

with the king, through our minister to Athens, and met many friends of Queen Olga. She has practically Russianized the king, I am told. He has not adopted the Russian religion, but by law his sons have to belong to the Greek church, which is, you know, the church of Russia. I was in Greece on the king's birthday. This is a national holiday, and at such times the king and queen appear at church together. They sit upon chairs of gold, cushioned in red velvet, while all the rest of the people in the church must stand up. Queen Olga is very fine looking. She is a blonde, with brown hair, regular features and a beautiful neck and shoulders. She is tall and stately, and is every inch a queen. The Greeks are very proud of her. They admire her when she appears at her receptions in gorgeous dresses, wearing many pearls and diamonds. They love her also because she does not put on airs, often going about the city of Athens without even a maid with her. The Greeks are democrats, rather than royalists, and they like the queen's democratic ways. They admire her also on account of her character. She is a woman of culture, speaking nearly every European language. As soon as she became queen she took up the study of Greek, and she is now the patron of a number of schools for girls which she has founded. It was in an industrial school that the wedding dress of the Princess Alexandra was made, and the work was done by young Greek girls.

I found that the king was very popular among the people. My audience with him was arranged by our minister to Greece. His majesty received me in his palace, and from the democratic way in which he treated me I could see why he is so much liked by the Greeks. He shook my hand as I was presented with a good deal more cordiality than I have ever gotten from a President of the United States. He looked, however, much more dignified than any President ever did. He was dressed in a uniform not unlike the undress uniform of one of our army generals. His coat was buttoned up to the neck and there was a little gold braid on his collar. He is, I believe, about five feet ten inches tall, but he stood so straight that he seemed to me to be over six. He is a very handsome man. His face is blonde; his hair is of a light color and a blonde mustache shows out over a strong, well-cut mouth. I was surprised when he greeted me in the best of English. He spoke it as well as I did and our conversation was carried on in that language. He asked me a number of questions about things in America and grew enthusiastic as he talked of the future of Greece. He told me that the Greeks were a very patriotic people, and said that they had all the bravery and force of the Greeks of the past. He referred to the railroad development which was going on in the country, and said that Athens would be a much greater city than it had ever been in the past. Throughout the whole interview I could see that he was very proud of the Greeks. He has a right to be so, for it is largely due to him that Greece is in such a good condition today.

Very little is known about the modern Greeks. They are the Yankees of the far east. They are shrewd speculators and are the money makers of the Mediterranean. The biggest business

houses of Egypt are owned by Greeks. I found Greeks selling goods in Jerusalem and they have large establishments in Smyrna and Constantinople. They are so much brighter than the Turks that a common saying among the latter is: "From the Greeks of Athens, from the Jews of Salonika and from the Armenians everywhere good Lord deliver us." It is said in the far east that one Greek is equal to at least two Jews, and the Jews have long since given up coming to Athens, as they can make no money there. The Greeks pride themselves on their democracy. They respect the king, but they don't think that he is any better than themselves, and they say that they believe so much in equality among Greeks that they prefer to have a foreigner rule over them. The king's rule, however, is only a limited one. Every Greek thinks himself a statesman, and to hear them talk you would imagine they were running all Europe. Their country is, you know, only about as large as West Virginia, or about half the size of the state of New York, and its population is not more than 2,000,000, though there are about as many more Greeks scattered throughout the other countries of the Mediterranean.

There is more political discussion in Athens than there is in Washington. While this trouble with Crete goes on business will probably be given up for the time, and the people will do little else than talk about the situation. The chief places for such gossip are the cafes, of which there are hundreds in Athens. Here every afternoon and evening thousands of people come together to drink coffee and talk politics. The newsboys bring round the political papers, of which there are half a dozen in Athens, and each man has his paper and his coffee. These papers are printed in the same characters which you find in the Greek classics, and the modern Greek language is much the same as the old Greek. I found that I could get along with a little phrase book, and could even read some of the jokes in the Greek comic papers.

The Greeks of today are as great stump speakers as their forefathers were. There is much shrewd electioneering done, and the wives of the Grecian candidates help their husbands quite as much as our American wives do theirs. Some of the women even electioneer for their husbands, and I was told of one Greek woman who, seeing that her husband would probably be defeated, went to some of the villages in the district and said that every one who voted the right way would have a free railroad ticket to Athens and a ticket to the theater. The Greeks are crazy for amusements, and this bid gave her husband a seat in the parliament. Every man in Greece has the right to vote. The members of parliament are elected much like our congressmen. Their terms are for four years, and they receive salaries of about four hundred dollars a session. They have more power than our members of congress, and it is they in reality who govern Greece. It is they who will decide as to wars with Turkey, and it is from them that the appropriations must come. The king has the right to veto, but he would not dare to exercise it against a large majority. He is just as anxious to be popular with his people as the president is anxious to be popular here, and he is pretty sure to do as the people want.

A political campaign in Greece is very much like a political campaign in America. The Greeks are fond of good speakers and the man who can make a good stump speech stands a chance of an election. There is much buncombe, of course, but the modern Greeks are intelligent, and the poorest of them consider themselves on an equality with the richest. The waiters at the cafes and the drivers on the street cars will talk politics with you, and the politician has to do the same handshaking in Greece that he does in the United States. All of the elections are held upon Sunday, and curiously enough the polls are in the churches. In Athens you have to go to the cathedral to do your voting. The voters are all registered, and the elections are watched much more carefully in Greece than they are here. Every candidate watches his own box, for there is a ballot box for each candidate. He does not do it in person, but has a judge appointed in each district to take his place. The ballot boxes are arranged in a row along one side of the church. They are so fixed that only one man can pass through at one time. Each box is about a foot square. In its top there is a pipe, the hole in which is just large enough to admit the arm of a man. This pipe runs down through the middle of the box until it meets a partition which divides the box in half. One side of the box is for affirmative ballots and the other for negative. The ballots are buckshot, and the voter having put his hand down into the pipe drops his ballot for or against the candidate as he pleases without the possibility of any one knowing how he voted. Each voter is given only as many buckshot as there are candidates, and each judge can see that he has but one ballot in his hand before he puts it in the box. There are few election frauds in Greece. It is almost impossible to stuff a ballot box, and in case the bullets in the boxes do not correspond with the registration at the entrances the whole vote is thrown out.

When I started for Greece I expected to find there a nation gone to seed. I changed my mind when I reached Athens. The Athens of today is a modern city. It has wide streets paved with cobblestones, and its houses are much like the three and four-story flats of some parts of Paris. Its people dress as we do. There are carriages with liveried coachmen and there is as much style in Athens as in any part of Europe. The better classes of the modern Greeks have as good homes as people of the same class in the United States. They are well dressed and well educated. The most of them speak half a dozen different languages, though French is the society language of the Greek capital. I had cab drivers who could speak English, French and Greek, and at one of the theaters during my stay they were playing an Italian play. There is an Athens University which has nearly 2,000 students and which has ninety-eight professors. Here the young Greek gets a thorough classical education, and he can, if he wishes, add to it a course in law, medicine, theology or philosophy. There are, in addition to this, thirty-three other colleges in Greece, containing nearly 4,000 students. The kingdom has a system of common schools at which attendance is compulsory. There are also a number of private schools, and in Athens I found a fine polytechnic institute and an