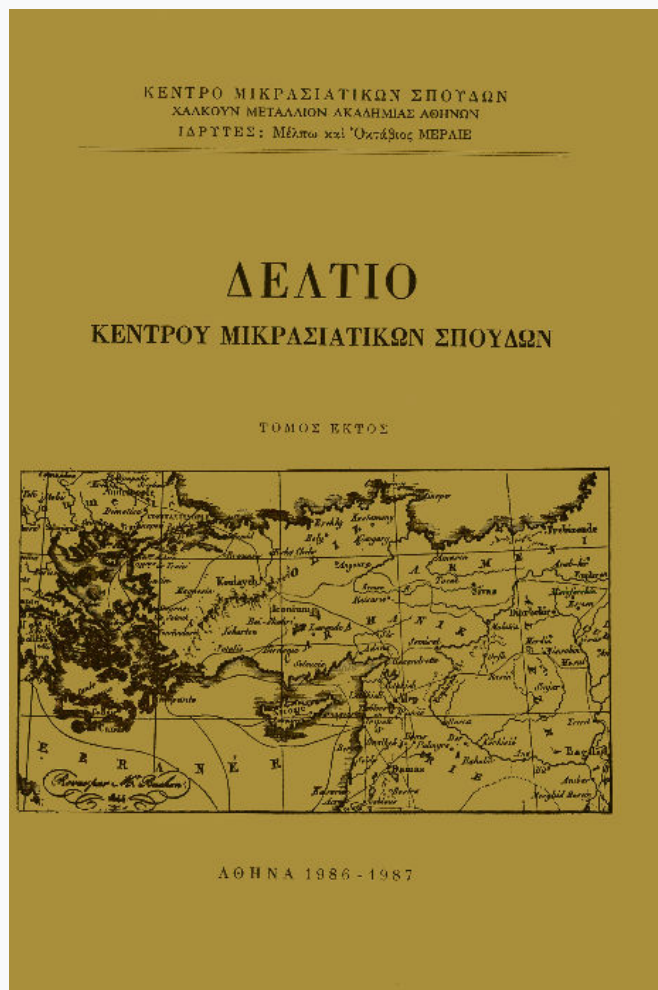


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Περί της ιδρύσεως του εμπορικού και βιομηχανικού επιμελητηρίου Σμύρνης: 1921-1922

Michael S. Macrakis

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MICHAEL S. MACRAKIS

ON THE FORMATION OF THE SMYRNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, 1921-1922

Most of the historiography of the modern Greek presence in Asia Minor addresses military, political, religious, ethnic, and intellectual themes. While older studies exist¹ on the economic conditions of Asia Minor the concern about the conditions prevailing in the 1920s has been overshadowed by the administrative and military problems during the Greek presence in Asia Minor and by the study of the ensuing tragic events. Only recently, the study and partial publication of significant archival material of the National Bank of Greece referring to its short-lived presence in Smyrna between 1919 and 1922 has begun to throw some light on the economic picture. The introductory remarks of Veremis and Kostis² for

I owe a special debt of gratitude to Mr Michael S. Notaras (an old associate of SNM in Smyrna and at the Agricultural Bank of Greece) and to Dr Victoria Solomonides for their patient correspondence throughout the last few years which proved invaluable in the clarification of a number of issues pertaining to this study. Dr Domna Donta kindly guided me through the documents of the Greek Administration in Smyrna which exist in the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ms Maria Chaireti placed at my disposal other documents of the Greek Administration in Smyrna which exist in the General National Archives of the State in the Academy of Athens; similarly Ms Y. Hadzi helped me with the Archives of the National Bank of Greece that pertain to the presence of the Bank in Asia Minor. The warm and precise support of all of them is greatly appreciated. Finally I express my thanks to Professors John O. Iatrides, Thanos Veremis and Paschalis Kitromilides for critical readings of the paper. This paper was prepared for an oral presentation at the Conference on GREECE AND ASIA MINOR at Anatolia College, 2 - 5 July 1985, Thessaloniki, Greece, but was not delivered.

1. I refer to the following studies: D. Georgiades, *Smyrne et l'Asie Mineure au point de vue économique et commercial*, Paris 1895, F. Rougon, *Smyrne, Situation Commerciale et Économique*, Paris, 1892, and, A.J. Panayotopoulos, «On the Economic activities of the Anatolian Greeks», *Δελτίο Κέντρου Μικρασιατικών Σπουδών*, vol. 4, (1983), pp. 87-128.

2. Th. Veremis and K. Kostis, *Η Έθνική Τράπεζα στην Μικρά Ασία*, Athens 1984.

the above mentioned study present a welcome background of the economic scene in the Ottoman empire which helps in the understanding of the Greek politics and policies in Asia Minor. The published texts from the archives of the Bank, on the other hand, allow us to see in action the mechanics of the application of these policies. It is, then, in the same spirit that I present here material – unpublished, as far as I can determine – which relates to the period between the establishment by the Greeks of a *High Commission* in 1919 (later renamed *Greek Smyrna Administration*) under the leadership of High Commissioner (Ὑπατος Ἀρμοστής) Aristidis Stergiadis and the evacuation of August/September of 1922. I report, specifically, on a memorandum that refers to the establishment and the functioning of the *Chamber of Commerce of Smyrna*. This memorandum, which is part of a file containing material relevant to the Chamber, was written by Stavros N. Macrakis³, is addressed to «His Excellency, the High Commissioner of Greece» and advocates the formation of a Chamber of Commerce in Smyrna. Although the evidence is not available, it is possible to conjecture that as a result of this memorandum legislation for the formation of the Chamber was enacted⁴, as we can

3. Stavros N. Macrakis (1899-1956) then barely 20 and a Law School graduate of the University of Athens was attached to the Stergiadis administration as a conscript from Herakleion, Crete. His selection for the position was not random. Born in Crete to a prominent Venizelist family of farmers, businessmen and politicians, he rapidly completed his legal studies. His uncle, Michael G. Macrakis, was at the time a member of Parliament and of the Liberal Party from Herakleion Crete with intimate business and social connections with the Turkocretans. Because of that he was expedited to Smyrna by Venizelos to assuage the Turkocretan population of Smyrna and obtain their support. This incident is related by M. Rodas, *Ἡ Ἑλλάς εἰς τὴν Μικρὰν Ἀσίαν 1918-1922*, Athens 1950, and L.M. Smith, *Ionian Vision, Greece in Asia Minor 1919-1922*, Allen Lane, London 1973, p. 861. The Turkocretans were Greek speaking and of Greek origin moslems who had left Crete at the end of the last century. The younger Macrakis followed in his footsteps thus ensuring compliance with the policies of Venizelos with respect to the Turks. He served as staff in the Directorate for Commerce and Industry in the High Commission from 30.8.1919 - 1922. Upon return from Smyrna in 1922, S.N. Macrakis studied political economy in Paris, then entered into business and political career in Herakleion Crete, and subsequently in 1928 went to Athens as one of the first Directors of the then established Agricultural Bank of Greece (ATE). He remained with the Bank until his death. He was intimately involved with the agricultural settlement of the refugees from Asia Minor and served in many important directorates of the Bank. For a more complete biographical note see my introduction to a book of his, posthumously published by the Bank, *Ἀνοικοδόμησις τῶν καμένων χωριῶν μας στὸ πλαίσιο τῆς μεταπολεμικῆς μας Ἀνασυγκρότησις*, ATE, Athens 1983.

4. I have in my possession (Σ1 of personal archives) a final draft (?) of this legislation

surmise from the first – and last – *Bulletin* (Spring 1922) of the Chamber of Commerce. To understand the concerns justifying the preparation of the memorandum, I relied principally on an unpublished study hereafter referred to as *Economic Survey* by G. Trakakis⁵ and whose list of con-

entitled *By-laws of the Commercial and Industrial Chamber of Commerce of Smyrna* consisting of 42 articles in 22 typewritten pages. This legislates the change over from the «Ottoman Commercial Chamber of Commerce» to the *Commercial and Industrial Chamber of Commerce*. The letterhead reads *High Commission of Greece in Smyrna* and, therefore, it must have been prepared, according to Victoria Solomonides, earlier than October 1921 when the High Commission assumed the title «Greek Administration of Smyrna» after a shake-up of its services. I have been unable to determine the date it was enacted. That it was enacted may be inferred by the introductory statement in the first *Bulletin* whose publication was mandated by the «articles of the by-laws» (2-8).

