

The Annual Report of the Armenian Students'

Co-operative Club No.1 (1924-25).

The Armenian Students' Co-operative Club was founded in the fall of 1923 by the Director of the Club and by the members of its Administrative Committee. It began its first year with seven members and ended it with twenty three.

About the fall of 1924 the number of the applicants for membership was unexpectedly large, and we thought it wise to rent a bigger place and not to refuse assistance to the needy students. Consequently, we rented for a year the new built basement of Sarrafian brothers for two hundred and forty pounds Syrian (about 250 dollars). This is a low-built basement with six rooms and a vast court, large enough to furnish room for thirty students. Yet this building was also insufficient to meet the demand, because the number of applicants was about forty, and there had to be some sort of arrangement for the remaining ten. To rent a larger place and thus accommodate for forty boys presented a good many difficulties and was impracticable.

Prof. L.H. Seelye and I thought a great deal about this matter and we finally decided to begin another small but independent Club. We rented our former place as a home for them and started a second Club under the name of the Armenian Students' Co-operative Club No.2. Although these two Clubs were governed by two separate Committees, yet the relations between them were quite amicable.

The Armenian Students' Co-operative Club No.1 is governed by an Administrative Committee composed of three members who are the initiators of the Club; there are two other sub-committees, one responsible for entertainments the other for domestic repairs.

At the beginning of every month meetings are held where different questions concerning the home affairs are discussed and resolutions are made or changes are introduced according to par-

liamentary rules.

In order to be admitted to the Club, applicants have to prove to the satisfaction of the Administrative Committee that they cannot afford living at the University as inside students, and furthermore, they have to furnish trustworthy recommendations or testimonies as to the soundness of their character.

The objective of the Armenian Students' Co-operative Club is to help to those boys who are in actual financial difficulty in making their ways at school. It seeks to cultivate an "esprit de corps" among its members, and thus it encourages any activity which tends to increase brotherhood among them. The Club having neither political nor religious aims strictly demands from its members to abstain from religious or political discussions.

The following are the main regulations of the Club:

1. The membership is granted only to those who are in need of financial assistance.
2. A deposit of five pounds Syrian must be paid on entrance. This sum will be returned to its owner at the end of the school year.
3. Members must not leave the Club before the end of the school. If a member is obliged to leave the co-operation before the end of the predetermined period, his deposit will be forfeited.
4. Monthly payments should be made at the beginning of the month; the amount of the payment will be decided by the Committee in charge.
5. Any member may be dismissed when his presence is regarded to be an inconvenience to the rest of the members by the Administrative Committee of the Club.
6. Members are required to respect one another, and give their assistance for the welfare of the co-operation.

7. The Committee of the Co-operative Club is not responsible for losses of money or private property.

Thirty out of thirty one members of the Club were Armenians from fourteen different localities of Turkey. Sixteen of these boys were formerly at the NER orphanages. It was a great pleasure for us, the Armenian boys, to have an Arab among us. He was Mr. Hani Kupti from Nazareth, and we got along very nicely with each other.

English was the official language of the Club, but the members were permitted later on to talk French or Arabic if they cared to do so, but Turkish and Armenian were not used at home. We carried on this matter with a fairly good success, and many times members prepared magazine reviews, or useful and interesting speeches which they ~~delivered~~ delivered at the table.

Two women servants were employed continually during the year, one of them did the cooking, and the other one kept the home in order; and a third one came to do the laundry two days per week. The buying was conjointly done by a member of the Club and another man from outside. In this way the member earned half of his expenses at the Club. Hot baths were given to the members once in every fortnight. Ironing was done by the boys on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. In order to stimulate the athletic spirit among the members we had a parallel bar built, which became a favorite of many boys.

Furthermore, we have organized a small orchestra at the Club, composed of four violins, a flute, a clarinet, and a cornet, and also a small Glee-Club to sing Armenian and English songs. The Glee-Club of the Armenian Students' Co-operative Club sang quartettes during the latter part of the year at the Sunday Evening Services of the A.U.B. The entertainment Committee of the Club arranged

evening parties and invited to the Club on different occasions President Bayard Dodge, Prof. & Mrs. L H. Seelye, Dr. & Mrs. Chambers, Prof. & Mme Favre, Mon. & Mme. Bianquis, Mon. Cornud, Prof. Nickoley, Rev. Charles Bridgman, Mr. Crose, Mr. & Mrs. Fowle, Mr. & Mrs. McGowan, Dr. & Mrs. Dewey, Dr. & Mrs. Parr, Miss Hardcastle, Mr. F.T. Knepper, Mr. F.T. Yeiser, and Mr. Erdman.

Dr. Wilfred Grenfell of Labrador, Mr. Frank Chapin Bray, the editor of Near East Relief, Mr. Beach, Mr. R. P Travis, Rev. Clark, and Rev. Ralph Weinman Stoody have visited the Club during the year.

Some friends after reading their Literary Digests and other magazines have sent them to the Club, and thus they have supplied us with a pretty good stock of literature. The members have read them during their leisure hours at home, appreciating highly the kindness of these friends. Quite a good number of books are also presented to the Club during the year; and the Club has begun to have its own library. We thank these friends very heartily for their sympathy towards us.

A few words about the cost of living at the Club: The Administrative Committee has decided to keep the Club at a definite standard, and has fixed eight pounds Syrian (about 8 dollars) as total monthly expenditure per individual. The following are the adopted limitations. Expenditure for food six Syrian pounds, expenditure for rent one Syrian pound, expenditure for wages seventy five Syrian piasters, Total expenditure eight Syrian pounds.

Below is given the Balance Sheet for the academic year 1924-25.

	<u>L.Syrian:</u>
Yearly exp. for rent.....	240.00
Yearly exp. for water.....	<u>20.00</u>
Total Exp. for rent and water.....	260.00

L.Syrian:

Total amount of money collected for rental and water 278.46
 Total amount of money paid for rentals..... 260.00
 Saving from rentals..... 18.46

<u>Month:</u>	<u>Total Monthly Exp.</u>	<u>Total Monthly Payments:</u>
	<u>L. Syrian:</u>	<u>L. Syrian:</u>
October 1924.....	229.43	176.76
November 1924.....	228.04	208.36
December 1924.....	201.385	202.60
January 1925.....	190.60	212.38
February 1925.....	189.82	200.93
March 1925.....	199.29	202.81
April 1925.....	161.83	174.905
May 1925.....	199.75	211.31
June 1925.....	202.18	210.86
Totals.....	1802.325	1800.915
Food Suply left over	-10.00	
	<u>1792.325</u>	<u>-1792.325</u>
Saving from monthly payments.....		<u>8.590</u>

Saving during the Year.

L.Syrian:

Saving from Monthly Payments..... 8.59
 Saving from sinking funds..... 7.00
 Saving from Rent..... 18.46
 Total Savings..... 34.05
 Loaned Furniture bought from NER.....; 25.00
 Money at hand to be expended for other furniture.... 9.05

As is shown in/ the Balance Sheet, the Armenian Students' Co-operative Club No.1 has made a saving of 34.05 pounds Syrian during the year. This saving was not accidental, the Administrative Committee had forseen it, and had decided to expend it for buying furniture for the Club. Consequently the goods which were loaned from the Near East Relief were bought with a part of this money, and the remainder is kept by the Director of the Club to be expended for the same purpose.

Director of the A.S.C.C. No.1.

Dicran Berberian