

American Farm School, Salonica, Greece.
New York Office, 17 East 42nd Street.

Since this news letter was written, word has been received by Mr. Lucius H. Beers, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the School, that the Greek Government has recently granted the Golden Cross of the Order of the Saviour to Mr. House, Director of the Farm School.

Constantin Zannas, distinguished lawyer at Salonica and Trustee of the School, writes - "This exceptional distinction of the Greek Government has been awarded to Mr. House for his inestimable services to the Patriotic League for the Protection of the Child, through the planning and construction of the Fresh Air Home for Children.

NEWS LETTER
American Farm School, Salonica, Greece
New York Office, 17 East 42nd Street

Did you read of the earthquake which occurred a few weeks ago in the vicinity of Salonica? Three small towns, about seventy-five miles away, were completely destroyed and some twenty other villages suffered severely. About 3,200 houses were rendered uninhabitable. We are happy to say that letters received from the House family tell us that everyone at the Farm is safe and aside from the plaster on the walls of James Hall and Princeton Hall being cracked, the School buildings were not damaged.

Many friends turned to the Farm for protection and as School opened just at this time, it was a lively and busy place. Mrs. Charles L. House writes:

"Most of the people in Salonica were sleeping out in the streets and open squares and we feared that our boys might be frightened with the frequent shaking, especially when they heard that the Anatolia boys were sleeping out. We felt that there was more danger from malaria if the boys slept out than from the quakes inside, because the anophales mosquitoes fly about at night. We kept a lantern under a bush in case a shake should break the wires and the lights go out. The boys kept pretty calm and happy."

Mr. House was asked to accompany the Governor on his tour of the mountain villages to advise officials with reference to rehousing the people, because of the great confidence the Greek people have in him.

Rev. Dr. William Pierson Merrill, a Trustee of the School and a member of the appraisal commission of the Laymen's Foreign Missions Inquiry on Christian Missions in the Far East, recently wrote the following letter to a friend:

"I am very happy that you have thus continued to contribute to one of the very best pieces of real Christian work I know in all the world. Dr. and Mrs. House are wonderful Christians, and their children are worthily carrying on their work in their spirit. Whenever I think of this work, the word "apostolic" comes to my mind. It is so full of the fine enthusiasm, and the sturdy good sense of those first century Christians, who would do anything for Christ's sake.

"Recently I have had the privilege of going around the world, studying at close range the mission work of the Orient, India, China, and Japan. I found much that was inspiring and worthy of praise, but I still put this School in Salonica at the front of all - not better than some others, but better than most.

"I am so glad to know that an old friend of mine is still helping to keep such a work going. It needs our help."

Michael, one of the boys who was graduated last June from the Farm School, lost his parents when they were fleeing from Turkey and a seventeen year old sister has been keeping house for the boys in Aia Triada, a village across the bay from the School. The job which Michael had hoped to get had not materialized through lack of funds but the worth while piece of work which he was doing is described in a letter he wrote to Mrs. House. It tells so beautifully how far reaching is the influence of the Farm School.

Elaochori, September 4, 1932

"Dear principal and friend Anne C. House:

I want to thank you for your letter and the good advices which it contained.

Dear principal, I did not get yet this position, but still working with the people to get their friendship, to gain their trust and many other things.

All the villagers love me and always the house yard is full with villagers and animals which come there to be cured. Oh, it is wonderful to work with such kind of villagers, they are always thirsty to learn, but not only with long talking and theories, they want to see what I do, what I show them and the results. These are the important things for them, for this are they thirsty.

Dear principal, they brought me wheat seed and I had disinfected that with Formal against sticking smut (anthrax) and they follow all the job how it was done. Then a villager told me: Young man, let us test the percent the wheat seed will grow. Then we took from the same seed and I put it in a woollen cloth and it grew 96%. All were obliged with that and for the new method to disinfect their seed.

There are a number of things which they learn from me, but not theories as your advice come to my mind but practical.....

Dear principal, although I didn't get hold of the job I hope soon to get hold of it, for I gave my humble heart to the Almighty and Merciful Lord Jesus the Son of God to look after me on strange villages and by His Almighty hand to be guided till the rest of my life. As I have made self sacrifice I hope that I will succeed in my purpose.

Sincerely your boy and student

(signed) Michael Spiropoulos

My greetings to Dr. House, Mother House, Miss Ruth, and please kiss their hands instead of me. Also to my father Charles House and all the Beloved Alma Mater and explain the piece of work I am doing."

School opened on October 3, 1932, with a larger enrollment than ever before - 152 boys coming from 93 towns. More could not be taken because of lack of School funds and facilities to take care of the boys.

"This year we had to take more boys from larger towns and the city of Salonica because the village people cannot raise the price of board for the boys. We have six Jewish boys this year whose parents hope that they will be sent to Jerusalem to do agricultural work there."

The teaching staff numbers about twenty - covering the Administration, the Academic, the Practical, and the Industrial departments.

Demeter Hadji, a graduate of the Farm School, who has been taking a course at the Cornell School of Agriculture on a scholarship furnished by Mr. House's Princeton classmates, graduated this past June. He is now back at the Farm School as an instructor and is in charge of the Farm Crops and Live Stocks Departments.

The Industrial Quadrangle given in memory of Howard W. Sherrill by his Mother, his Wife and some of the Princeton 1909 Classmates, is being developed and already houses the carpenter's shop, machine shop, engine room, blacksmith shop, etc.

Two of the greatly needed staff cottages, given by Mrs. Cleveland H. Dodge, were built this past year and are now occupied by three married members of the staff and their families. Even with these additions three members of the staff have to travel each day to and from the School because of lack of accommodations at the School.

The financial depression has not only caused the postponement of our program for expansion - including the Girls Department for which the land and several gifts have already been given - but has necessitated a drastic curtailment of expenses. We are asking our friends to come forward and to do all they possibly can to meet the present budget. Checks made payable to the American Farm School may be sent to the New York office, 17 East 42nd Street, New York City.