Incidentally, the HIGH Commissioner was empowered by the Greek Parliament to legislate by decrees. These provisional laws according to the Treaty of Sèvres (Art. 72) had to receive a sanction from the local government. See C.G. Ténékides, *Les Capitulations dans la Région de Smyrne et le Traité de Sèvres*, October 1921(?). From other memoranda in my possession (Σ 7) supported by A. Kalliavas, *Tò Oikonomikòn μέλλον τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς Μικρᾶς Ἀσίας*, Aronis, Athens 1922, it follows that previously there were four Chambers of Commerce in Smyrna:

1. The Chamber of Smyrna (Ottoman Commercial) with 1000 members of whom 650 Greeks,
2. The French Chamber (established 1889), with 80 Members,
3. The Italian Chamber, with 150 members and,
4. The British Chamber, with 60 members.

The expectations for the new Chamber must have been about 1300 members paying dues.

5. P.G. Trakakis, *Ἡ Βιομηχανία ἐν Σμύρνῃ καὶ ἐν τῇ Ἑλληνικῇ Μικρασίᾳ*, Smyrna 1920. A report for the High Commission. This is a typewritten hard-bound copy of a four part survey consisting of 211 pages and an Appendix of 7 elaborate tables. The first section describes the historical, legal and institutional problems of industry prevailing during the Ottoman rule of the region. It is valuable to the historian since it elaborates on Ottoman practices, so different from Western ones. The second section describes the conditions of the work force (pp. 30-48), the third contains suggestions for improvements (pp. 48-64), while the fourth and longest analyzes in some detail many industries as well as many companies operating in the Santjak of Smyrna (pp. 64-211). It appears as an indispensable piece of work of analysis done professionally with high standards of clarity, precision, and relative objectivity by G. Trakakis a senior member of the administration of the National Bank of Greece's branch in Smyrna. This study exists in the historic archives of the National Bank of Greece File 41, (1486) but Veremis and Kostis in *Ἡ Ἑθνικὴ Τράπεζα*, have not presented it in their work as it was done for the Greek Administration of Smyrna and therefore not directly related to the Bank's activities in Asia Minor; they do refer to it in p. 52 and passim. In view of the fact that this material is not generally available and because of its importance, I place the list of its contents in Appendix A. The Study chooses to analyze in some depth the following industries: *Carpet Production* with special emphasis on the technique and the costs of production (study of *The Oriental Carpet Ltd*), *Weaving and*

tents I present in Appendix A. This *Economic Survey* gives significant statistical data on most aspects of industry in the district of Aidinion (Aidin Vilaet) until 1919.

Let me then briefly report on the *Memorandum*, the *Bulletin* and portions from the *Economic Survey*:

1. *The Memorandum on the Chamber of Commerce* (see Appendix B for the Greek Text). The summary of the memorandum is as follows: The Ottoman Chamber of Commerce in Smyrna was thirty six years old by 1920 and had nothing to show for accomplishments. The then director of the Chamber attributed the failure to *a.* the Turkish government, which had a negative attitude⁶ and, *b.* to the capitulations issued long ago in favor of most foreign subjects. Macrakis adds a third reason: he suggests that the Chamber was just a loose association of merchants and not a legal entity, an incorporated society in the tradition of related European organizations. He admits, however, that in Europe conditions are different while in Smyrna there is a need for guidance, direction, and follow-up. The current Chamber, writes Macrakis, is run by seven to eight staff at a cost of 4625 Turkish pounds a year; there have been no elections, and the annual balance sheets have remained unaudited. While there is no insinuation of wrong doing, the Turkish law permits no interference in any case. And there is no service provided to commerce. The Chamber has no income except for annual dues, membership is not compulsory, and it does not provide arbitration or any other control for commerce and manufacturing [p. 5]. «We have no right» to abolish the Chamber since this is not possible because there are no articles in the Turkish legislation

Fibers, Beer Production and Soft Drinks, Soaps, Glycerine, Cotton Oil, Leather, Acorn Extracts, Alcoholic Beverages, Confectionary, Production of Electricity, Gas, etc. In many instances (as in the case of the British owned Gas company), negotiations between the High Commissioner and the industries reveal the mechanics of the relations of foreign companies in the area during the Ottoman rule and the attempts to change procedures during the Greek administration.

6. Kalliavas, *Οικονομικὸν Μέλλον*. Kalliavas writes (p. 25) that the «Smyrna Chambers of Commerce, perhaps because of the Turkish administration, did not show any particular initiative and energy to improve the conditions and the practices of commerce in Smyrna». The Greek Administration, he continues, «wishing to utilize more purposefully the extant commercial capabilities[...] took the initiative to assist in the organization of the Chamber of Smyrna on a new basis which would respond to the importance of the commerce of Smyrna».

on Chambers of Commerce and Manufacturing providing for their dissolution as is the case in the Greek mainland (Greek law 183, article 24). And the Commission is unable to «legislate before the Treaty of Sèvres is enforced». Because of these constraints the proposal of Macrakis is to reach the public through releases in the press and to recommend to the current president to call a meeting of the board members of all nationalities in order to have the by-laws changed according to a proposal prepared by some employee of the High Commission in the Directorate of the National Economy.

The idea was to prepare a variant legislation adapted to the current situation and following the general spirit of the Greek law, as the latter had been amended by adopting the Italian practice. This law could provide a 6% surcharge on the tax on gross income of the members, thus ensuring its viability and guarantee its enforcement while establishing the principle of arbitration. The memorandum then analyzes the issue of arbitration at some length (5 out of the 10 pages of the memorandum are devoted to this problem) indicating the emphasis of Macrakis and the Stergiadis policy. The material is worth reading as it is an analysis of the current state of commercial affairs under the Turkish rule and legislation with special emphasis on the problem of 'capitulations' and the 'sensitivity' (εὐθιξία) of the foreign merchants to any change in their preferred status. These problems will be solved, according to the memorandum, through arbitration, moral pressure on the foreign merchants, and their representation on the Executive Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

The memorandum concludes by saying that the specifics are included in the «attached by-laws»⁷ and remarking that «if at the present time we cannot apply what theory and experience we have to secure in all respects the Chamber of Commerce of Smyrna through the legislative measures, the love and interest of the appropriate services, their close follow-up, as well as the acceptance of its objectives on the part of the businessmen will, nevertheless, be adequate *for the moment* to guarantee its success». As these concluding words suggest, the Macrakis memorandum is not merely an analysis of the *Chamber of Commerce* in Smyrna and its future needs. It is also a policy statement regarding the Greek

7. The draft of the By-laws is in the file mentioned earlier.

government's attitude towards the Moslems and the minorities in the area of Smyrna. It is obvious that the staff of the Stergiadis administration and Stergiadis himself followed closely the instructions of Eleftherios Venizelos to softpedal the various issues and not to scare, intimidate, or impose on the Ottoman or the other minorities their own laws and institutions. In this case while most of the commerce was in Greek and non-Ottoman hands, the administration did not impose its own will on the Turks. Instead, it bent over backwards to accomodate all the parties. As Birge⁸ writes: «It is quite evident that the Greek authorities are doing what they can to win the favor and approval of the Moslem element and of the other nationalities». Llewellyn Smith⁹ describes the same situation, characterizing the administration's policy as a «policy of firmness with the Greeks, and fairness with the Moslems». A similar picture emerges from the Trakakis¹⁰ memorandum addressed to the US consulate.

