Center opened in Stamboul, Summer Camp and Migration work started.
- 1922 - Adana Center closed. Center in Smyrna destroyed by fire.
- 1924 - In November registration papers and constitution presented to Ankara for registration with new Turkish government. This was not a request for a permit but a notification of the existence of the organization in Turkey. A permit was not considered necessary as the work existed before the War. No acknowledgment received.
- 1924 - March – Question of permit for educational work in Istanbul center raise by police – Center closed for short time.
- 1924 - July – Permit received covering classes in Istanbul and Pera Centers but not organization as a whole. This permit classified the Centers as special schools under the Education Department.
- 1925 - June – A request from city official for government permit for Pera Y.W.C.A.
- 1925 - August – Y.W.C.A. requested to sign paper that no activities were carried on under the name of the Y.W.C.A.
- 1925 - September – Letter sent to Ankara requesting the receipt of our registration.
- 1926 - Word received verbally from local police that Y.W.C.A. was considered a branch of Y.M.C.A. therefore could not receive a receipt or

registration. Y.W.C.A. has not chosen to act on this basis but has continued working as a school under educational permit granted in July 1924.

- 1928 - Beginning of appointment increasing number Turkish women on committees and simultaneous withdrawal American and British women from these committees. It was realized that this would mean not pushing a Y.W.C.A. permit.
- 1929 - A meeting held in New York – between 50 and 60 people present to consider the policy of association work in Turkey – Question raised as to whether full Y.W.C.A. constitution and program would be wise in a Moslem country if the government were to grant the application on file. A Turkification and non-proselyting policy was supported.
- 1930 - International Survey of Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. recommends a larger representation of women of the country on the Board of Directors and approves about trends.
- 1931 - A Liaison Committee appointed by Foreign Division composed of British and American women to inform World's Office in Geneva and Foreign Division in New York of progress of work.
- 1933 - Five Moslem Turks – 2 Christian Turkish citizens – 7 American and British women on the Board of Directors. Pera Center closed owing to lack of funds and work concentrated in Stamboul – American staff reduced to three and later to one.
- 1934 - May – Board of Directors made up of ten Moslem Turks – two Armenian Turkish citizens – one Greek – three Americans and one British (Chairman of Liaison Committee) Center moved to 6 Mahmudiye Caddesi, Türbe. Three playgrounds operated in cooperation with the Education Department. Summer Camp July - August on sea of Marmara.
- 1934-35-36 No important changes. Board taking more responsibility. Liaison Committee meeting two or three times a year to evaluate work.
- 1937 - May – Board of Directors – eleven Moslem Turks, 2 Armenian Turkish citizens – two Greeks – one German – three Americans – one British (Chairman of Liaison Committee which continues to function as advisory group) Playgrounds taken by government – thirteen started.

- Center conducted – one playground at Merzifon – Anatolia, one at Armenian orphanage and play hours at Center.
- 1938 - Board continued about the same. Kindergarten course started. Summer work at day nursery at large cigarette factory, Model kindergarten at Center building – Work continued at orphanage – Special courses in health in cooperation with Red Crescent.
- 1939-40-41 No important changes. Service Center located at 6 Mahmudiye Caddesi operating under derslane [Amerikan Lisan Sanat Dershanesi] or private school permit. Staff consists of one American and six local women. Four teachers are hired for special subjects and eleven volunteer women take charge of various informal groups. The camp located on the Sea of Marmara has continued uninterrupted. Five special projects for children have been conducted in factories at day nurseries, at kindergartens and playgrounds. There is a much greater interest in Ankara, especially in the camp as we have twenty-two campers from there. The Board of Directors consists of: fifteen Moslem Turks, Three Americans, one English, one French, one German, one Armenian Turkish citizen and one Greek – The Liaison Committee made up of four Americans and one English woman (the Chairman) continues to act as the link between the Local Board, the World's Office (in Geneva, and at present branch in Washington) and the Foreign Division of the National Board at New York.

Source: Laurence A. Steinhardt papers, Box 38, file U-Z, 1942, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.