8. J.K. Birge (chairman). *A Survey of Some Social Conditions in Asia Minor*, May 1921. The *Social Survey* is a mimeographed report of 128 pages; it consists of a preface, 9 sections and... an alphabetical Index with 148 entries! From «Abattoirs» to «Young Women's Christian Association»; and spares no entries such as «Prostitution, Segregation of», or «Venereal Diseases (E-3, 12)». The chapters consist of A. General Information, B. History of the City (by V.L. Jumeston), C. Municipal Administration (by (Reverend) J.K. Birge), D. Industrial Conditions (by G.S. Stearns), E. Health (by E.W. Bankin), F. Recreation (by Miss (Sara) Snell and Miss (Margaret) Forsyth), G. Correctional System (by S.R. Harlow), H. Charities (by Miss (Annie) Pinneo) and, I. Education (by Miss (Ruth) Perkins). Harlow was assisted by Vincent L. Humeston, Pandelis Raptarkis (as of '84, a lawyer in Athens) and Ismael Hakki. A balanced ticket! The *Social Survey* Committee consisted of Miss Olive Green (secretary) and E.O. Jacobs (treasurer) who had given a copy of the survey to Spyros Vassilas on September 1921; Vassilas was a section head for Commerce and Industry in the Stergiadis commission (see M.I. Notaras, *Εἰς τὴν Ἰωνίαν, Αἰολίαν καὶ Ἀνδρίαν, Πρὶν πενήντα χρόνια*, Athens 1972 and Smyrna Archives). Other members not listed above as authors were: Miss Nancy MacFarland, Mrs Georgie Underwood Peterson and Miss Helen Crosby. How the report got into the hands of Macrakis is not known but it must have been one of the documents studied in the preparation of the memorandum on the Chamber of Commerce. In fact there is a timid recommendation in D. that the Chamber of Commerce «carefully consider, a. procuring of cheap motor power for manufacturing purposes, both in the city and the suburbs...»

9. Smith, *Ionian Vision*.

10. P.G. Trakakis, *Οικονομικοὶ ὁροὶ καὶ συνθήκαι τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς Μικρασίας. Ἐμπορικαὶ σχέσεις τῶν Ἑνωμένων Πολιτειῶν πρὸς τὴν Σμύρνην καὶ τὴν Ἐνδοχώραν*, National Bank of Greece 1920. Archives of the National Bank of Greece, File 41, (1486) but Veremis and Kostis, have not presented it.

The constraints faced by the Stergiadis administration are discussed in some length in the *Economic Survey*. This survey reviews the legislative environment pertaining to the Ottoman empire as it affected the businessmen of the various nationalities. It shows how the Greek Commission was confronted by a rather peculiar situation of lack of coherence, which one would suspect, was exacerbated by the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire. The Commission felt that it was its duty if not «its historical obligation», to redress this dysfunction. We read in the *Economic Survey*¹¹ that the «foreigners, the subjects of the Great Powers, or the various protégés [sic] using the interference of the diplomatic representatives – others using the oblique methods of easy deals in addressing the vulnerable (εὐάλωτος) Turkish authorities – were putting aside all resistance and every obstacle. They could thus obtain results and manage their affairs in a way that would have been unacceptable in well governed countries expertly administered». Obviously, the Greek Administration was anxious to change the status quo which they viewed as a 'free for all' situation while the foreign businessmen expressed great concern regarding the planned annexation of Aidini to Greece writing to foreign newspapers that «it would be best for the foreign element in Smyrna to have a Turkish administration under the control of the allied forces». Further, the *Survey* discusses extensively the issue of capitulations which, significantly, were maintained intact in the Treaty of Sèvres. Venizelos seems to have briefed Stergiadis on the contents of the Treaty a few months before the signing of July 28 / August 10, 1921 and the Commission staff was well informed of its contents. Hence the sensitivity of the *Memorandum* on this matter. The discussion of the *Survey* further indicates that the staff was not unprepared. But the Greek Administration inherited the system of capitulations from the Ottoman rule. And it was an issue of great concern to all. Thus one finds an extended discussion on the subject by Korizis¹²; again the introductory remarks of Veremis¹³ give an adequate setting for the economic environment in Asia Minor for the first quarter of this century. It should be noted that the capitulations were unilaterally lifted by Turkey in 1913. However, they were reinstated with the article 261 of the Treaty of Sevres. An international law expert

11. Trakakis, *Ἡ βιομηχανία ἐν Σμύρνῃ*, p. 16.

12. Ibid., p. 16 where letter of the «Anglosmyrniote» Whittall to the *Times* of London.

13. Veremis and Kostis, *Ἡ Ἐθνικὴ Τράπεζα*, p. 143 as well as p. 178.

however argues that nevertheless Article 68 of the same Treaty «equates the territory of Smyrna to a territory detached from the Ottoman Empire. A territory detached from the Ottoman Empire means territory exempted from the regime of «capitulations»¹⁴. He recommends accordingly that the Greek Administration ignore the issue of capitulations altogether. However, Macrakis argued that because of the «sensitivity that the foreign consulates exhibit in reference to the subject of CAPITULATIONS» it is not useful to include a foreigner in the Committee or Arbitration while at the same time it is not in the interest of the administration to submit to the regime of capitulations; it would be more profitable to evade the direct issue and utilize a «sort of moral pressure» by introducing an article in the By-laws which would make public the results of an arbitration should a member refuse to submit to its decisions taking cover behind the ambiguity of the political situation. Such an article was not included in the By-laws but the argument goes to show the thinking that was behind the policies of the Stergiadis administration. Still another view suggests that because of the difficulties encountered in their administration, the capitulations should «be considered as a weak counterweight for the foreigners to the missing Turkish legislation»¹⁵.

2. *The Bulletin of the Chamber of Commerce.*

The first and last *Bulletin* of the Chamber of Commerce appeared with great delay in the spring of 1922. In the By-laws submitted with the Macrakis memorandum there is an article (# 2, Section 8) which requires the «publication of a periodical at least twice a year, where studies and articles, statistical data for imports and exports, and, whatever related to commerce and industry, be published». Indeed the *Bulletin de la Chambre de Commerce et de l'Industrie de Smyrne* (Δελτίον τοῦ Ἐμπορικοῦ καὶ Βιομηχανικοῦ Ἐπιμελητηρίου Σμύρνης) appeared as the first clouds of a reversal in the Eastern front must have been gathering and as the Treaty of Sevres «was soon consigned to the waste bin as the Turkish

14. C.G. Ténékides, *Les capitulations dans la Region de Smyrne et le Traité de Sèvres*, October 1921. (The author refers to the eighteen months of the «excellence of the Greek Administration» which begun on May of 1919. Historical Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greek Administration of Smyrna, 1/18, 18β 1922.

15. Δελτίον τοῦ Ἐμπορικοῦ καὶ Βιομηχανικοῦ Ἐπιμελητηρίου Σμύρνης, published every three months in French and in Greek. 1ère Année, No. 1, Janvier - Avril 1922.

nationalists began to assert themselves in the heart of Anatolia»¹⁶. Yet, there was no sign of this in the *Bulletin*. As the titles of the various articles and the style of the contents indicate, the *Bulletin* exuded confidence. All the data provided are of interest and very valuable. The table of contents of the *Bulletin* is as follows: «The economic upheaval during the post-war period» by A. Typaldos. «The workers in Smyrna». «The forest wealth of Asia Minor». «Figs». «Carpets». «Statistical study of the imports and exports from the port of Smyrna». «Statistics for sowing for the year 1921-1922». «Winter sowings». As can be seen the *Bulletin* covers many subjects of some importance and I could not possibly go into all of them here. I chose however, the subject on the commerce of figs since it gives the opportunity to view commerce in a many-dimensional perspective. The intense interest in the commerce of figs can be understood by looking at the number of exported dried figs from Asia Minor to the world and the US¹⁷ in particular. 80% of the total were exported in 1921 to the US and England (11,140 and 10,526 tonnes of dried figs respectively out of a total of 26,304 tonnes) and employment in fig packing (although seasonal) amounted to 9% of the total labor force in Smyrna (1050 men, 2300 women and 650 children, i.e. 4000 out of a labor force of 44,400¹⁸. Clearly, figs were exported in great numbers to the United States, perhaps ending their careers baked into «fig Newtons»! The author of the *Bulletin* article – probably A. Kalliavás according to memorandum Σ5 in the Macrakis archives, but also see Kalliavás¹⁸ made sure to present a «tutorial» on the caprification process which incidentally is a most intriguing «biological epic in which an aggressive insect and an introverted fruit» according to Hrdy and Bennett¹⁹ are responsible for the pollination. The article describes the male wild figs from trees called capri-

16. C.J. Bartlett, 1880-1970, *The International Rivalry of the Great Powers*, 1984, p. 124 and *passim*. See also Douglas Dakin, *The Unification of Greece 1770-1923*, New York 1972.

17. Trakakis, *Οικονομικοί Όροι*, p. 50 where discussion on figs in reference to exports to the United States. An authority on figs can be consulted on this matter: Ira J. Condit, *The Fig*, Chronica Botanica Co. Waltham, Mass. 1947 and, article in the 11th edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Also M. Gerdts and J.K. Clark, «Caprification: A unique relationship between plant and insect», *California Agriculture*, November - December 1979, pp. 12-14.

18. Birge, *A Survey*, p. D3.

19. S.B. Hrdy, and W. Bennett, «The fig connection», *Harvard Magazine*, September - October 1979, pp. 25-30.

figs (δλυνθοί) which are required for the pollination. These are brought from the mountains (Imam-kioi, Kiosk, Sultan-Hisar, Karagats) of Asia Minor strung together and hung on the female trees to «mature the fruit».

It seems that the author was unaware of the role of the wasps which pollinate – yet never themselves lay their eggs into – the «golden Smyrna» fig variety. Indeed, for domesticated fig trees only the visitations are required! It must be recalled that efforts to transplant the Smyrna fig to the US had started in 1881-1882 in California. The cross of the figs originating from the Spanish cultures and the Smyrna fig had already been called Callimyrna (*California-Smyrna*): it was in 1900 that a successful caprifig pollen was transferred to the Smyrna-type figs to obtain fruit by using the fig wasp *Blastophora Psenes* L. However, the interest continued for many years in the Smyrna production; exports were checked by US representatives in Smyrna for various diseases and worms. As Kalliavás notes: «A prominent American entomologist after a local examination concluded that the observed worms are normal with the figs»²⁰.

Following the fig saga in the Bulletin we learn of the black market for caprifigs thought to be valuable yet scarce and more importantly for our discussion we also learn that the Greek Administration was claiming to have been successful in repatriating Moslem farmers who had earlier fled in fear of the Greek occupation. The «90% of the fig plantations came back under the previous owners». This implies that the administration had been successful in allaying the fears of the Moslem population and in inducing them to return to their villages and properties. In the still unpublished report Trakakis²¹, while paying tribute to the political acumen of Stergiadis, recalls that in areas where Moslem populations had deserted their farms during the retreat of the Kemalist forces, by «forming a special organization he arranged so that the [deserted] farms were cultivated and that the proceeds from the produce minus the costs, were deposited in a special account in the name of the rightful Ottoman farmer». At the same time as a result of the «wise and highly political inspiration» of the High Commissioner, «the Greek population (150,000) that was expelled six years earlier was denied immediate repatriation because Stergiadis was predicting danger and problems during a massive repatri-

20. Kalliavas, *Τὸ Οἰκονομικὸν Μέλλον*, p. 40. But see also, H.R. Hagan, «The Fig insect situation in the Smyrna Fig District», *Journal of Economic Entomology*, 22, (1925), pp. 900-909, 1929.

21. Trakakis, *Οἰκονομικοὶ ὄροι*, p. 18.

THE SMYRNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ation of exiles who upon return to their homes and farms would inescapably cause friction between them and the current owners established by the Turkish government».

The memorandum on the formation of the Chamber of Commerce, the subsequent legislation, and the resulting Bulletin contribute in a small – but consistent – way in the assessment of the coherence of policies adopted and the efficacy in policy execution of the Stergiadis administration and of the quality of the staff. The material presented here is consistent with other material that became recently available with the publication of the archives of the National Bank of Greece as well as with the surviving material of the Stergiadis administration in the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. All together, my conclusions are not difficult to draw. On studying a minute part of the record of the High Commission in Smyrna one cannot but support the view of many authors²² that it was:

a. Benevolent

b. superbly staffed and connected (see lists of staff members in Notaras²², in the National Archives of the State, and Veremis and Kostis. It is worth noting that many names in the Administration and the Bank have left their mark in important and responsible positions in mainland Greece after 1922.

c. effective in policy execution. The feverish pace of administrative work and the data collected on the wealth and available know-how in the region leave one very impressed. Indeed, the comparison with mainland Greece administrative practices may not be favorable.

Despite the catastrophe that ensued, these studies have not been in vain. The intense interest in some industries – as for example tobacco and carpets²³ (the latter fully analysed in the *Economic Survey* of Trakakis) – has paid some dividends: these industries have become sources of occupation in mainland Greece where there was a massive «Technology

22. Veremis and Kostis, *Ἡ Ἑθνικὴ Τράπεζα*, and M.I. Notaras, *Εἰς τὴν Ἰωνίαν*.

23. The industry of carpets was in fact led by Macrakis in Athens since he served continuously in the early 1930s as the Chairman of the Board of the Ταπητουργικὸς Ὄργανισμός (Carpet Institute), an organization which did much to promote the industry in mainland, Greece, employ the specialists that migrated from Asia Minor and which helped appoint the otherwise stark houses of modern-day Greece.

Transfer» (to use a modern description of the process) whereupon the expertise came with the immigrants and refugees. Thus the weak infrastructure of Greece was strengthened significantly by the infusion of know-hows. The technical culture of the Thomson Seedless (Sultanina) grapevine, for instance, owes many debts to the refugees as this is attested by among other the experts of the League of Nations in Société des Nations²⁴. So, what Seferis sensed coming must surely have been true: an accentuation of the transformation that the refugee population imposed on the mainland, insular Greeks²⁵.

24. Société des Nations, *L'Établissement des Réfugiés en Grèce*, Genève, 1926.

25. George Seferis, *Ένας Έλληνας - Ό Μακρυγάννης*, Δοκίμης, Egypt, 1941.

APPENDIX A'

ΠΙΝΑΞ ΠΕΡΙΕΧΟΜΕΝΩΝ

ΜΕΡΟΣ Αον	σελ.
Είσαγωγή και Γενική επισκόπησης της Βιομηχανίας	1 - 7
Γραφικός πίναξ χρονολογικής ιδρύσεως Ἑλληνικῶν και Τουρκικῶν ἐργοστασίων	8
Συντελεσται τῆς Βιομηχανίας: Πρῶται ὕλαι, ἡμερομίσθιον και φορολογία	9 - 13
Μειονεκτήματα και ἑλλείψεις τῆς βιομηχανίας	13 - 20
Εἰσαγωγικοὶ δασμοί. - Νέον δασμολόγιον	20 - 22
Ἀποκλεισμός και Ἐπιτάξεις	23 - 26
Τιμαὶ πρώτων ὑλῶν και καυσίμου ὕλης	27 - 29
ΜΕΡΟΣ Βον	
Οἱ ἐργάται τῆς Βιομηχανίας. Ἐπίδοσις και Ἐθνικότης αὐτῶν	30 - 40
Φορολογία ἐργατικῶ ἡμερομίσθιου	40 - 42
Τὰ ἡμερομίσθια προπολεμικῶς και σήμερον	42 - 45
Ἐργατικά ζητήματα. Ἀπεργίαι	45 - 48
ΜΕΡΟΣ Γον	
Ἐνδεικνύόμενα μέτρα πρὸς προστασίαν τῆς βιομηχανίας	48 - 59
Χρησιμοποίησις τῆς πτώσεως τῶν ὑδάτων	59 - 61
Προστατευτικὸν δασμολόγιον	62 - 64
ΜΕΡΟΣ Δον	
Ἡ βιομηχανία ἐν τῷ Σαντζακίῳ τῆς Σμύρνης (εἰσαγωγή)	64 - 70
Ἡ Ταπητουργία. - Γενικὴ εἰσαγωγή	70 - 75
Τύποι και ποιότητες ταπήτων	75 - 77
Τρόποι και συνθήκαι τῆς κατεργασίας τῶν ταπήτων	77 - 82
Ἡμερομίσθια και τιμαὶ πρώτων ὑλῶν	82 - 85
Τὸ ἐμπόριον τῶν ταπήτων	85 - 89
Ἡ Ἐταιρία «The Oriental Carpet Ltd»	89 - 93

This index exists only in my personal copy of the study – not in the unbound version at the archives of the National Bank.

As the Veremis study indicates, the records from the National Bank of Greece are extremely valuable for the study of the economic industry in Asia Minor.

Οικονομικαὶ συνθήκαι τῆς Ἑταιρίας	93 - 96
Ἡ ἐξέλιξις τῶν ἐργασιῶν. Πίνακες διανομῆς κερδῶν	96 - 97
Ἑσωτερικὸς ὀργανισμὸς τῆς Ἑταιρίας (συνθήκαι ἐργασίας)	98 - 102
Ἀνταποκριταὶ τῆς Ἑταιρίας καὶ ἀριθμὸς ἐργαλείων	102 - 104
Τιμαὶ κόστους ταπήτων	105 - 106
Τιμαὶ πωλήσεως ταπήτων	107 - 108
Ἡ σημερινὴ κατάστασις τῆς Ἑταιρίας	108 - 112

Πίνακες ἐνεργητικοῦ καὶ παθητικοῦ

Νηματοργία	113 - 116
«Société Anonyme Ottoman etc.»	117 - 123

Πίνακες

«Compagnie Industrielle de Filature et de Tissage»	112 - 127
Ὑφαντουργία. - Μεταξωτὰ Ἑσωτερικοῦ	128 - 130
Καλεμκεριά	130 - 132
Σχοινοποιία	133 - 134
Ἀλευροβιομηχανία	134 - 140
Κέρδη ἀλευροβιομηχανίας	141 - 145

Πίνακες

Ζυθοποιία. «Brasserie d'Aidin»	146 - 150
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Πίνακες

Ἀεριοῦχα ποτὰ	151 - 153
Οἶνοποιία	154 - 159
Οἶνοπνευματοποιία	159 - 169
Ἀνάλυσις Ἀμερικανικῶν οἶνοπνευμάτων	169 - 172
Ἡδύποτα	173 - 174
Σαπωνοποιία	175 - 179
Κατασκευὴ γλυκερίνης	180 - 181
Βιομηχανία βαμβακελαίου	181 - 185
Βυρσοδεψία	186 - 192
Ἐκχύλισμα βαλανιδίου	192 - 193
Ζαχαροπλαστικὴ	193 - 196
Παραγωγὴ ἡλεκτρικοῦ ρεύματος	196 - 201
Ἀερίοφως. Ἡ Ἑταιρία Ἀερίοφωτος	201 - 206
Συμβάσεις Ἑταιρίας-Τουρκικῆς Διοικήσεως-Ἀρμοστείας	206 - 211
Στατιστικοὶ πίνακες τῆς Βιομηχανίας	

APPENDIX B

Π ρ ο ς

τὴν Α.Ε. τὸν Ὑπατον Ἀρμοστήν τῆς Ἑλλάδος

Λαμβάνω τὴν τιμὴν νὰ υποβάλλω ὑμῖν τὰ πορίσματα τὰ ὅποια ἠρύσθησαν ἐκ τῆς μελέτης τῆς καταστάσεως τοῦ ἐνταῦθα Ἐμπορικοῦ καὶ Βιομηχανικοῦ Ἐπιμελητηρίου καὶ τὰ μέτρα τὰ ὅποια ἐνδείκνυνται νὰ ληφθοῦν πρὸς συναρμόνισιν τῆς δράσεως τοῦ ὡς ἄνω Ἐπιμελητηρίου πρὸς τὰς σημερινὰς συνθήκας ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀνάγκας τοῦ τόπου.

Τὸ Ἐπιμελητήριον Σμύρνης παρ' ὅλον τὸν 36 ἐτῆ βίον του δὲν δύναται νὰ λεχθῇ ὅτι παρουσίασε τὰ ἀποτελέσματα ἐκεῖνα τὰ ὅποια, ἡ εὐρύτης τῶν σκοπῶν ἐνὸς τοιούτου ἰδρύματος, θὰ ἄφινε δικαίως νὰ περιμένωμεν.

Κατὰ τὴν σύντομον καὶ ἐλάχιστην διαφωτιστικὴν ἐκθεσιν τοῦ νῦν Διευθυντοῦ τοῦ Ἐπιμελητηρίου καὶ τὰς προφορικὰς πληροφορίας τὰς ὁποίας παρέσχε ἐν ἡμῶς, εἰς δύο λόγους, ἂν καλῶς ἠννοήσαμεν, ἀποδίδεται ἡ ἀποτυχία τοῦ ἰδρύματος. Πρῶτον διότι ἡ Τουρκικὴ Διοίκησις ὄχι μόνον δὲν ὑπεβοήθει αὐτό, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀντέδρα θὰ ἡδυνάτο τις νὰ εἶπῃ. Καὶ δευτέρον διότι ὑπῆρχον αἱ ὑπὲρ τῶν ξένων ὑπὸ κῶνον διομολογήσεις εἰς τὰς ὁποίας πολλάκις προσέκοπτεν.

Ἡμεῖς θὰ προσεθέτομεν καὶ τρίτον λόγον τὸν ὁποῖον ἀποδίδομεν εἰς αὐτὴν τὴν φύσιν τοῦ ὡς ἐλευθέρας ἐνώσεως ἐμπόρων καὶ οὐχὶ σωματείου δημοσίου δικαίου. Καὶ εἶναι μὲν ἀληθές ὅτι ὡς σύστημα ἡ ἐλευθέρωσις, θὰ εἶχεν ὑπὲρ αὐτῆς τὸ προηγούμενον τῆς ἐν Ἀγγλίᾳ καὶ Ἀμερικῇ ἐπιτυχίας, ἐν τούτοις λαμβανομένης ὑπ' ὧσιν τῆς διαφορᾶς τῶν ἐκεῖ συνθηκῶν, ἐν γένει ἀλλὰ καὶ εἰδικῶς τὴν μόρφωσιν τοῦ ἐμπορικοῦ κόσμου τῶν χωρῶν τούτων ἐν ἀντιθέσει πρὸς τὴν παρ' ἡμῖν ἀνάγκην τῆς ποδηγητέσεως καὶ ὠθήσεως καὶ ἐκ τοῦ σύνεργου παρακολουθήσεως αὐτοῦ, ἐκδηλον εἶναι ὅτι εἶναι ἀμφίβολος ἡ ἐπιτυχία τοῦ.

Ἡ ἐσωτερικὴ κατάστασις τὴν ὁποίαν παρουσιάζει σήμερον δύναται νὰ συνοψισθῇ εἰς τὰ ἐξῆς ὀλίγα. Ἐν ἐκ τῶν παλαιῶν μελῶν προεδρεῖται τῆς ἀνυπάρχουτος Διοικητικῆς Ἐπιτροπῆς. Ἐκλογαὶ δὲν ἐγένοντο ἀπὸ ἐτῶν. 7 - 8 ὑπάλληλοι ἀπορροφῶν 4.625 λίρας Τουρκ. ἐτησίως χωρὶς νὰ προσφέρουν καμμίαν ἐργασίαν. Οἱ ἰσολογισμοὶ δύο τοῦλάχιστον ἐτῶν μένουσιν ἀνεξέλεγκτοι καὶ ἀνεπικύρωτοι. (Διὰ τὸ τελευταῖον τοῦτο δὲν θέλωμεν ν' ἀποδώσωμεν μομφὴν εἰς τοὺς Διευθυντάς, οὔτε ἄλλως τε ἔχομεν ἐκ τοῦ Τουρκικοῦ Νόμου τὸ δικαίωμα ἐπεμβάσεως). Ὅσον ἀφορᾷ δὲ τὴν ἐξυπηρέτησιν τοῦ ἐμπορίου, ἂν ἐξαίρετομεν ὀριζόμενας ἐπικυρώσεις ἐγγράφων κλπ. εἶναι λίαν ἀμφίβολος.

Ἡ πρώτη σκέψις τὴν ὁποίαν προκαλεῖ ἡ ἀνωτέρω ἐκτιθεμένη κατάστασις εἶναι ἡ διάλυσις.

ΠΕΡΙ ΔΙΑΛΥΣΕΩΣ

Οὐδαμῶς ἐν τούτοις τοῦ Τουρκικοῦ Νόμου περὶ Ἐμπορικῶν καὶ Βιομηχανικῶν Ἐπιμελητηρίων ὑπάρχει διάταξις περὶ διαλύσεως τῶν Ἐπιμελητηρίων, ἐνεκα ἀταξιῶν περὶ τὴν διοίκησιν ἢ τὴν ἐκπλήρωσιν τῶν ἔργων αὐτῶν ἢ δι' ὑπέρβασιν τῶν καθηκόντων αὐτῶν ἢ διὰ τὴν παράβασιν ἐν γένει τοῦ Νόμου, ὅπως ἐξ ἀντιθέτου προβλέπει ὁ Ἑλληνικὸς Νόμος ἐν ἄρθρῳ 24.

Μὴ δυνάμενοι δὲ νὰ νομοθετήσωμεν πρὸ τῆς ἰσχύος τῆς Συνθήκης τῶν Σεβρῶν, ἀφ' ἑνός, καὶ ἀφ' ἑτέρου μὴ ὑπαρχούσης διατάξεως ἐν τῷ Τουρκικῷ Νόμῳ περὶ περιπτώσεως διαλύσεως (πολλὰς τῶν ὁποίων θὰ εὐρίσκομεν λόγῳ τῆς παντελοῦς ἀκαταστασίας περὶ τὴν λειτουργίαν τοῦ Ἐπιμελητηρίου, ὡς ἐμφαίνεται ἐκ τῶν ἐν τῇ ἀρχῇ τῆς παρουσίας ἐκθέσεως), δὲν ἔχομεν ἄλλον τρόπον ἐνεργείας παρὰ τὸν ἐξῆς:

Νὰ ἀνακινήσωμεν τὸ ζήτημα εἰς τὸν τύπον διὰ τῆς δημοσιεύσεως εἰς τὰς Ἑλληνικάς, Γαλλοφώνους, Ἀρμενικάς καὶ Τουρκικάς ἐφημερίδας, ἄρθρων περὶ ἀνάγκης τῆς ἀναδιοργανώσεως τοῦ Ἐπιμελητηρίου Σμύρνης, ἵνα ταχθῇ τοῦτο εἰς τὸ ὕψος τῆς ἀποστολῆς του καὶ τῶν ἀναγκῶν τοῦ τόπου. Καὶ λαμβάνοντες ἐξ αὐτοῦ ἀφορμὴν νὰ συστήσωμεν εἰς τὸν νῦν Πρόεδρον αὐτοῦ, ὁ ὁποῖος ἄλλως τε εἶναι ἀπὸ τοῦδε πρόθυμος νὰ καλέσῃ εἰς Γενικὴν Συνέλευσιν τοὺς πάσης ἐθνικότητος ἐμπόρους τῆς Σμύρνης, οἱ ὁποῖοι ἀποτελοῦν τὸ Ἐκλογικὸν Σῶμα τοῦ Ἐπιμελητηρίου, ἵνα, κατόπιν εἰσηγήσεως ἐνὸς ἀρμοδίου ὑπαλλήλου τῆς Διευθύνσεως Ἐθνικῆς Οἰκονομίας, σκεφθοῦν καὶ ἀποφασίσουν ἐπὶ τοῦ προταθησομένου νέου καταστατικοῦ.

Καὶ ἐδῶ γεννᾶται τὸ ζήτημα:

Ποία θὰ εἶναι ἡ μορφή τοῦ νέου Ἐπιμελητηρίου, ἢ μᾶλλον ποία δεόν νὰ εἶναι καὶ ποία δύναται νὰ εἶναι.

Οἱ σκοποὶ, τὰ δικαιώματα καὶ αἱ ὑποχρεώσεις τῶν Ἐπιμελητηρίων διάφοροι εἰς τὰς διαφόρους χώρας παρουσιάζονται. Ἐνῶ εἰς τὴν Ἀγγλίαν καὶ τὰς Ἡνωμένας Πολιτείας τῆς Ἀμερικῆς ἀποτελοῦσιν ἐλευθέρως ἐνώσεις ἐμπόρων καὶ βιομηχάνων, εἰς ἄλλας, ὅπως εἰς τὴν Γαλίαν, Ἱταλίαν κλπ. ἀποτελοῦσι ταῦτα ἰδρύματα δημοσίου δικαίου. Ἡ προστασία τῶν συμφερόντων τοῦ ἐμπορίου καὶ τῆς Βιομηχανίας, ἐπιδιωκομένη κατὰ τὸ δεύτερον σύστημα διὰ τῆς κοινῆς προσπάθειας τῶν ἐπισήμων Ἀντιπροσώπων τῶν ἐμπορικῶν καὶ βιομηχανικῶν τάξεων ἀφ' ἑνός καὶ τῆς Πολιτείας ἀφ' ἑτέρου, γίνεται πληρεστέρα.

Ὁ Ἑλληνικὸς Νόμος 184 ὡς ἐτροποποιήθη διὰ τοῦ ὑπ' ἀριθ. 1863 γενόμενος ἐπὶ τῇ βάσει κυρίως τοῦ Ἱταλικοῦ, θεωρεῖ τὰ Ἐπιμελητήρια «Ὡς νομικὰ πρόσωπα δημοσίου δικαίου» καὶ θέτει διατάξεις ὡς ἡ τοῦ ὑπ' ἀριθ. 18 τοῦ Νόμου 1863, περὶ προσθέτου φόρου 6% ἐπὶ τοῦ δημοσίου φόρου τῆς καθαρᾶς προσόδου, ἐξασφαλίζουσας τὴν ὑλικὴν ἰσχὺν τοῦ Ἐπιμελητηρίου ὡς ἡ τοῦ ὑπ' ἀριθ. 59 ἐγγυωμένην τὴν πιστὴν ἐφαρμογὴν τοῦ Νόμου ὡς ἡ τῶν ἀρθ. 40 - 54 καθιερουούσας τὸν θεσμὸν τῆς διατησίας κλπ.

Ἀντιθέτως ὁ Τουρκικὸς Νόμος ἀκολουθῶν τὸν πρῶτον τύπον τῆς ἐλευθέρως ἐνώσεως, οὔτε πόρους ἐξευρίσκει ἐκτὸς τῶν ἐτησίων συνδρομῶν τῶν ἐγγεγραμμένων ἐμπόρων καὶ τῶν τελῶν ἐπικυρώσεως, οὔτε ὑποχρεωτικὴν καθιστᾷ τὴν ἐγγραφήν τῶν ἐμπόρων καὶ βιομηχάνων, οὔτε περὶ διατησίας, οὔτε περὶ οἰονόηποτε ἐλέγχου προβλέπει.

Εἶναι φανερόν ὅτι δὲν δυνάμεθα νὰ θέσωμεν εἰς ἐφαρμογὴν τροποποιημένον ἢ αὐτοῦσιον τὸν Ἑλληνικὸν Νόμον, οὔτε ἐξ ἄλλου ὅπως ἐκ τῶν ἀνωτέρων ἐμφαίνεται ὁ Τουρκικὸς Νόμος ἱκανοποιεῖ τὴν κατάστασιν.

Δὲν πρόκειται σήμερον νὰ κρημίσωμεν ἐκ βάθρων καὶ νὰ οἰκοδομήσωμεν ἐκ νέου. Ἡ προσπάθειά μας θὰ ἀποβλέψῃ εἰς τὸ νὰ φουσήσωμεν πνοὴν ζωῆς εἰς τὸν φθισιδῶντα ὀργανισμὸν καὶ νὰ ἀναπτύξωμεν τὴν δρᾶσιν του εἰς εὐρύτερους ὀρίζοντας, ἐφ' ὅσον ἐπιτρέπουσιν αἱ περιστάσεις καὶ αἱ συνθήκαι.

Τὸ νέον καταστατικὸν δὲν θὰ στηρίζεται ἐπομένως εἰς τὸν Ἑλληνικὸν Νόμον, οὔτε ὁμως καὶ θὰ περιορίζεται εἰς τὰς διατάξεις τοῦ Τουρκικοῦ. Θὰ προέλθῃ ἐκ τῆς ἐλευθέρ-

ρας βουλήσεως τῶν ἐγγεγραμμένων ἤδη ἐμπόρων καὶ θὰ ἱκανοποιῇ κατὰ τὸ δυνατόν, τὴν εὐρύτητα τῶν σκοπῶν ἐνὸς τοιούτου ἰδρύματος.

Ἡ σπουδαιότερα καινοτομία ἡ ὁποία πρόκειται νὰ εἰσαχθῇ εἰς τὸν νέον ὀργανισμόν τοῦ Ἐπιμελητηρίου εἶναι ὁ θεσμός τῆς Διαιτησίας, ὁ ὁποῖος λόγῳ τῆς σημασίας του ἀλλὰ καὶ λόγῳ τῶν περιπλοκῶν τὰς ὁποίας παρουσιάζει χρῆζει ἰδιαίτερας ἐξετάσεως. Περὶ αὐτῆς σημειώομεν – μὲ τὴν δυνατὴν συντομίαν– τὰ ἑξῆς.

ΔΙΑΙΤΗΣΙΑ

Μία ἐκ τῶν σπουδαιότερων ἐλλείψεων τοῦ Τουρκικοῦ Νόμου περὶ ἐμπορικῶν καὶ Βιομηχανικῶν Ἐπιμελητηρίων εἶνε τὸ ὅτι δὲν καθιερώνει μεταξὺ τῶν καθηκόντων τῶν Ἐπιμελητηρίων, τὸν θεσμὸν τῆς Διαιτησίας διὰ τὰς διαφορὰς ἐμπορικῆς φύσεως, θεσμὸν, τοῦ ὁποίου ἡ σημασία εἶνε ἐκδηλὸς εἰς πάντα λόγῳ τῆς πρακτικότητος αὐτοῦ συνισταμένης κυρίως εἰς τὴν ταχείαν ἀνευ ὑπαγωγῆς εἰς πολυπλόκους δικονομικοὺς τύπους, ἐκδίκασιν καὶ διεκπεραίωσιν τῶν ὑποθέσεων ὑπὸ ἀνθρώπων ἐμπείρων περὶ τὸ ἐμπόριον καὶ τὰς ἐμπορικὰς συνηθείας.

Ὁ δικαστὴς εἰς τὰς πλείστας τῶν ἐμπορικῶν ὑποθέσεων, εἶναι ἀδὰς καὶ ξένος τῶν κρατουσῶν συνηθειῶν καὶ ἠθίμων τῆς ἀγορᾶς καὶ τῶν τεχνικῶν ζητημάτων τὰ ὅποια ἀναφύονται ἐν τῇ ὑποθέσει. Προσθέτως δὲ δεδεμένος μὲ τὰς χειροπέδας τῶν δικονομικῶν διατυπώσεων, καὶ ἀντλῶν τὰ δεδομένα ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν καὶ κακοπίστων συνήθως προτάσεων τῶν διαδίκων, δὲν δύναται νὰ λάβῃ ζώσαν εἰκόνα τῆς ὑποθέσεως, καὶ ἐπομένως νὰ ἱκανοποιῇ τὸ περὶ δικαίου αἰσθημα τοῦ πολίτου.

Ἡ Διαιτησία –ἐνεργητικὸς ἀπὸ πάσης ἀπόψεως θεσμός– δὲν προβλέπεται ὡς ἀνωτέρω εἰπομεν ὑπὸ τοῦ Τουρκικοῦ Νόμου περὶ Ἐμπορικῶν καὶ Βιομηχανικῶν Ἐπιμελητηρίων. Ἀντιθέτως εἰς ὅλα τὰ ξένα κράτη ὅπου ὑπάρχουν Ἐπιμελητήρια καθιεροῦται ἡ Διαιτησία. Καὶ ὁ Ἑλληνικὸς Νόμος 184 τοῦ 1914 προβλέπει διὰ τοῦ ἀρθ. 40 - 54 περὶ διαιτησίας καὶ καθιερῶν αὐτὴν εἰς τὰς ἑξῆς περιπτώσεις: α) ἐὰν αἰτήσῃσι τοῦτον οἱ ἐνδιαφερόμενοι, β) Ἐὰν ἀμφότεροι οἱ διαφερόμενοι συνωμολόγησαν ἐγγράφως εἴτε κατὰ τὴν σύναψιν τῆς δικαιοπραξίας εἴτε κατόπιν, ὅτι αἱ ἐκ τῆς δικαιοπραξίας διαφοραὶ λυθῇσονται διὰ τῆς κατὰ τὸν παρόντα Νόμον διαιτησίας, γ) Ἐὰν ἀμφότεροι οἱ διαφερόμενοι ἐδῇλωσαν ἐκ τῶν προτέρων ἐγγράφως διὰ σαφοῦς, ἀλλ' ἀνεῷρισμένης διατυπώσεως, ρήτρας ὅτι διὰ τινος ἢ πάσας τὰς ἐμπορικὰς διαφορὰς αὐτῶν, ποῦ θὰ προέκυπτον ἐκ τῶν ἐργασιῶν των μεθ' ὠρισμένου ἢ μεθ' οἰουδήποτε προσώπου, δέχονται νὰ ὑποβάλλωνται εἰς τὴν διαιτητικὴν διαιτησίαν τῶν Ἐπιμελητηρίων, δ) ἐὰν ὁ εἰς τῶν διαφερομένων ἔχῃ δηλώσει κατὰ τὸ ἀρθ. 42 ὅτι πᾶσαι ἢ τινὲς τῶν διαφορῶν του θὰ λύωνται διὰ τῆς διαιτησίας. Ἐν τῇ περιπτώσει ὅμως ταύτῃ ὑποχρέωσις τοῦ δηλοῦντος εἶναι ἡ ὑπαγωγή εἰς διαιτησίαν, οὐχὶ δὲ καὶ δικαίωμα.

Διὰ τῆς εἰσαγωγῆς τοῦ θεσμοῦ τούτου εἰς τὸν ὀργανισμόν τοῦ Ἐπιμελητηρίου, καὶ τοῦτο θέλει συγχρονισθῇ εἰς τὰς σημερινὰς ἀντιλήψεις περὶ τῆς ἀποστολῆς τῶν Ἐπιμελητηρίων. Ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐπιτακτικὴ ἀνάγκη δημιουργηθεῖσα λόγῳ ἰδιαιτέρων ἐνταῦθα συνθηκῶν καὶ ἡ ὁποία ἐκίνησε πέρυσιν τὴν Ὑμετέραν Ἐξοχότητα νὰ ζητήσῃ τὴν ὀργάνωσιν διεθνoῦς Ἐπιτροπῆς Διαιτησιῶν ἐπὶ τῶν ἐμπορικῶν διαφορῶν, ἱκανοποιεῖται.

Ἐν τῇ πράξει ἐν τούτοις γεννᾶται τὸ ζήτημα:

Ἐφ' ὅσον ἐξακολουθεῖ ὑφιστάμενον τὸ καθεστὼς τῶν Διομολογήσεων, δὲν θὰ ὑπάρξῃ

τοῦτο κώλυμα εἰς τὴν ἐπέκτασιν τῆς Διαιτησίας καὶ ἐπὶ τῶν ἐμπόρων ξένης ὑπηκοότητος, τῶν ὁποίων ἄλλως τε ἢ τυχὸν παραίτησις ἀπὸ τῶν Διομολογήσεων, θεσμοῦ δημοσίας τάξεως, δὲν στερεῖ αὐτοὺς τοῦ δικαιώματος (διατὶ ὄχι καὶ τῆς ὑποχρεώσεως ἐκ μέρους τοῦ Προξενείου των) τῆς ἐκ τῶν ὑστέρων κατοχυρώσεως ὀπισθεν αὐτῶν;

Ἐν προκειμένῳ θὰ ὑπέβαλον τὸ ἐξῆς. Ἐὰν εἶναι δυνατὸν καὶ σκόπιμον νὰ γίνονται αἱ δέουσαι ἐνέργειαι παρὰ τοῖς ἐνταῦθα Προξενείοις τῶν ξένων Κρατῶν μὲ τὸν σκοπὸν ὥπως, ἀναγνωρίζοντα τὴν σπουδαιότητα καὶ τὰς ὑπηρεσίας τὰς ὁποίας θὰ προσφέρῃ τὸ Ἐπιμελητήριον ἀναδιοργανούμενον ἐπὶ νέων βάσεων ὑπὸ τὴν ἄμεσον ἐποπτείαν τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς Διοικήσεως, εἰς τε τοὺς ἡμετέρους ἀλλὰ καὶ εἰς τοὺς ξένης ὑπηκοότητος ἐμπόρους, ὥπως καὶ εἰς τὸν τόπον, ὥπως ἀναγνωρίζοντα, λέγομεν, ταῦτα, θελήσωσι νὰ δώσωσι μίαν εὐρεῖαν ἐρμηνείαν εἰς τὴν πολλαπλῶς ἄλλως τε ἀμφισβητουμένην ἀποψιν σχετικῶς μὲ τὰς Διομολογήσεις, ἐπιτρέψωσιν εἰς τοὺς ὑπηκόους των νὰ ὑποβάλλωνται, ἐφ' ὅσον θέλουσιν, εἰς τὴν Διαιτησίαν τοῦ Ἐπιμελητηρίου καὶ ἐκτελῶσι τὰς κατ' αὐτῶν ἀποφάσεις τῶν Διαιτητῶν.

Θὰ ἡδυνάμεθα μάλιστα νὰ προτείνωμεν, ὥπως, ἀντιθέτως πρὸς τὸ ἄρθρ. 13 τοῦ Νόμου 184, καθιερώσωμεν ἐν τῇ ἐκλογῇ τῶν μελῶν τὸ ἀναλογικὸν σύστημα, ὥστε ν' ἀντιπροσωπεύηται καὶ ἡ μειοψηφία τῶν ξένης ὑπηκοότητος ἐμπόρων, ἀκόμῃ δὲ ὥπως ἐκ τῶν τριῶν μελῶν τῆς Ἐπιτροπῆς ἐπὶ τῶν Διαιτησιῶν, τὸ ἐν νὰ εἶναι ἀναγκαίως ξένος ὑπήκοος.

Ἐὰν ἐν τούτοις δὲν κρίνεται σκόπιμος ἡ τοιαύτη ἐνέργεια, λόγῳ τῆς εὐθιχίας τὴν ὁποίαν ἐπιδεικνύουν τὰ ξένα Προξενεῖα προκειμένου περὶ τοῦ ζητήματος τῶν Capitulations, πρέπει ἄρα γε νὰ συμμορφωθῶμεν πρὸς τὸ ὑπάρχον καθεστῶς κατὰ τὸ ὅποιον ἀπόφασις διαιτητικῇ κατὰ ξένον ὑπηκόου κοινοποιηθεῖσα εἰς τὸ Προξενεῖόν του γίνεται μὲν ἐκτελεστὴ ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, ἐφ' ὅσον ὁμοῦ δὲν ἐφεισβλήθῃ ἐνώπιον τοῦ Προξενικοῦ Δικαστηρίου; Ἀκριβῶς τὸ τελενταῖον τοῦτο ὀφείλομεν νὰ ἀποφύγωμεν.

Καὶ ἐφ' ὅσον τὸ πρῶτον δὲν εἶναι κατορθωτὸν καὶ τὸ δεῦτερον δὲν εἶναι συμφέρον, δὲν ἀπομένει παρὰ νὰ παρεμβάλωμεν εἰς τὸ Καταστατικὸν ἓνα εἶδος ἠθικῆς πίεσεως τῆς ὁποίας ἡ σημασία δὲν εἶναι ἀσήμαντος δι' ἓνα ἔμπορον, προκειμένου νὰ τεθῇ ἐν ἀμφιβόλῳ ἡ πίστις του. Θὰ ἡδυνάμεθα δὴλα δὴ νὰ θέσωμεν εἰς τὸ Καταστατικὸν ἐν ἄρθρον μὲ τὴν ἐξῆς περίπου διατύπωσιν. «Ἐὰν ὁ πρὸς ὃν ἐκοινοποιήθῃ κατὰ τοὺς ὀρίζομενους ὑπὸ τοῦ παρόντος καταστατικοῦ τύπου, τελεσίδικος ἀπόφασις, Διαιτησίας τὴν ὁποίαν οὗτος προεκάλεσεν ἡ ἐδέχθη, δυστροπεῖ ἢ ἀρνεῖται τὴν ἐκτέλεσιν αὐτῆς, ὀχυρούμενος ὀπισθεν λόγων προκυπτόντων ἐκ τοῦ ἀκαθορίστου τῆς πολιτικῆς καταστάσεως τῆς χώρας, δι' ἀπόφασιν τῆς ὁλομελείας τοῦ Ἐπιμελητηρίου, ληφθεῖσης κατ' ἀπόλυτον πλειοψηφίαν καὶ κυρωθεῖσης ὑπὸ τῆς Διοικήσεως, στερεῖται τοῦ δικαιώματος τοῦ ἐκλέγειν καὶ ἐκλέγεσθαι ἐπὶ μίαν ἐξαετίαν, ἡ δὲ ἐπέρχουμένη στέρησις καὶ ὁ λόγος αὐτῆς—δημοσιεύεται διὰ τινος ἐφημερίδος ἐκδιδομένης ἐνταῦθα ὡς καὶ διὰ τοῦ δελτίου τοῦ Ἐπιμελητηρίου, ὁπότεν τοῦτο ἡθέλει ἐκδοθῇ».

Ἐξετάσαντες ἐν τῇ παρουσίᾳ συντομωτάτῃ ἐκθέσει τὰ γενικωτέρας φύσεως ζητήματα, τὰ ὅποια ἄλλως τε παρουσιάζουν καὶ τὰς μεγαλυτέρας δυσχερείας, δὲν κρίνομεν ἐπ' ἀναγκῆς νὰ εἰσέλθωμεν εἰς τὰ ἐιδικώτερα θέματα καὶ νὰ ἐπιμείνωμεν εἰς τὰς λεπτομερείας, ἀφοῦ αὐταὶ εὐρηγνταὶ ἀρκετὰ ἀναλελυμένα ἐν τῷ συνυποβαλλομένῳ σχετικῷ Καταστατικῷ.

THE SMYRNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Τὸ παρελθὸν καὶ τὸ παρὸν τοῦ Ἑπιμελητηρίου ἐγέννησαν εἰς ἡμᾶς τὰς σκέψεις τὰς ὁποίας ἐν γενικωτάταις γραμμαῖς ἐκθέτομεν ἀνωτέρω.

Ἄν σήμερον δὲν δυνάμεθα νὰ ἐφαρμόσωμεν ὅσα καὶ ἡ θεωρία καὶ ἡ πείρα ὑπαγορεύουν καὶ νὰ ἐξασφαλίσωμεν τὸ Ἑπιμελητήριον Σμύρνης ἀπὸ πάσης ἀπόψεως, διὰ τῆς λήψεως νομοθετικῶν μέτρων, ἢ ἐκ τοῦ πλησίου ἐν τούτοις μετ' ἀγάπης καὶ ἐνδιαφέροντος παρακολουθήσῃς αὐτοῦ ὑπὸ τῆς ἀρμοδίας ὑπηρεσίας ἀφ' ἐνὸς καὶ αὐτὸς ἀφ' ἑτέρου ὁ σκοπὸς αὐτοῦ βαθέως κατανοούμενος ὑπὸ τῶν ἐμπόρων, θὰ χρησιμεύσῃ πρὸς τὸ παρὸν ὡς ἐγγύησις τῆς ἐπιτυχίας του.

Εὐπειθέστατος

ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ Ν. ΜΑΚΡΑΚΗΣ